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Tender

P2025-187 - Invitation to Tender - Test & Measurement Solutions compliant with O-RAN Alliance

Digital Catapult

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-019515

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-050e3a ([view related notices](#))

Published 7 May 2025, 5:16pm

Scope

Reference

P2025-187

Description

The Smart RAN Open Network Interoperability Centre Laboratories (SONIC Labs) is a joint programme between Digital Catapult and Ofcom. The programme creates a range of platforms for existing and emerging mobile network equipment suppliers to test the interoperability and End-to-End (E2E) integration of open and software-centric networking solutions, starting with 5G Open RAN technology. Launched in February 2022, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) funded SONIC Labs facility is deployed across four sites, indoor and outdoor. SONIC Labs aims to enable new suppliers to participate in the UK telecom ecosystem, build a path towards operational UK environments and accelerate innovation in UK networks. Additionally, SONIC Labs provides a neutral testing ground for long-term advanced technologies, expanding to other use cases and non-RAN technologies.

(<https://www.digicatapult.org.uk/expertise/programmes/programme/sonic/>).

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 Open RAN Test and Measurement domain to conduct extensive testing and performance evaluation and validation for the future Open RAN systems.

Requirements Overview

This opportunity specifically relates to the design, supply, implementation and support of solution(s) that can perform conformance tests and measurements for the certification of Open RAN radio units as defined by the O-RAN Alliance. The purpose of O-RAN certification is to verify that a vendor product is compliant to a related set of O-RAN defined interfaces and reference design specifications, through a set of O-RAN Alliance defined conformance tests using unified test procedures and templates for sharing of results. Our requirement is for a comprehensive range of test equipment used in the development, certification, and conformance testing of Open RAN (O-RAN) network components, specifically O-RAN Radio Units (O-RUs). Open Radio Access Network (O-RAN) technology enables interoperability between network elements and fosters a vendor-agnostic ecosystem in the deployment of 5G networks. O-RAN test equipment is essential to ensure these systems function as intended, enabling efficient and reliable testing of individual network components such as O-RAN Radio Units (O-RUs). Test equipment requirements range from conformance testing and protocol testing to performance benchmarking and fault diagnosis.

Digital Catapult is seeking to engage with vendors supplying O-RAN testing and measuring equipment with the capability to design complex scenarios, supply, Install, configure and integrate a compliant solution.

The Bidder(s) shall provide services to build, implement, integrate and test the entire system including the certification of the first O-RU network component. In addition, we require services for training, calibration, ongoing support and maintenance (two-year period following acceptance).

Procurement Process Overview

Digital Catapult is undertaking a procurement process, via the Open Procedure.

Digital Catapult have made available all the procurement documentation necessary for Bidders to respond to this opportunity.

Bidders are required to provide Digital Catapult with the Unique Identifier that has been allocated to them by the Central Digital Platform (CDP) by registering on the CDP and completing the Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ). Bidders must 'pass' the

Conditions of Participation requirements stated in the PSQ before Digital Catapult evaluates the Bidders Invitation to Tender (ITT) Response.

Bidders must submit their completed PSQ alongside their completed ITT Response which must be submitted no later than 12 noon on 2 June 2025.

Upon receipt of the ITT Responses, Digital Catapult will complete a compliance review and commence the assessment and moderation of the bids to identify the Most Advantageous Tender (MAT).

Digital Catapult reserves the right to invite any or all Bidders to attend clarification meetings to clarify the configuration of their O-RU Conformance Test platform for a set of supported test cases with an O-RU Device under test of their choice in order to assure the requirements listed in the Requirements Compliance Matrix.

Digital Catapult will complete the necessary internal Governance/Approvals, with Assessment Summaries issued to Bidders.

Digital Catapult will publish the Contract Award Notice, which triggers the mandatory 8 working day standstill period.

Total value (estimated)

- £700,000 excluding VAT
- £840,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 9 July 2025 to 8 July 2027
- 2 years

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

As stated in the procurement documentation and terms & conditions of contract.

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 32510000 - Wireless telecommunications system

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

Bidders should refer to the Procurement Specific Questionnaire.

Technical ability conditions of participation

Bidders should refer to the Procurement Specific Questionnaire.

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
-

Submission

Enquiry deadline

23 May 2025, 5:00pm

Tender submission deadline

2 June 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://www.mytenders.co.uk/>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

17 June 2025

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Compliance with the technical requirements as set-out in the Requirements Compliance Matrix	The response will be evaluated in relation to the responses in the spreadsheet Requirements Compliance Matrix.xlsx, O-RU Test Technical Requirement tab which covers the technical requirements of the O-RU conformance test platform The Bidder should provide evidence of their support for the test cases mentioned under Requirements Compliance Matrix.xlsx, Test_Cases_Support_Required tab.	Quality	25.00%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical Assurance of conformance test cases integrated with the O-RU Device under test; and generate certificate summary report and test report as defined by the O-RAN Alliance	Bidder should provide the required technical assurance. The scope of the assurance is to cover the configuration of test platform and assurance of a supported test case integrated with a O-RU as mentioned in O-RAN.WG4.CONF.0-R004-v11.00 and generate O-ran certificate summary report and test report for the executed test suites as per the format mentioned in specifications O-RAN.TIFG.Cert-Badge.1-R004-v10.00 and O-RAN.TIFG.Cert-Badge.2-R004-v10.00 respectively.	Quality	20.00%
Price	The total cost of the solution including support for two years following acceptance by Digital Catapult.	Price	20.00%
Installation and commissioning; provide Technical Support in Adherence to the Service Level Agreement (SLA); provide Test Case Packages/Suites; provide Support for integration with Test Automation Framework; and provide Onsite Training	The response will be evaluated in relation to the responses in the Requirements Compliance Matrix Services tab which covers the provision of required services and the Service and Support Method Statement.	Quality	10.00%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Provision of services and Technical Support for integration, execution and validation of conformance Test cases with one Open RAN Radio unit as part of Acceptance testing.	The response will be evaluated in relation to the responses in the spreadsheet against the requirements listed under Requirement ID's 13-18 Requirements Compliance Matrix Services Tab which covers the provision of required services for Acceptance testing and the Service and Support Method Statement.	Quality	10.00%
Delivery Timescales and Project Management Approach	The response will be evaluated according to respondents' ability to demonstrate how this will be met in the Delivery Timescales and Project Management Method Statement.	Quality	10.00%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Social Value	Theme 3 – Fighting Climate Change MAC 4.2 – Influence environmental protection and improvement Please demonstrate your organisations commitment to meeting the above theme of Fighting Climate Change. Please detail how your organisation influences staff, suppliers, customers, communities and/or any other appropriate stakeholders through the delivery of the contracts to support environmental protection and improvement.	Quality	5.00%

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Documents

Associated tender documents

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/Authority/NoticeBuilder/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=598308

Invitation to Tender - ITT

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/Authority/NoticeBuilder/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=598309

Annex G - Requirements Compliance Matrix

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/Authority/NoticeBuilder/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=598310

Annex I - Terms & Conditions

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/Authority/NoticeBuilder/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=598311

Annex K - Procurement Specific Questionnaire

Contracting authority

Digital Catapult

- Companies House: 07964699

101 Euston Road

London

NW1 2RA

United Kingdom

Contact name: Procurement Department

Email: procurement@digicatapult.org.uk

Website: <http://www.digicatapult.org.uk>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Organisation type: Public undertaking (commercial organisation subject to public authority oversight)