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Tender

710264450_SERPENS Close Find Radar_Tender Notice

Defence Equipment and Support

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-016313

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04ec06 ([view related notices](#))

Published 22 April 2025, 3:57pm

Scope

Reference

710264450_SERPENS Close Find Radar

Description

Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S), as the procurement arm of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), is engaged in procurement activity for Project SERPENS, a digitally integrated weapon locating system, to be employed as counterbattery assets comprising artillery weapon locating sensors and radars which will be installed onto in-service land vehicles and integrated with communications bearer networks. The planned out-of-service date (OSD) for the SERPENS system is 2057. SERPENS plans to procure a quantity of twenty-five (25) Close Find Radars using a competitive flexible procedure (s.20) under a staged delivery schedule to complete during calendar year 2027.

Focus is on high technological readiness with priority on key requirements following which development will focus on the mounting of radar assets onto vehicles, integration with inservice comms bearer/s and, in future, integration into SERPENS as a networked array of sensors. The planned core term for this contracting opportunity will be six (6) years, estimating equipment deliveries within no more than two (2) years followed by four (4)

years of in-service support. Options are planned to be implemented to extend the in-service support beyond the core six-year term as a de-risking measure based on the complexity of system integration requirements for the SERPENS system.

SERPENS reserves the right to procure additional CFR systems during the performance period of any resultant contract, for the purposes of counter rocket, artillery and mortar (C-RAM), or counter unmanned aerial surveillance (C-UAS), or any other air defence or surveillance roles. The in-service support provisions of any contract awarded may be extended to provide the same, or similar, support services towards any additional systems procured under the performance of the contract. For the avoidance of doubt, a permitted modification/direct award may be made in the event that additional goods and/or services are to be procured for the same or similar use cases by the Armed Forces.

Should any company be interested in expressing interest for this contracting opportunity, and you have not previously engaged with the SERPENS team, please contact the associated buyer who will be able to provide registration details for the SERPENS AWARD portal.

Total value (estimated)

- £94,000,000 excluding VAT
- £112,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 16 June 2026 to 15 June 2032
- Possible extension to 15 June 2036
- 10 years

Description of possible extension:

The Contract will be extendable through the Authority exercising the rights afforded under the Contract Terms and Conditions to take up additional option years of in-service

support.

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Options are to be exercised to extend the in-service support beyond the core six-year term as a de-risking measure based on the complexity of system integration requirements for the SERPENS system. The means of pricing the additional option years will be governed by the provisions set out in the Contract Terms and Conditions

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 35722000 - Radar

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

The legal and financial capacity conditions of participation and the associated evaluation criteria are specified in the DEFFORM 47 Annex D - Conditions of Participation Guidance document. This will be made available at the publication of this Tender Notice.

Suppliers will be required to ensure they have registered on the Central Digital Platform and have maintained their organisation's details with sufficient fidelity with regard to the mandatory and discretionary exclusion criteria and debarment rules in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023.

Technical ability conditions of participation

The full technical conditions of participation and the associated evaluation criteria are specified in the DEFFORM 47 Annex D - Conditions of Participation Guidance document. This will be made available to all on the publication of this Tender Notice.

The criteria headings are set out below:

Electronic Trading

Security of Information

TUPE

Quality Assurance

Prompt Payment

Carbon Reduction

Modern Slavery

Prospective contractors are required to hold Quality Management System certification to ISO 9001:2015 or suitable alternative standard, with the appropriate scope to deliver contract requirements, issued by a Nationally Accredited Certification Body. You will be required to provide a copy of the certificate(s) as directed by any Conditions of Participation associated with this Notice, and in any event, the winning supplier will be required to provide it for review prior to contract award. The contractual condition for quality will be Allied Quality Assurance Publication (AQAP) AQAP 2110.

Submission

Enquiry deadline

21 May 2025, 11:59pm

Submission type

Requests to participate

Deadline for requests to participate

22 May 2025, 11:59pm

Submission address and any special instructions

The link to the Conditions of Participation PSQ is here:

<https://contracts.mod.uk/go/6588586401965DF9D983>

All tendering documentation will be uploaded to the SERPENS Close Find Radar AWARD data room from the date of this Tender Notice and requests for access should be submitted to the SERPENS multiuser at desle-fims-arty-serpens-pj@mod.gov.uk

The link to the SERPENS Close Find Competition Award Portal is here:

<https://award.commercedecisions.com/serpens/web/login>

Access to the SERPENS data room may be subject to demonstration of appropriate security clearance up to OFFICIAL SENSITIVE held by the requestee prior to admission into the AWARD Portal.

The Conditions of Participation and corresponding guidance document for evaluation will be published on the Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP) and is publicly available to all suppliers from the publication of this Tender Notice.

