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Planning

715675477 RFI Industry VANQUISH

Ministry of Defence

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-062112

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05a7d0

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Scope

Reference

715675477

Description

RFI for a concept of demonstration for a Fixed Wing Short Take Off and Landing Autonomous Collaborative Platform.

Total value (estimated)

- £10,000,000 excluding VAT
- £12,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 30 April 2026 to 20 December 2027
- 1 year, 7 months, 21 days

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 73435000 - Test and evaluation of military aircrafts, missiles and spacecrafts
- 73410000 - Military research and technology
- 35613000 - Unmanned aerial vehicles

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

14 November 2025

Engagement process description

RFI INDUSTRY - VANQUISH Technical Demonstration

Description

As part of the route to the Royal Navy's Hybrid Air Wing, Project VANQUISH seeks to deliver a technical demonstration at sea of an attritable (Tier 2) Fixed Wing Short Take Off and Landing Autonomous Collaborative Platform (FW STOL ACP); nominal target date by the end of 2026, with options for delivery within an 18 month window from the target date also considered. The air vehicle must be able to embark and operate autonomously from a Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) Aircraft Carrier and is to be jet turbine powered and capable of high subsonic speed. It should be able to launch and recover to QEC without Catapults or Arrested Recovery Systems and with a credible payload and endurance. There must be an exploitation pathway to the delivery of a wide range of maritime mission sets in support of UK Carrier Strike in due course (ISR/Strike/Air-Air Refuelling), to compliment F35B LIGHTNING, as part of QEC and its Carrier Air Wing.

Successful completion of a technical demonstration will inform future capability development and procurement options. This RFI is separate to, but coherent with, existing CSAEW RFI's dated 9th & 22nd Apr 2025 and will aid understanding of cross cutting technologies which may assist both lines of development. It must be aligned with the principles of Maritime Aviation Transformation (MATX) and build on previous trials and demonstrations of ACPs from QEC.

To drive delivery of an optimal system, the MOD is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to industry. The outcome of this RFI will inform the capability of the industrial base, in support this requirement. The implementation options in this RFI are not prescribed and we are interested in views from all interested parties on the best possible solution.

Please respond by completing the Microsoft Form in the link below by 17:00 on the 14 November 2025.

Link to RFI response form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/8Npvind1de>

Please send any clarification questions about this market engagement exercise to

Taiye.adeboye100@mod.gov.uk

Latest date to receive CQs is 24th October 2025 midday.

Where relevant and appropriate, this market engagement event may be followed by

further engagement exercise which will be notified through normal channels (e.g. Defence Sourcing Portal, Find a Tender).

For the avoidance of doubt, this notice is not informing the market of an imminent procurement. All costs pertaining to the completion of this response are to be borne by the responders.

Please note, procurement dates and values in this notice are subject to governance and should not be viewed as a firm commitment. This RFI is purely to gain market knowledge and is not the launch of a new procurement. Pricing and timelines will be refined through market engagement, at this stage a cost of not less than £10m and a contract start date of between Jan and Apr 2026 is envisaged. Completion of this technical demonstration will result in the data and evidence generated being used to inform the maritime requirement for the prospective procurement of a FW ACP capability from the early 2030s.

Total value (estimated)

£10,000,000 excluding VAT

£12,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

1 Apr 2026 to 29 Dec 2027

20 months

Main procurement category

Goods / Service

CPV classifications

Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) and associated payloads

Contract locations

UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

14 Nov 25

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

12 January 2026

Procedure

Special regime

Defence and security

Contracting authority

Ministry of Defence

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHVX-4316-ZVGZ

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Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government