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Pipeline

Specialist Technical and Commercial Advisory for Rail and Other Transport Systems Framework (STARFour)

Department for Transport

UK1: Pipeline notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-086155

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Published 24 December 2025, 1:38pm

Scope

Reference

FOUR0000

Description

In line with its commitment to increasing investment in the UK's transport infrastructure, the Department for Transport (DfT) requires ongoing access to high-quality, specialist technical and commercial advisory services. This need is currently fulfilled through the STARThree Framework, which succeeded the Specialist Technical Advisory for Rail (STARTwo) Framework—both managed by the Department's Group Commercial Directorate (GCD).

The Department for Transport intends to publish the STARFour Framework, a fourth generation, closed, multi-lot framework agreement to succeed the STARThree Framework (expiring July 2027). However, this will be subject to approvals and market engagement feedback.

STARFour will provide continued access to specialist technical and commercial advisory

services across all transport sectors, supporting the Department, its ALBs, and other qualifying bodies. Building on the success of STARThree, the new framework will encourage SME participation, promote innovation, and deliver value for money through streamlined procurement routes including mini-competitions and direct awards.

The STARFour Framework is essential to maintain a fit-for-purpose, flexible, and cost-effective route for specialist transport technical and commercial advice following the expiry of STARThree. As transport challenges grow—across net zero strategies, decarbonisation, multi-modal integration, and industry restructuring—STARFour will ensure DfT, ALBs and qualifying bodies have continued access to critical expertise across all transport sectors, not just rail.

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Total value (estimated)

- £350,000,000 excluding VAT
- £420,000,000 including VAT

Contract dates (estimated)

- 31 July 2027 to 30 July 2030
- Possible extension to 30 July 2031
- 4 years

Main category

Services

CPV classifications

- 71311230 - Railway engineering services
- 71241000 - Feasibility study, advisory service, analysis
- 71244000 - Calculation of costs, monitoring of costs
- 71311300 - Infrastructure works consultancy services
- 71313410 - Risk or hazard assessment for construction
- 71313420 - Environmental standards for construction
- 71313430 - Environmental indicators analysis for construction
- 71313440 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) services for construction
- 71313450 - Environmental monitoring for construction
- 72240000 - Systems analysis and programming services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 73220000 - Development consultancy services
- 73300000 - Design and execution of research and development
- 79311100 - Survey design services
- 79311300 - Survey analysis services
- 79311410 - Economic impact assessment
- 79312000 - Market-testing services
- 79313000 - Performance review services
- 79314000 - Feasibility study
- 79315000 - Social research services
- 79411100 - Business development consultancy services
- 79412000 - Financial management consultancy services

- 79413000 - Marketing management consultancy services
- 79417000 - Safety consultancy services
- 79418000 - Procurement consultancy services
- 79419000 - Evaluation consultancy services
- 79421100 - Project-supervision services other than for construction work
- 79421200 - Project-design services other than for construction work
- 71242000 - Project and design preparation, estimation of costs
- 71311000 - Civil engineering consultancy services
- 71311200 - Transport systems consultancy services

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

8 May 2026

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Above or below total value threshold

Above or equal to threshold

Contracting authority

Department for Transport

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLTC-5358-LTWZ

Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road

London

SW1P 4DR

United Kingdom

Email: STAR3-Framework@dft.gov.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government