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

2 June 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type
Stage 1 Interim Technical Assessment	Full detail on the evaluation criteria can be found in the DEFFORM 47 Annex B Interim Technical Assessment Evaluation Criteria The Stage 1 Interim Technical Assessment will consist of criteria assessing the following: 1. Compliance with Key and Mandatory System Requirements within the SRD - Pass/Fail 2. Space, Weight and Power - Pass/Fail 3. Milestone Matrix - Scored 45% 4. Performance - Accuracy - Scored 40% 5. ILS - Training, Spares and Technical Documentation - Scored 15%	Quality
Stage 2 Full Tender Assessment	Full detail on the evaluation criteria can be found in the DEFFORM 47 Annex C Full Tender Assessment Evaluation Criteria The Stage 2 Full Tender Assessment will consist of criteria assessing the following: 1. Delivery SoR Compliance - Pass/Fail 2. Compliance with Key and	Quality

Name	Description	Type
	Mandatory System Requirements within the SRD - Pass/Fail 3. DEFFORM 565 and F1686 (Overseas) Pass/Fail 4. PM, Governance & Delivery Strategy - Scored 18% 5. Performance Accuracy - Scored 16% 6. SRD Compliance (Priority 1) - Scored 10% 7. ILS SOR Compliance Matrix - Scored 8% 8. Safety - Scored 6% 9. Human Factors Integration (HFI) - Scored 6% 10. Through Life Support - Scored 6% 11. Transition - Scored 5% 12. Training Design & Delivery - Scored 5% 13. Social Value 2.3 - Education & Training - Scored 2.5% 14. Social Value 3.4 - Collaboration (Supply Chain) - Scored 2.5% 15. Social Value 4.1 - Additional Environmental Benefits - Scored 2.5% 16. Social Value 6.2 - Supporting in work progression - Scored 2.5% 17. Product Development Commitment - Scored 2% 18. Supply Chain Security and Resilience - Scored 2% 19. UK SMEs - Scored 2% 20. Critical Material - Scored 2% 21. Supply Chain Disruption - Scored 2%	

Weighting description

This procurement will utilise an Interim Technical ITT tender assessment to down select to 3 tenderers. The remaining 3 tenderers following the Stage 2 Interim Technical Assessment will be invited to submit tenders for the Full Tender Assessment, or ITT Stage 2. Both Interim and Full tender evaluation criteria is set out in the Invitation to Tender documents and will be made available on the SERPENS Close Find Radar data

room on AWARD from the publication of this Tender Notice.

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

There is a risk that during the course of the tendering period that the Live Firing Data Gathering Event activity, which is part of the assessment criteria and confidence score of Criteria 2.05 - Performance Accuracy is unable to go ahead due to circumstances unforeseen to the Authority.

In the event that this risk materialises the Authority reserves the right to amend the Award Criteria linked to this event under Section 24 of the Procurement Act 2023.

For all of the below stated known risks the Authority is providing this information in the event that a permitted modification in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023 is required in the future. This modification would be exercised in accordance with Schedule 8, Paragraph (5) of the Procurement Act 2023 - Materialisation of a Known Risk.

Under Contract there is a risk that the system may require modification to hardware and/or software to enable integration with FC BISA, or an equivalent messaging system, and any associated hardware to realise the full SERPENS capability. It is not possible to mitigate the risk prior to the launch of the procurement as the system we are procuring is subject to the outcome of the competition and the extent of any hardware or software modification cannot be appropriately scoped.

Under Contract there is a risk that the system may require modification to hardware to enable integration and/or installation onto a Foxhound vehicle to realise the full SERPENS capability. It is not possible to mitigate the risk prior to the launch of the procurement as the system we are procuring is subject to the outcome of the competition and the extent of any hardware modification cannot be fully de-risked until the CFR technical solution is known.

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Competitive flexible procedure description

The procedure will follow the following steps to arrive at a Contract Award decision.

- Publish Tender Notice
- Issue Full ITT to Tenderers
- Conditions of Participation Return
- Conditions of Participation Evaluation
- Stage 1 Interim Technical Tender Clarification Period
- Stage 1 Interim Technical Tender Return
- Authority's Stage 2 Tender Clarification Period
- Stage 1 Interim Technical Tender Evaluation
- Stage 1 Interim Technical Tender ITT Down selection to no more than 3 Tenderers
- Dialogue with down selected Tenderers for Live Firing Data Gathering Event planning.
- Down selected Tenderers to provide data pack for the purpose of initial design work.
- Close Find Radar Live Firing Data Gathering Event

- Stage 2 - Radar Model Validation Due Diligence Workshops (Dialogue)
- Final Date for Tenderer Clarification Questions / Requests for additional information
- The Authority issues Final Clarification Answers
- Stage 2 Full Tender Return
- Authority's Stage 2 Tender Clarification Period
- Stage 2 Full Tender Evaluation
- Authority Review and Approval Period
- Tenderers notified of ITT result and Contract Award

Full information on how the procurement procedure, including evaluation criteria and intended stages of evaluation, clarification and dialogue is detailed in the Invitation to Tender.

Please note: QinetiQ are providing specialist radar and radar modelling expertise under the Engineering Delivery Partner (EDP) Framework, and are involved in evaluating some of the ITT criteria. For the avoidance of doubt DE&S will retain oversight and all evaluation scoring will be moderated by a crown servant.

Contracting authority

Defence Equipment and Support

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVRL-5831-GLMM

MOD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

United Kingdom

Email: DefComrcl-SystemsGuidance@mod.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-equipment-and-support>

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

Organisation type: Public authority - central government