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Planning

Explosive Material Identification Procurement Project Preliminary Market Engagement Notice

Defence Equipment and Support

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-020054

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-050fb0 ([view related notices](#))

Published 9 May 2025, 1:04pm

Scope

Reference

714783450

Description

The Protect Delivery Team (DT) are considering initiating two Projects to procure and support x126 Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) explosive material identification equipment, consisting of the following:

- a. Project 1: is planning for the procurement and support of 63 x hand held FTIR direct Sample Spectrum analysers.
- b. Project 2: is planning for the procurement and support of 63 x hand held RAMAN spectrum analysers.

The DT is planning to run a competition via the Competitive Flexible Procedure (Procurement Act 2023) with two separate Lots for suitable suppliers to bid for both, or

one of the specified capabilities mentioned in points “a and b”.

The DT are looking for two explosive material identification systems, Project 1 (FTIR) and Project 2 (RAMAN) technologies, which are deployable (handheld) and ruggedised, to identify the presence of Substances of Interest (SOI's) such as explosive material, narcotics and other threat chemicals during an infrastructure search.

The capabilities will need to allow direct sample and through barrier identification respectively, to give as close to immediate indication of the presence or lack of SOI's including explosive material for common and bespoke threat substances, or components thereof, permitting subsequent activity.

It is the Authority's intent to invite participation from suppliers who can demonstrate they are commercially compliant and can meet the technical requirements of being able to support Project 1 and / or Project 2. Which includes through life technical support, including software and maintenance updates.

The Authority intends to release a Project Specific Questionnaire (PSQ) associated with this opportunity, currently scheduled for August 2025. Please note this is an estimated date and subject to change.

It is the Authority's intention to award a Contract for each lot for the delivery of equipment and 10 years of In-Service Support including options for a supplier to deliver this requirement and provide maintenance, training and supportability (through life support) for each capability. The project has a forecasted through-life value of ~£8m (ex VAT).

Project 1 (Lot 1) forecasted through life value of £3.800M (ex VAT).

Project 2 (Lot 2) forecasted through life value of £4.200M (ex VAT).

The Authority will be conducting all applicable advertising and potential procurement exercises via the Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP). Interested parties are strongly encouraged to review the information published by DSP. Interested parties will need to gain access to DSP to ensure they acquire the most up to date information.

Please note market engagement was previously conducted in the form of a request of supplier briefs and meetings at DSEI 2023 under Reference '708941450 Procurement and In-Service Support for a Person-Portable Identification Capability for Particles, Vapours and Bulk Explosive Material'.

- FTS Ref: 2023/S 000-025471

- Contracts Finder Ref: f45580e9-cd4a-4a3f-bd8a-236bb3382a2d

Total value (estimated)

- £8,000,000 excluding VAT
- £9,600,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 30 April 2026 to 31 December 2035
- Possible extension to 31 December 2037
- 11 years, 8 months, 1 day

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 38546100 - Bomb detectors
- 38434500 - Biochemical analysers
- 38433300 - Spectrum analyser

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom
-

Engagement

Engagement deadline

13 June 2025

Engagement process description

The Authority is interested in understanding the capabilities on the market. To do this the Authority is requesting Supplier's to submit briefs outlining their capabilities and potential solutions to the requirements outlined in this Preliminary Market Engagement Notice.

Any additional Market Engagement Events, including Industry Days or Demonstration Days will be published in a subsequent Preliminary Market Engagement Notice, if deemed necessary and beneficial by the Authority.

Supplier Briefs

Please provide a brief of up to 2500 words detailing your capability and potential solutions to the requirements along with a price list and any potential risk/ issues that the Authority should consider. Your brief should be addressed to DESLESTSP-SEEC-Commercial@mod.gov.uk. Please provide your brief no later than 13th June 2025.

As a minimum, your brief should address the following aspects:

Questions:

1. What potential solutions are available to meet the requirements as stated in this Notice? Please provide information to support including any brochures (including technical information), and supplementary information if appropriate.
2. Please provide specific information on the product maturity/ technology readiness level.
3. What are the estimated delivery timescales from order through to delivery? Please base timescales on quantities listed above.
4. What are the estimated costs per unit at the market price?
5. Please provide information on how you would provide an in-service support package

which may include but not limited to spares provision, repairs, technical expertise, servicing, safety and environmental management, obsolescence management, configuration control, technical support and maintenance.

6. Potential risks / issues in relation to these requirements.

All information provided at each Market Engagement Stage shall not be used by the Authority to down select or evaluate suppliers but shall help inform the development of the requirement and contracting strategy only.

In issuing this Preliminary Market Engagement Notice, The Authority is not committing to commence with any procurement in relation to the requirements stated in this Notice. Accordingly, any expenditure, work or effort undertaken before contract award is a matter solely for the commercial judgement of potential suppliers.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 August 2025

Procedure

Special regime

Defence and security

Contracting authority

Defence Equipment and Support

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVRL-5831-GLMM

MOD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

United Kingdom

Contact name: Maia Harris

Email: DESLESTSP-SEEC-Commercial@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