



Ministry
of Defence



Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ) Guidance Document

714195450

Mine Hunting Capability (MHC) Block 2 Procurement
of Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUV), Associated
Equipment and Support

24th October 2025

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PSQ Information

Contracting Authority	DE&S Mine Hunting Capability (MHC) Delivery Team, UK MoD MHC Defence Equipment & Support Spruce 3C, NH1 MoD Abbey Wood Bristol BS34 8JH
Points of Contact	Mr Aaron White, MHC Commercial (aaron.white176@mod.gov.uk) Mr Garry Ogborne, MHC Commercial (garry.ogborne100@mod.gov.uk)
Requirement	714195450 - MHC Block 2 Procurement of Unmanned Underwater Vehicles, Associated Equipment and Support
PSQ Issue Date	24/10/2025
Final Date for Clarification Questions	14/11/2025
PSQ Closing Date	21/11/2025 12:00PM*

* Potential Providers which do not submit a PSQ response or submit a response after the stated PSQ Closing Date and time will not be considered for further participation in the MHC Block 2 UUV procurement process. PSQ responses submitted after the stated Closing Date will not be assessed.

1. Background and Supporting Information

1.1 Background – Mine Hunting Capability (MHC)

- 1.1.1 The MHC Block 2 programme exists to deliver a modern and sustainable Mine Countermeasures (MCM) capability that improves effectiveness and reduces risk to life, delivered through the various elements which comprise an MHC Mission System.
- 1.1.2 The Block 2 UUV forms a key part of the MHC Mission System and will be used operationally to Detect, Classify and Localise mines on the seabed to a minimum of 200 metres, launched and recovered from an Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV). It will be required, as a minimum, to conduct mine hunting missions and to carry out route surveying. The MHC Block 2 UUV is an integral part of the first phase of MHC Block 2 equipment deliveries, referred to as the Minimum Deployable Capability, and this procurement will equip all 6 squadrons of the Royal Navy's Mine Threat Exploitation Group (MTXG).

1.2 Supporting Information

- 1.2.1 Following the early market engagement activity (Request For Information) that MHC conducted in April/May 2025 to gather input and feedback from industry on the draft MHC Block 2 UUV requirement, The Authority is seeking to procure up to 24 Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs), up to 8 Launch and Recovery Systems (LARS) and in-service support of these vehicles and systems for mine hunting and seabed surveillance purposes. This requirement is part of the Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) MHC Block 2 programme and it is intended that the award of the proposed contract will take place in Summer 2026, with the term of the core agreement extending out until Autumn 2031.

Three contractual options will be included:

- Two priced options will allow The Authority to extend the term of the proposed agreement by an additional year each (1 year + 1 year).
- A third unpriced option will provide The Authority with an ability to purchase an additional quantity of UUVs in the future.

- 1.2.2 This procurement is to be competed under the Procurement Act 2023 via the Competitive Flexible Procedure.

- 1.2.3 The following definitions are used in this document:

“We”, “Us” or “The Authority” means the Ministry of Defence.

“You” or “Your” or the “Potential Provider” means the business or company which is completing this PSQ.

- 1.2.4 **Under this first stage of the competitive procurement process, The Authority invites all Potential Providers that seek to qualify to participate in the process to respond to this PSQ, by following the instructions and guidance set out within Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this document.**

This PSQ forms the Conditions of Participation for Potential Providers to qualify to participate in the MHC Block 2 UUV competitive tendering process.

- 1.2.5 The Authority considers the PSQ the entry stage for Potential Providers to this competitive procurement process. Should a Potential Provider decline to respond to the PSQ, there is no further opportunity to enter or participate in the procurement process.
- 1.2.6 The PSQ provides The Authority with a means to assess those Potential Providers that it determines are most qualified and possess the necessary technical capability and capacity to fulfil its requirement and will serve as the mechanism used to down-select the full list of Potential Providers to a shortlist of four Tenderers. Down-selection of Potential Providers will be based upon the four highest scoring responses to the PSQ, however in the scenario that the fourth highest scoring position is held jointly by two Potential Providers then The Authority reserves the right to down-select five Potential Providers instead of four. **Only Potential Providers which are down-selected to be Tenderers at this PSQ stage will be invited to proceed to the next stage of the procurement process and submit a tender.**
- 1.2.7 When completing the PSQ, Potential Providers will be required to supply information across a range of criteria for assessment purposes, including:
- Confirmation of registration on the new Central Digital Platform (Find A Tender)
 - Debarment List status
 - Potential subcontractor information
 - Legal and financial standing
 - Details of relevant experience and evidence of successfully delivering similar requirements
 - Confirmation of cyber security accreditation and details of associated policies and procedures in place
 - Adherence to Health and Safety and environmental legislation
 - Quality Assurance accreditations and associated governance processes
 - Information related to central Government Procurement Policy Notes

