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Planning

AI³ Delivery Partners Project - Preliminary Market Engagement Notice

Department for Business & Trade

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-049568

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0589f1 ([view related notices](#))

Published 18 August 2025, 3:25pm

Scope

Reference

PR4965

Description

The DBT Digital, Data and Technology team leads on development of AI tools and services within the department.

This is done through our 'AI Cubed' model, which aims to identify, test, develop and evaluate use cases for applying artificial intelligence within the department.

We are seeking to procure specialist expertise to support delivery of this model. We expect this to take the form of suitably skilled teams and individuals joining relevant AI Cubed teams and projects within the AI Lab, AI Factory or AI Operations.

Total value (estimated)

- £9,000,000 excluding VAT
- £10,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2028
- Possible extension to 30 May 2029
- 2 years, 11 months, 30 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72220000 - Systems and technical consultancy services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

10 September 2025

Engagement process description

A pre-market engagement full-day session is intended to take place online on the 10th of September 2025. It is designed to provide potential suppliers with a comprehensive understanding of the upcoming commercial opportunity.

The event will begin with a presentation outlining the nature of the requirement, including its strategic context, background, and the business drivers behind the need. Suppliers attending will gain insight into the proposed contracting model, including delivery expectations for each lot, and any innovative or flexible approaches being considered.

The session will also include an overview of the procurement process, covering each stage through to contract award. A timeline will be shared to help suppliers plan their engagement, alongside guidance on how to bid effectively — including Social Value requirements, base evaluation criteria, and tips for submitting a strong tender response.

The day is intended to encourage early dialogue, and ensure suppliers are well-informed and positioned to contribute to the process. It also offers an opportunity for DBT to gauge supplier capability, appetite, and potential innovation before formal procurement begins.

To express interest in attending the event and receive joining instructions - please contact commercialddat@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

9 October 2025

Contracting authority

Department for Business & Trade

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZZJ-6312-QTTD

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United Kingdom

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Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government