

Project SERPENS – Close Find Radar Weapon Locating System

Procurement Reference: 710264450A

Competitive Flexible Procedure

The intent of this document is to outline the Competitive Flexible Procedure to be used for the Project SERPENS Close Find Radar Weapon Locating System procurement.

The procedure will follow the following steps to arrive at a Contract Award decision.

- Publish Tender Notice

The Authority will publish a Tender Notice outlining in detail the 2-stage tendering procedure, including the supplementary processes being used. The Conditions of Participation for this procurement will be published at this time.

- Issue ITT to Tenderers

Following expressions of interest received the ITT will be made available to all Tenderers from the date of the Tender Notice through the SERPENS AWARD portal. The Stage 1 ITT tendering period and the Conditions of Participation participation period will run concurrently.

- Conditions of Participation Return

The Conditions of Participation responses will be due back a minimum of 25 days from the publication of the Tender Notice

- Conditions of Participation Evaluation

The Authority will assess the Conditions of Participation responses and any Tenderer who is unable to meet all of the required criteria will be unable to proceed in the competition.

- Stage 1 Tender Clarification Period

Tenderers will have a period of time from the publication of the Tender Notice to clarify any aspects of the Stage 1 ITT evaluation. This will be set out in the DEFFORM 47.

- Stage 1 Tender Return

Tenderers will be required to submit an initial ITT Stage 1 bid which will be proportionate in scope and level of effort to the timescales afforded from the date of the Tender Notice.

- Authority's Stage 2 Tender Clarification Period

12/03/2025

The Authority will have a period of time from the return of the Tenderers Stage 2 ITT proposal to clarify aspects of the Tenderers bid. This will be set out in the DEFFORM 47.

- Stage 1 Tender Evaluation

The Authority will assess the Stage 1 ITT bids and will evaluate against the criteria set out in the Stage 1 ITT Evaluation Criteria outlined in the DEFFORM 47.

- Stage 1 Down selection to 3 Tenderers

The 3 highest ranked and fully compliant bids from Tenderers will proceed to the Stage 2 of the Tendering process. Tenderers will have had full sight of the Stage 2 ITT Criteria from the date of the Tender Notice. Tenderers who are not in the top three will not continue in the competition and will be notified at this stage.

- Dialogue with down selected Tenderers for Live Firing Data Gathering Event planning.

Dialogue will be required with the remaining Tenderers to organise attendance at a Live Firing Data Gathering Event on Salisbury Plain Training Area. This event will generate data to be directly used in the Stage 2 ITT evaluation. It is a Tenderers responsibility to arrange their own logistics in terms ensuring their personnel and the proposed Weapon Locating System are in place on the day. The scope of this dialogue and the proposed date of the event will be set out in the DEFFORM 47.

- Down selected Tenderers to provide data pack for the purpose of initial design work.

Tenderers will be required to provide to the Authority product data of sufficient quality and quantity for the proposed Weapon Locating System to enable preliminary design work to commence to de-risk installation onto an Authority vehicle of choice, assumed to be Foxhound.

- Close Find Radar Live Firing Data Gathering Event

This event will take place on Salisbury Plain Training Area on dates between 01/09/25 until 12/09/25 and will generate some of the data to be used in conducting evaluation against one of the Stage 2 ITT Evaluation Criteria. This will be further detailed in the DEFFORM 47 from the date of the Tender Notice.

- Stage 2 – Radar Model Validation Due Diligence Workshops

Tenderers will be required to attend a due diligence workshop with Qinetiq over a number of days, assumed to be 3 days, with the Authority's appointed radar experts as part of a confidence assessment against one of the Stage 2 ITT Evaluation Criteria. This will be detailed in the DEFFORM 47 from the date of the Tender Notice.

- Final Date for Tenderer Clarification Questions / Requests for additional information

Tenderers will have a period of time from the publication of the Tender Notice to clarify any aspects of the Stage 2 ITT evaluation. This will be set out in the DEFFORM 47.

- The Authority issues Final Clarification Answers

The Authority will set a deadline prior to the Tender Return Date to respond to all outstanding clarification questions. The timescales will be set out in the DEFFORM 47.

- Stage 2 Tender Return

Tenderers will be required to return their full ITT Stage 2 proposal. The date will be set out in the DEFFORM 47

- Authority's Stage 2 Tender Clarification Period

The Authority will have a period of time from the return of the Tenderers Stage 2 ITT proposal to clarify aspects of the Tenderers bid. The timescales will be set out in the DEFFORM 47.

- Stage 2 Tender Evaluation

The Authority will assess the Stage 2 ITT bids and will evaluate against the criteria set out in the Stage 2 ITT Evaluation Criteria outlined in the DEFFORM 47.

- Authority Review and Approval Period

The Authority will conduct the required internal approval activity and progress to an approved Full Business Case prior to the notification of the competition outcome and the selection of a preferred bidder.

- Tenderers notified of ITT result and Contract Award

Tenderers will be notified of the outcome of the competition and the required standstill period will be observed prior to the award of the Contract.