The full list of PSQ questions and the scoring guidance that will be used by The Authority for assessment of PSQ responses is set out at Section 4 of this document.

- 1.2.8 Additional background information regarding the PSQ process can be found at Section 5 of this document.

2. Terms of Participation

2.1 PSQ – Participation Terms

- The issue of PSQ documentation is not a commitment by The Authority to subsequently issue ITT Documentation or Material or place a contract. Neither does the issue of this or subsequent documents create any implied contract between The Authority and any Potential Provider and any such implied contract is expressly excluded.
- By submitting a response to this PSQ, Potential Providers confirm their agreement to and to be bound by the terms set out within this document. The Authority reserves the right to exclude any Potential Provider which does not comply with or acts outside of the stated terms.
- Clarification questions directly related to the PSQ can be sent by Potential Providers to The Authority through the DSP, via the process set out at Section 3.2 (Clarification Process).
- A response constitutes completion of both core supplier information on the Central Digital Platform and the PSQ via the DSP. Failure to respond to either or both will constitute a failure to meet the minimum requirements of the PSQ and therefore the Potential Provider will be excluded from the remainder of the procurement process.
- Where text input or attachments are required for question responses, these are limited to a maximum of 1000 words per question (excluding diagrams, pictures or graphics). Any responses exceeding this word count will only be evaluated up to the stated word limit with the remainder of the response for that question disregarded.
- Where attachments are required for PSQ questions, responses must be uploaded in PDF format.
- The Authority reserves the right to disregard any information supplied alongside the response to this PSQ that is considered marketing or promotional material or that it does not deem to include any relevance to the question posed.
- Responses to each question will be assessed in accordance with the applicable scoring criteria, as set out within Section 4 of this document. Should The Authority require clarification on a Potential Provider's response, or any supplementary material, it reserves the right to request this either before or following the Closing Date of the PSQ.
- All aspects of the Potential Provider's response must be provided in English. If any of the required information (e.g. text in financial accounts) is not in English, you must supply a copy of the original document and an English translation of that information.
- Where financial information is quoted in figures other than pounds sterling; the sum should be stated in both the original currency and pounds sterling. You should use exchange rates quoted (by national central banks, international institutions or commercial banks operating in the foreign exchange market) on the day this PSQ was issued for all currency conversions, and you must state the exchange rate used in your response.
- Should there be any material changes to the information submitted, you must make The Authority aware as soon as possible.

- Suppliers should note that The Authority has legislative duties to publish certain information which relate to the supplier in their contract award notices. This information includes, but is not limited to:
- details of the winning supplier's Associated Persons
- details of the winning supplier's Connected Person information
- for certain procurements over £5 million, details of unsuccessful bidders

2.2 Verification of Information Provided (Inc. revisiting)

2.2.1 The Authority reserves the right to revisit its assessment of any part of a Potential Provider's response to the PSQ, should it be deemed that circumstances or information provided has changed or has since become inaccurate. Should any information supplied deemed to be deliberately inaccurate, false, or misleading, then The Authority reserves the right to disqualify the Potential Provider from the procurement process.

2.3 Right to Reject and/or Disqualify

2.3.1 The Authority reserves the right to remove a Potential Provider during or following the PSQ process due to the following reasons.

A PSQ response is:

- received by The Authority after the PSQ Closing Date.
- received/submitted via any other medium than the DSP.
- incomplete or completed incorrectly.
- deliberately misleading or misrepresentative of the Potential Provider's core legal and financial information, or previous experience based on the questionnaire.
- The Authority is aware of immediate or imminent changes to the Potential Provider's circumstances that it has not disclosed.
- where The Authority deems there to be a conflict of interest that cannot be mitigated.

