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Planning

## **PIN - Test & Measurement tool requirement for SONIC Labs - RIC Tester**

Digital Catapult

F01: Prior information notice

Reducing time limits for receipt of tenders

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-017607

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03d81c

Published 21 June 2023, 8:48am

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Digital Catapult

101 Euston Road

London

NW1 2RA

#### **Email**

[hitesh.mistry@digicatapult.org.uk](mailto:hitesh.mistry@digicatapult.org.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 2038823557

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKI31 - Camden and City of London

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.digicatapult.org.uk](http://www.digicatapult.org.uk)

Buyer's address

[https://www.mytenders.co.uk/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA37289](https://www.mytenders.co.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA37289)

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

[www.mytenders.co.uk](http://www.mytenders.co.uk)

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Other activity

Research and Innovation

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**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

PIN - Test & Measurement tool requirement for SONIC Labs - RIC Tester

Reference number

P2023-130

### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 32400000 - Networks

### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Supplies

### **II.1.4) Short description**

Digital Catapult is the UK authority on advanced digital technology. Through collaboration and innovation, we accelerate industry adoption to drive growth and opportunity across the economy.

Our goal is to accelerate new possibilities in everything we do and for every business we partner with the journey – breaking down barriers, de-risking innovation, opening up markets and responsibly shaping the products, services and experiences of the future.

The SmartRAN Open Network Interoperability Centre Laboratories (SONIC Labs) - <https://www.digicatatapult.org.uk/expertise/programmes/programme/sonic/> - is a joint programme between Digital Catapult (DC) and Ofcom. The programme creates a range of platforms for existing and emerging vendors to test the interoperability and integration of open and software-centric networking solutions, starting with 5G Open RAN technology. Launched in February 2022, the DCMS-funded SONIC Labs will be deployed across indoor and outdoor locations, providing a unique opportunity for UK-based operators and Open RAN vendors to get involved and showcase their capabilities. Additionally, SONIC Labs provides a testing ground for longer-term advanced technologies, expanding to other use cases and open networking technologies.

Within the SONIC Labs programme, our objective is to support the development of working end to end Open RAN systems and help products mature through earlier end-to-end integration and interoperability testing of fully formed Open RAN systems. To achieve this objective, we are continually developing our technical capabilities in the Oran Test and Measurement domain to conduct extensive testing and performance evaluation and validation for the future Open RAN.

Digital Catapult is seeking to engage with vendors supplying RIC testing capability who have the capability to design complex scenarios, supply, Install, configure and integrate different RIC components.

The vendor(s) shall provide services to build, implement and integrate the entire system. In addition, we require services for training, ongoing support and maintenance (two-year period following go-live).

### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £200,000

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

This opportunity specifically relates to the design, supply, implementation and support of a tool which can be used for Interoperability Testing of RIC across various INterfaces (E2, A1,O1) and also can be used for Testing and validating the various xAPPS and rAPPS deployed on the RIC for various innovative use cases mentioned in the Requirement document attached.

Digital Catapult is seeking to engage with vendors supplying RIC testing capability who have the capability to design complex scenarios, supply, Install, configure and integrate different RIC components.

The vendor(s) shall provide services to build, implement and integrate the entire system. In addition, we require services for training, ongoing support and maintenance (two-year period following go-live).

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

28 July 2023

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.5) Scheduled date for start of award procedures**

4 September 2023

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the mytenders Web Site at

[https://www.mytenders.co.uk/Search/Search\\_Switch.aspx?ID=229650](https://www.mytenders.co.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=229650).

(MT Ref:229650)

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(MT Ref:229650)

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Public Procurement Review Service

Cabinet Office

London

Email

[publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Telephone

+44 3450103503

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>

#### **VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures**

CEDR

London

Country

United Kingdom

### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

In the first instance, all appeals should be promptly brought to the attention of Digital Catapult, and will be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the

Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Any appeals must be brought within the timescales specified by the applicable law, including without limitation, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

In accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the contracting authority will also incorporate a minimum 10 calendar day standstill period from the date information on award of contract is communicated to tenderers.