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Planning

Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) Business Acceleration Services

Ministry of Defence

F01: Prior information notice
Prior information only
Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-030426
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-040c3f
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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Defence

London

Email

helen.murray-webster100@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKI - London

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-and-security-accelerator

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Defence

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) Business Acceleration Services

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 75220000 - Defence services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This Prior Information Notice is to announce an upcoming opportunity titled the 'Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) Business Acceleration Services', which is expecting to launch a pre-qualification questionnaire followed by an invitation to tender in early 2024.

DASA is seeking an experienced partner (or partners through a consortium approach) to deliver business acceleration services to cohorts of high-tech SMEs for NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) and UK defence and security innovation. This will include delivering business training and the provision of mentoring programmes and wider engagements with the goal of facilitating the development of SMEs' products and businesses. The partner(s) will also manage a vibrant innovation space and its start-up community. In sum, these services will increase the range of advanced dual use capability available for civilian, defence, and security customers, providing strategic advantage for the UK and NATO.

To inform the procurement strategy for selecting the delivery partner, DASA plans to hold an Early Market Engagement webinar. At this session DASA plans to seek industry feedback on the requirement, contract framework and pricing, and provide more detail on the opportunity.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £4,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73300000 - Design and execution of research and development

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI - London

Main site or place of performance

I-HUB Building, Imperial College White City Campus, Wood Lane, London

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The service delivery period is for two years with the option to extend for a further three years, subject to allowable refinements.

Flexible cost services

1. A comprehensive, high-quality acceleration programme for DIANA. The acceleration curriculum will be designed by NATO DIANA in collaboration with all affiliated sites, but implemented by the partner(s). It will include training and mentoring activities, against curriculum requirements, delivered to a cohort of companies drawn from across the alliance, selected by NATO. It is expected that delivery will entail one annual cycle per year, including one 6-month Bootcamp accelerator programme followed by one 6-month Grow programme with a reduced cohort, as described on DIANA's website.

2. DASA business acceleration services, which include, but are not limited to:

• Acceleration programmes and training modules of differing durations designed for the UK market (in addition to the DIANA programmes)

• Innovation activities including, for example, Hackathons, Investor Showcases, Customer Demonstration Days, and events, such as networking and sector-specific events (e.g. FinTech).

• Provision and maintenance of a mentor pool for UK programmes

Fixed cost services

3. Innovation space management.

• Full management and operation of an innovation space fitted out by MOD to a high specification, comprising approximately 40 open plan desks, flexible meeting rooms and event space

• Reception facilities for the full innovation space, including the NATO DIANA European Regional Office (the permanent office for NATO DIANA staff, which is collocated with the UK accelerator space that the successful partner(s) will operate)

• Provision of general administration services, marketing, communications and outreach to SMEs and defence and security stakeholders

4. Operations

• Budget management, security, governance and reporting to DASA

5. Facilities management

• Facilities management, including cleaning of the space (both the UK accelerator space and the NATO DIANA European Regional Office), maintaining provisions and supplies in keeping with an innovation space, and the ability to organise catering for events as required

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

31 December 2023

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

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

To inform the procurement strategy for selecting the delivery partner, DASA plans to hold an Early Market Engagement webinar. At this session DASA plan to seek industry feedback on the requirement, contract framework and pricing, and provide more detail on the opportunity.

The Early Market Engagement webinar is due to be held on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 01 November. If you are interested in taking part and would like to register your attendance, please email helen.murray-webster100@mod.gov.uk , by midday Monday 30 October. Event details will be sent to the email address used in registration.

After the Early Market Engagement exercise, MOD will issue a questionnaire to attendees seeking feedback on the requirement, contract framework and pricing. Questionnaires should be returned by Wednesday 15 November.

A Pre-Qualification Questionnaire will then follow inviting potential bidders to demonstrate their experience in this field.

After the responses to the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire have been assessed selected organisations or consortia will be invited to tender.

Those bids submitted to the Invitation to Tender will then be evaluated against published criteria and the bidder with the highest score will be awarded a contract.