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Tender

UK4 - PRIMUS II Ground Station Support Solution

Ministry of Defence

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

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Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05cfb3 ([view related notices](#))

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Scope

Reference

715693462

Description

Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), is looking to secure a support solution to provide maintenance and technical support for an Authority owned Ground Station Terminal. The requirement is for a period of three (3) years, with the potential to extend to an additional two (2) years via costed options.

This procurement shall be procured through the Crown Commercial Service (CCS), Space Technology Solutions (RM6370) Dynamic Market. The DM contains a list of qualified suppliers who meet specific membership conditions and are eligible to participate in procurements. Should Suppliers wish to receive the PSQ are not yet on the DM, please engage with the Authority, who may be able to assist with expediting your application.

Interested suppliers are required to be registered on the DM, and Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP) to engage and complete the Procurement Selective Questionnaire (PSQ). Should Tenderers be Invited to Negotiate (ITN), the Authority will evaluate the Tenderers capacity and capability against the evaluation criteria.

For more details please refer to the official guidance, and the Space Technology Solutions DM.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-act-2023-guidance-documents-define-phase/guidance-dynamic-markets-html> / Space Technology Solutions - CCS

It is the Authority's intention to down-select approximately 5 highest scoring Tenderers, who will then be ITN providing they meet the overall score of a pass within the PSQ. The Authority reserve the right to a fail a tenderer should they not meet the minimum pass criteria at the Evaluation Stage, and subsequently not be ITN.

Overview:

PRIMUS is a UK-located Ground Terminal designed to provide an interface between the Authority's operations centre (Or the Authority's authorised operation centres) and the space segment (SSeg).

PRIMUS, is based on a 7.3-Meter S and X-band solution, sited within a Radome. It has been scoped to send and receive data from a MOD-owned satellite, whilst the Authority views PRIMUS as an enduring capability, intended to support numerous future Operational Concept Demonstrators (OCDs) that currently exist in various stages of development.

The duration of the Authority's In-Service Support (ISS) requirements covers a three-year core contract for the maintenance and operational readiness of the asset.

Background:

PRIMUS has been conceived under the auspices of the Authority's ISTARI programme as its foremost conceptual demonstrator through which ground segment hardware, software and architecture associated with current and future missions has been, and will continue to be, procured, developed and integrated.

The objective of PRIMUS is to develop an operational demonstration of the required hardware architecture that both informs and qualifies the MoD's ground control segment concept, as well as integrating into the wider ISTARI architecture, enabling MoD execution of the Tasking, Collection, Processing, Exploitation, and Dissemination (TCPED) cycle. A core objective is to realise a solution which is applicable to supporting imminent missions, whilst also ensuring enduring capability through compatibility with future MoD activities where required.

Requirement:

PRIMUS is part of the UK Government's broader efforts to maintain, secure and update its satellite communications capabilities, ensuring remote data links for Defence purposes.

The Authority requires provision of maintenance and support, which will include both hardware and software elements. The requirements span numerous considerations ranging from routine preventative maintenance to training and management of critical spares, commensurate with Line-3 support.

Miscellaneous:

PRIMUS has been designed with future capability in mind, allowing for – thanks to the terminal's modular design and line replaceable units – potential upgrades. The Modular design preferred on the basis of achieving relatively easy swap-out of small RF components such as feeds/waveguides/Low Noise amplifiers etc., by supplier-trained engineers.

The Cyber Risk Profile for this procurement identified by the Cyber Risk Assessment is:

Reference: Level 2

PRIMUS is equipped with the OEM's licensed software and, as such, the terms governing the use of this proprietary software are prescribed within an existing and enduring licensing agreement between the OEM and the Authority. Suppliers are advised they are not explicitly covered under the agreement, and may be required to establish a relationship with the OEM in relation to licence software.

