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Planning

STEP Interim Socio-economic Evaluation

United Kingdom Industrial Fusion Solutions

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-018100

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-065ec1

Published 27 February 2026, 3:57pm

Scope

Reference

PP-UKIFS-546

Description

1. Baseline Evaluation

Aims

- Set out current data, indicators and contextual evidence.
- Identify what would likely happen without STEP to support later assessment of additionality.
- Test the validity of STEP's theory of change, assumptions and risks.
- Assess data availability, quality, and feasibility for longterm evaluation.

Scope

- Codevelop the theory of change and logic model.
- Expand the benefits library with metrics, data sources and recommendations for future monetisation.
- Specify data sources, quality plans, counterfactual logic, and longterm lag assumptions.
- Highlight evidence gaps and uncertainties.

2. Impact Evaluation

Aims

- Assess progress towards STEP's Tranche 1 and T2a objectives.
- Examine early technical advances and initial economic/social effects.
- Forecast potential longerterm impacts where possible.
- Identify what data and systems must be established now to enable robust T2a and future evaluations.

Scope

- Mixedmethods approach including early monetisation and nonmonetised impact assessment.
- Develop methodologies to value fusionspecific benefits (jobs, skills, supply chain, innovation, infrastructure).
- Use baseline counterfactuals to determine additionality.
- Include placebased, distributional analysis and uncertainty testing.
- Produce a set of highimpact case studies.

3. Process Evaluation

Aims

- Assess whether delivery aligns with STEP's mission, plans and intent.

-Review progress against milestones, delivery structures, partnerships, resources and governance.

-Understand stakeholder engagement, risk management, dependencies and overall programme maturity.

-Identify lessons learned and readiness for transition to future tranches.

Scope

-Review programme documentation and structures.

-Conduct stakeholder interviews across UKIFS, partners and external organisations.

-Use the theory of change to analyse delivery barriers and enablers.

For more information about this opportunity, please visit the Delta eSourcing portal at:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Culham:-Research-services./RCD73B9WCM>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/respond/RCD73B9WCM>

Total value (estimated)

- £300,000 excluding VAT
- £300,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 June 2026 to 1 June 2027
- 1 year, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73110000 - Research services
- 79311400 - Economic research services
- 79315000 - Social research services
- 79419000 - Evaluation consultancy services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

13 March 2026

Engagement process description

To respond to this PMEN, please complete and submit Appendix 1: Questionnaire via the facility in the Delta portal by 17:00 GMT on 13/03/2026.

Early responses would be appreciated to help inform planning decisions.

If you experience any difficulties with the portal, please contact the portal helpdesk helpdesk@delta-esourcing.com cc operationalprocurement.step@ukifs.uk

Information obtained from responses to Appendix 1: Questionnaire will help UKIFS understand current market capabilities and shape the scope, direction, and design of the future procurement activities.

If you have any questions about this PMEN, please contact UKIFS through the Delta portal. We are keen to engage with suppliers to assist with the PMEN completion if needed, to ensure quality responses enabling us to shape the future requirement and procurement.

Contracting authority

United Kingdom Industrial Fusion Solutions

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PCRM-7973-DCBL

Culham Campus, Culham Campus

Culham

OX14 3DB

United Kingdom

Contact name: Operational Procurement

Email: operationalprocurement.step@ukifs.uk

Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government