

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/047428-2025>

Tender

T1389 Rules and standards to enable autonomous movement of inspection technologies

Rail Safety Standards Board (RSSB)

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-047428

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-058493

Published 8 August 2025, 4:51pm

Scope

Description

While systems capable of autonomous or semi-autonomous movement have demonstrated operational readiness, their use remains constrained by existing rules and definitions that do not reflect their modern capabilities. While aerial inspection platforms such as drones are increasingly used across the rail industry, this research focuses solely on "systems capable of autonomous or semi-autonomous movement" for inspection operations, defined here as ground-based technologies operating on or near the track.

This research aims to unlock their potential by identifying regulatory blockers and enablers.

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

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-London:-Research-services./66S353C8J2>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/respond/66S353C8J2>

Total value (estimated)

- £100,000 excluding VAT
- £120,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 6 October 2025 to 6 April 2026
- 6 months, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73110000 - Research services

Participation**Particular suitability**

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

5 September 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

19 September 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

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

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
W2 Tenderer's understanding and methodology [Max 4 pages]	Quality	35%
W3 Tenderer's experience and individual expertise [Max 2 pages, excluding CVs]	Quality	25%
Price	Price	20%

Name	Type	Weighting
W4 Project management: Planning and engagement	Quality	15%
W5 Project management: Risks and opportunities	Quality	5%

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - open competition

Contracting authority

Rail Safety Standards Board (RSSB)

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVGN-9767-BLPT

25 Fenchurch Avenue,

London

EC3M 5AD

United Kingdom

Contact name: Procurement Team

Telephone: +44 2031425651

Email: Procurement@RSSB.co.uk

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

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