Tenderers are to be advised that this contract shall have a rolling start date, due to on-going dependencies associated with the terminal.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,800,000 excluding VAT
- £2,160,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2026 to 1 September 2029
- Possible extension to 1 September 2031
- 5 years, 1 day

Description of possible extension:

The Authority intend to include atleast two (2) options which allow the potential extension to contract by one (1) year via costed options.

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

The Authority reserve the right (but shall not be obligated) to invoke option(s) to extend the duration of the contract by twelve (12) months ((3)(+ 1) + 1)) making a potential total duration of 5 years.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 32500000 - Telecommunications equipment and supplies
- 32570000 - Communications equipment
- 32581000 - Data-communications equipment
- 32400000 - Networks
- 32531000 - Satellite communications equipment

- 72250000 - System and support services
- 72260000 - Software-related services
- 72267000 - Software maintenance and repair services
- 72268000 - Software supply services
- 71356300 - Technical support services
- 71356000 - Technical services
- 50332000 - Telecommunications-infrastructure maintenance services
- 50330000 - Maintenance services of telecommunications equipment

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

The Authority may utilise the DM for the Legal and Capacity conditions of participation, further details provided in the PSQ documents.

Technical ability conditions of participation

Selection criteria as detailed in the PSQ documents.

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

20 February 2026, 5:00pm

Submission type

Requests to participate

Deadline for requests to participate

6 March 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Responses to the PSQ must be completed and submitted on the Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP) by 12:00 GMT 6th March 2026.

www.contracts.mod.uk

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

1 July 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type
Most Advantageous Tender (MAT)	Award criteria will be stated in the procurement ITN documents, which will be issued to tenderers who are formally invited to the ITN stage.	Price

Weighting description

Award criteria will be stated in the procurement ITN documents, which will be issued to tenderers who are formally invited to the ITN stage.

Other information

Payment terms

Potential suppliers must note the mandatory requirement for electronic trading using the Contracting, Purchasing and Finance (CP&F) electronic procurement tool. All payments for Contractor Deliverables under the Contract shall be made via CP&F. You can find details on CP&F at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modcontracting-purchasing-and-finance-e-procurement-system>.

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Dynamic market being used

Space Technology Solutions

Special regime

Defence and security

Competitive flexible procedure description

Defence, Equipment and Support (DE&S) is conducting this Competitive flexible procedure over two (2) stages:

Stage 1: Conditions of Participation / Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ)

The Authority shall use the PSQ response to create a shortlist of Tenderers who:

- (1) are eligible to participate and;
- (2) best meet, in terms of capacity and capability, the selection criteria set out in this notice and the PSQ

Stage 2: Invitation to Negotiate (ITN)

Tenders are to be evaluated on a Most Advantageous Tender (MAT) basis, using a combination of price and non-price criteria. Bidders who are successful at Stage 1, shall receive the ITN, where full details of the award criteria shall be defined.

Reduced tendering period

Yes

Using dynamic market - minimum 10 days

Documents

Documents to be provided after the tender notice

Suppliers should note, this competition is being procured via the Crown Commercial Services, Space Technology Solutions Dynamic Market (DM)

(<https://www.crowncommercial.gov.uk/agreements/RM6370>). To qualify and receive the PSQ, suppliers should be signed up to the DM in order to receive the PSQ.

The information, guidance and draft contract documents for this opportunity are available on <http://www.contracts.mod.uk>. Suppliers must register on this site to respond, if you are already registered you will not need to register again, simply use your existing username and password. Please note there is a forgotten username/password link on the homepage.

The deadline for submitting your response(s) is detailed within this Tender Notice. Please ensure that you allow yourself plenty of time when responding to this opportunity prior to the closing date and time, especially if you have been asked to upload documents.

Contracting authority

Ministry of Defence

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHVX-4316-ZVGZ

MOD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

United Kingdom

Contact name: Jessica Applegate

Email: desspace-comrcl@mod.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence>

Region: UKK12 - Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government