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Tender

Contracts for Innovation: NSpOC BOREALIS Algorithm Development

UK Space Agency

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-078011

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05eae9

Published 28 November 2025, 11:25am

Scope

Reference

UKSAC25_0107

Description

Eligible organisations can apply for up to £100,000, excluding VAT, to research and develop initial proof of concepts for algorithms and similar solutions that directly improve the quality of data processing being undertaken within the BOREALIS system, contributing to enhanced analysis capabilities within NSpOC.

UKSA is likely to award multiple Contracts that meet its requirements within this competition, and further competitions may be opened subsequently to those who are successful within this competition for further development work on identified solutions.

This funding is from the UK Space Agency only and applicants should note this competition is wholly run and administered by the UK Space Agency.

Applicants should note that as BOREALIS is a sovereign UK capability and this work is to

develop solutions that eventually can be deployed into use, this competition is restricted to UK registered companies on grounds of national security. For the avoidance of doubt, this can include UK-registered universities.

Full details are provided in the attached Competition Brief.

This notice relates to the intended procurement for a contract which is an exempted contract under s 3(6) and Schedule 2, Part 2 (Subject-matter exempted contracts), paragraph 22 (Research and Development Services) of the Procurement Act 2023 (the 'Act'). Exempted contracts are not a public contract as defined in s3 of the Act and therefore are not required to be procured in accordance with the provisions of the Act that relate to a covered procurement.

Total value (estimated)

- £500,000 excluding VAT
- £600,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 12 January 2026 to 31 March 2026
- 2 months, 20 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72212100 - Industry specific software development services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

19 December 2025, 5:00pm

Tender submission deadline

22 December 2025, 3:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

If you wish to submit an application for this procurement, please email commercial@ukspaceagency.gov.uk, with "UKSAC25_0107 NSpOC BOREALIS Algorithm Development" as the subject line by Friday 12th December.

Provide at least two contact email addresses in your email.

You will be emailed a link to a SharePoint folder to which you must upload your

application. It is strongly recommended that you test this link on receipt by uploading a test file. You may email the commercial mailbox to request confirmation that a test file has been successfully uploaded.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-space-agency>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

10 January 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Proposed idea or technology	Proposals are expected to provide a description of your proposed solution, including details of which objectives (1-5) within the competition brief it addresses and how.	Quality	40%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Project Management	Proposals are expected to demonstrate they are well planned and connected to key milestones. They should be deliverable within the specified timeframe and projects should have an effective structure in place for managing the administration of a project of this size. There should be a sound approach to planning to achieve objectives on time and within budget. Key risks should be identified and mitigated.	Quality	30%
Value for Money	All projects will need to demonstrate they represent value for money for the taxpayer. This is demonstrated by providing appropriate budgets allocated to appropriate tasks. Information from the finance spreadsheet will be used to support the assessment of this question. Proposed milestones and associated payments should match those entered in the project management section of your application.	Quality	20%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Benefit to the UK	All projects will need to demonstrate the investment sought from the UK Government represents clear value for the UK public through measurable benefits to the UK economy, supply chain and public.	Quality	10%

Other information

Payment terms

Contracts for Innovation are targeted at Small and Medium Enterprises. Your completed budget spreadsheet should include details of proposed payment milestones. Should a payment at kick-off be preferred to facilitate cashflow, please request this in your application. UKSA will not agree to any payments at kick-off above 25% of total contract value.

Payment terms will be payment within 30 days of a valid invoice being accepted.

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Reduced tendering period

Yes

State of urgency - minimum 10 days

Documents

Associated tender documents

[1.Contracts for Innovation - BOREALIS algorithm development.pdf](#)

1. Competition Brief: contains details of the scope of the competition, evaluation criteria and how to apply.

[Annex A - Cfl Contract Template.docx](#)

2. Annex A - Contracts for Innovation Model Contract: sets out details of the associated terms and conditions, which you agree to abide by if successful by submitting an application.

[Annex B - UKSA Cfl Additional Guidance.pdf](#)

3. Annex B - Contracts for Innovation Additional Guidance: provides additional information about Contracts for Innovation requirements generally.

[Annex C - Cfl Finance Sheet.xlsx](#)

4. Annex C - Finance Sheet. Please populate this and submit with a copy of your application form. Any applications submitted without a complete Annex C will be rejected.

[Annex D - IP Declaration.docx](#)

5. Annex D - IP Declaration. Please populate this and submit with a copy of your application form.

[Annex E -Application Form Template.docx](#)

6. Annex E - Application Form. Please complete based on the guidance provided in the competition brief and submit to the folder shared with you.

Contracting authority

UK Space Agency

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PRTY-4245-MTJY

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Didcot

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United Kingdom

Email: commercial@ukspaceagency.gov.uk

Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government