

UK3 – Planned Procurement Notice Briefing Pack

DDaT Data Centre Infrastructure Services

DATE: 13th August 2025



Planned Procurement Notice

Table of Contents

Background	3
Scope of the upcoming tender	4
Purpose of the Planned Procurement Engagement	4
Responding to this Planned Procurement Notice	5



Background

Network Rail Digital, Data and Technology (DDaT) services are critical to the delivery of a safe and reliable railway across Great Britain. They are essential to operating the railway, enabling its ongoing operation (e.g., in timetabling and asset management), and managing railway businesses. DDaT is responsible for designing, maintaining, and supporting a vast array of IT and Telecoms assets, IT applications, and safety-critical technology that ensure the rail network is functional and effectively managed.

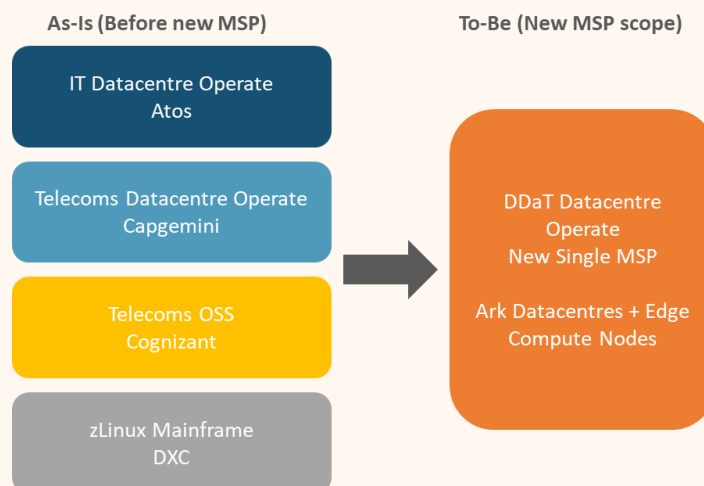
DDaT's vision is to deliver secure, safe, innovative, reliable, affordable IT and Telecoms services and to enable the operational railway by providing the services customers need. The DDaT Strategy promotes convergence and simplification of technical services, including across the Data Centre domain. This programme aligns with a key strategic goal: consolidating IT and Telecoms infrastructure to improve efficiency and reliability.

Network Rail currently operates four separate core contracts:

1. IT Data Centre Operate and Maintain Services
2. Telecoms Data Centre and Operate and Maintain Services
3. Operational Support Services (OSS) applications
4. zLinux Mainframe

There is separation across physical locations, infrastructure, tooling and support from both internal functions and managed service providers (MSPs).

Network Rail now seek to converge and simplify these four core contracts and other non-core contracts under a single MSP to deliver unified Data Centre Infrastructure Services (DCIS), while Crown Hosting Services will continue to manage the physical data centre space and rental. The infrastructure and assets will remain under Network Rail ownership. The new MSP will be responsible for running the services.



The key objective of this project is to provide better value for money from improved efficiencies and service performance. This includes:

- Greater cost transparency and control over costs
- Developing and implementing a single operating model



Planned Procurement Notice

- Optimising the service model aligned with best practice
- Consolidating multiple service contracts and thereby minimising duplicated effort
- Providing clearer service ownership and improved delivery
- Aligning incentives with objectives
- Reducing interfaces and touchpoints while making the best use of technical tools and operational resources
- Reducing organisational complexity and interface volumes
- Allowing for demand growth within NRIL over the contract term

Scope of the upcoming tender

The new MSP will deliver the services for the contract term of 7 years. Services will include technology and service management of IT/Telecoms infrastructure within Network Rail data centres and Edge Compute Nodes. Services will also include management of OSS applications and consolidation of additional services currently covered under separate contracts. The new MSP will need to work collaboratively with the Network Rail service management team to ensure a seamless transition and take-on of the services. Set up of a Project Services capability and opportunity for delivery of projects across Control Periods 7 and 8 (CP7 and CP8) form part of the requirements.

As the primary supplier supporting data centre network and IT infrastructure across the Network Rail estate, the MSP shall provide a comprehensive Managed Service capability that integrates with Network Rail and other associated primary service MSPs, including those supporting Corporate and mission critical Operational Networks. Bidders should note that Network Rail will retain some services inhouse and the MSP will be required to work alongside internal Network Rail technical teams and other Third-Party Suppliers to provide an effective and seamless end-to-end service.

Purpose of the Planned Procurement Engagement Notice

This notice is being released in advance to give interested parties visibility of a forthcoming business opportunity. The relevant Tender Notice associated with this procurement is expected to be published week commencing 1st September, subject to any unforeseen circumstances.

The Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ) publication will follow shortly after the Tender Notice. It will set out the Conditions of Participation for this procurement and will provide suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate their capability against the qualification and technical requirements.

Suppliers must satisfy the Conditions of Participation in order to be able progress to the next stage of the procurement process, subject to selection in accordance with the evaluation criteria. The PSQ will be published via the Bravo Portal and will be split into two separate envelopes:

- Qualification – Pass/Fail assessment against mandatory and discretionary criteria



- Technical – Scored assessment based on defined evaluation criteria

Information for this Planned Procurement Notice

Organisations wishing to participate in the procurement should ensure they are registered on the Bravo Portal and ready to access the PSQ upon publication.

When the PSQ is released, the following documents will be published on Bravo:

- Instructions to Participants
- Appendix A – Procurement Terms and Conditions
- Appendix B – Conditions of Participation Criteria
- Appendix C – Tender Criteria
- Appendix D – Glossary
- Appendix E – Summary of Requirements
- Appendix Ea – BRD (Redacted)
- Appendix Eb – Requirements Catalogue (Redacted)
- Appendix F – Confidentiality Agreement

Organisations wishing to participate in the procurement are required to complete and submit their PSQ responses in accordance with the instructions and deadlines set out in the PSQ pack.

