

What aspects of the current phase delivery have worked well, and are there areas where you'd like to see different approaches in the next phase? *Development of the service up to this point has gone well, and the supplier has performed well. We value a supplier that is flexible and adaptable as the business needs and user needs shift the focus of product development and as the make-up of the internal team changes also.*

What is the response word limit for the Stage 1 tender submission response? And does this include the 750 word count for the social values section? *There is no word count limit for submissions. The only word count limit applies to the social value category (750 words).*

Is there a standard template for Stage 1 submissions? *There is no template for stage 1 submissions – it is up to bidders to determine the format of their response.*

Can we ask if National Archives would consider other contracting arrangements within the Crown Commercial Service options available as we tend to see these alternatives being used by our public sector clients as being more appropriate for digital projects of this nature? *As this is being run as an open procurement, and not via a Crown Commercial Service framework, then the mid-tier contract would be the default form of contract for an agreement of this value.*

Is a single PDF emailed to procurement@nationalarchives.gov.uk acceptable, with annexes (CVs, case studies) included as appendices? Any file size limits, file-naming conventions, or preferred section order? *Yes, this is acceptable. No requirements on naming conventions or file sizes (the latter within reason).*

Are supporting artefacts (screenshots, brief architecture summaries) permitted at Stage 1, provided the core narrative remains clear and within the SV word limit? *Yes.*

Please confirm no pricing is required at Stage 1 (pricing appears to be a Stage-2 evaluation item). *Correct.*

Are there any mandatory declarations, forms, or NDAs to sign at Stage 1, or will those come at Stage 2 only? *No. This will apply at Stage 2.*

We've noted SC (or willingness to obtain) is mandatory for developing in production; do you need any formal SC evidence/attestation with Stage 1, or is that checked later? *No. This will apply at Stage 2.*

We see the Mid-Tier Contract Core Terms will apply. Should we assume no departures at Stage 1, with any queries raised via clarifications? *Correct.*

Will there be a Q&A log circulated to all bidders after the clarification deadline? *Yes, there will.*

How does TNA see the project being phased, given that it seems that delivery should happen within 6 months but budget also needs to cover a 12 month extension? *This is*

an agile project; the product is currently in Beta development. The forecasted spend is per the ITT, the optional extension is in place in case of a change in business priorities.

Are there more detailed technical requirements for AYR? *More detailed requirements will be specified at Stage 2 of the procurement process.*

Is this T&M or fixed price? *T&M*

What roles will TNA provide to the team? *Currently Product Manager, Lead Dev, User Researcher and Designer but this may change in future as internal resources are re-deployed. Those roles currently work across another product also.*

Is there a preferred format for the Stage 1 response? *No, it is for bidders to determine how to format their responses.*

What previous work has been done on this product/project? *We have gone through the Discovery and Alpha phases of development and are now in Private Beta.*

Is there an incumbent supplier? *To date, we have partnered with Zaizi Ltd. on this service.*

Can you share any more docs or info on the existing work? *More detailed requirements will be specified at Stage 2 of the procurement process.*

What phase (e.g. Alpha, Beta, Live) is the current product at? *Private Beta.*

Will this be Inside of Outside IR35? *We have not yet assessed for IR35 as the outcome will be influenced by how the winning bidder proposes delivering the contract.*

Please confirm that these are the services referenced in 2.6, if not please can a link or more detail be provided: Open Search - Home - [OpenSearch](#), Flask - [Welcome to Flask ? Flask Documentation \(3.1.x\)](#), Universal Viewer - [Universal Viewer](#) *Yes, we can confirm that these are correct.*

I note that you request for supplier's to either hold SC or be willing to obtain. Would you accept a supplier working with a subcontractor who currently holds SC? Or do you expect the prime to hold or be willing to obtain? *Anyone assigned to work on this service will need to be SC cleared, whether they are an employee/worker of the primary contractor or an employee/worker of a sub-contractor.*

We are a UK based business positioning to bid for this opportunity and we are relying on our offshore consortium supplier from India for examples of previous work for eligibility. We also utilising them for technical execution support of the project while we engage/deploy senior technical staff and project/client management tasks within UK. Is this acceptable by you? If yes, what other information do you require from our offshore supplier for eligibility? *Yes, this is acceptable in principle at this stage. Please ensure that in your submission you specify who your proposed sub-contractor(s) is/are, and*

which aspects of delivery they would be responsible for and/or involved in. Also note the requirement for SC clearance specified in the ITT.

Is our offshore consortium supplier required to hold similar certifications and insurance as the main bidder, or is it sufficient for the main bidder to meet these criteria? If mandatory, can subcontractors obtain these certifications and insurance after the project is awarded but before the project commencement? *Re. insurance, it is for the lead bidder (i.e. the organisation with whom we would contract if your bid were to be successful) to ensure that the necessary insurance policies are in place to meet any and all obligations of the contract on both the primary contractor and any sub-contractors. Re. certifications (e.g. ISO) these would need to be held by the lead bidder and also by any sub-contractor (where that certification is relevant to the work being undertaken by the sub-contractor).*

Are there any financial conditions, such as a minimum turnover requirement, that apply to both the main bidder and our offshore consortium supplier? *No, but The National Archives reserves the right to undertake credit checks on bidders during the procurement process and to raise related clarification questions with bidders if those checks raise any causes for concern.*

Is it permissible to use public cloud hosting services (AWS, Azure, Oracle) for the project, or is a specific hosting model preferred? *Yes, this is permitted.*

Will TNA sponsor security clearance of the supplier personnel or do TNA require SC clearance personnel from the start of the engagement? *We have 40 SC staff, and all our staff are BPSS and SC clearable. Personnel will need to be SC cleared from the start of the engagement.*

We note you reference ISO27001 compliance. Is ISO27001 accreditation a requirement at the point of bidding? We comply with ISO27001 and are in the last stages of our ISO27001 accreditation, due to be completed early November 2025. *ISO compliance is a requirement from the contract commencement date. At this stage, please note that preference will be given to suppliers who have ISO compliance at the point of bidding.*

Is there an incumbent for this engagement? If yes, will the winning supplier work alongside the incumbent, or is this ITT to replace the current incumbent? *Yes, there is an incumbent supplier with whom we have partnered for development work up until now. This contract will replace that arrangement.*

We can see you've been working with Zaizi limited for the past 3 years on Beta projects for the access your records service. How will they work with the winner of this tender? *If needed there will be a handover as with any change of supplier or other team changes. We have a number of in-house team members who have worked closely with Zaizi*

developers, and the service is well documented so we do not envisage knowledge being an issue.

SC Clearance is usually sponsored per project. Will you be sponsoring the winning supplier for SC Clearance? If so, how will this affect the timescales. *We have not done this before in this team. Our suppliers usually have SC cleared staff members or put them forwards for this themselves.*

Is TNA open to a commercial off-the-shelf solution? *Potentially*

Do you have a requirement to redact PII from the content prior to display? *No*

Is the metadata being added by TNA or does the metadata come with the transferred record? *It comes with the record*

Is the metadata in any standard XML format? *No. it comes in CSV*

Should we assume role-based access controls that restricts the transferring organisation to only content they transferred, or will they have access to the entire corpus? *There are 3 modes of access: all access users (internal TNA staff in specific roles), departmental users, those with access only to their own department's transferred records, and third-party users granted temporary access to a subset of records with permission from the transferring department.*

Do you have a program timeline? When do you want to be operational? *We are currently in private Beta, we aim to be in Public Beta by the end of the financial year.*