2.4 Right to Cancel or Vary the Process

2.4.1 The Authority reserves the right to:

- a) Cancel the PSQ process and evaluation process at any stage;
- b) Not award a contract after the PSQ and procurement process.

2.5 Conflicts of Interest

2.5.1 The Authority is required by the Procurement Act 2023 (Sections 81-83) to ensure that all Potential Providers are treated fairly and non-discriminately during the procurement process and therefore needs to attempt to identify, assess and mitigate any potential conflicts of interest that could be deemed to have an intentional or unintentional effect on the procurement.

2.5.2 Potential Providers should be advised that should a conflict of interest arise during any stage of this procurement process which The Authority deems cannot be mitigated, then it reserves the right to disqualify the Potential Provider from the procurement process.

2.5.3 Potential Providers must make The Authority aware if they identify any potential, actual, or perceived conflicts of interest that arise during the course of the procurement process.

2.5.4 The Authority confirms that it has undertaken a Conflicts Assessment for this procurement process.

2.6 Anti-Competitive Behaviour

2.6.1 The Authority is required to ensure that all Potential Providers are treated equally and in a non-discriminatory way during the procurement process. The Authority therefore needs to prohibit anti-competitive or improper behaviour so as to ensure a fair and non-discriminatory procurement process.

2.6.2 You are required to report any final convictions or settlements with regard to anti-competitive behaviour (and if so, any measures that you have taken to prevent such behaviour happening again) in your response to the appropriate questions within the PSQ.

2.6.3 If The Authority suspects anti-competitive or improper behaviour, The Authority will require evidence from you that your arrangements are not anti-competitive. Any evidence of any anti-competitive or improper behaviour in relation to this procurement could result in you being disqualified from the procurement process.

2.7 Costs and Expenses

2.7.1 Potential Providers are responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in responding to this PSQ.

2.8 PSQ Documentation and Authority Supplied Information

2.8.1 Supporting information provided by The Authority during the PSQ process should be considered as background information, contextual to aiding the responses from Potential Providers to this PSQ and should not be used as the basis for a future contract. Whilst all information is supplied in good faith and the requirement as stated will remain central to this procurement process, The Authority reserves the right to amend any aspect of the supporting information supplied.

2.9 Confidentiality and Freedom of Information

2.9.1 The information in this PSQ Guidance Document is made available on condition that it is treated as confidential by the Potential Provider and is not disclosed, copied, reproduced, distributed or passed to any other person at any time except for the purpose of enabling a submission to be made (for example, disclosure by a Potential Provider to its insurers or potential suppliers/parent companies who are directly involved in the bid). The Sharing of PSQ information is subject to the requirements of para 3.4 below.

2.9.2 The Authority is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the subordinate legislation made under those

Act / Regulations and any guidance and / or codes of practice issued (from time to time) in relation to such legislation.

Potential Providers are required to (where known at the time):

- (a) specify (with reasons) the PSQ responses which they regard as falling within any of the exemptions from disclosure specified under the Act/Regulations including (without limitation) information provided in confidence; and
- (b) state which provisions of the Act/Regulations apply to the PSQ responses identified in 2(a) above.

2.9.3 If The Authority is part of the Ministry of Defence, a request under the Act/Regulations will be handled in accordance with "Commercial Policy Group Guideline No 10 - The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004" (or any successor thereof).

2.9.4 The Authority shall be responsible for determining, at its absolute discretion and subject to its legal obligations, whether any of the exemptions from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, including those claimed by the Potential Provider, should apply. Nothing in this provision will affect the Potential Provider's rights at law.

3. PSQ Completion Instructions and Guidance

3.1 PSQ Completion

- 3.1.1 PSQ responses are to be completed and submitted via the Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP) and will not be considered if received by other means. Potential Providers must sign up to the Central Digital Platform (Find A Tender) before attempting to respond to the PSQ.

The PSQ can be accessed directly via the link below:

<https://contracts.mod.uk/go/206024640199C3C58F54>

The Central Digital Platform can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk>

- 3.1.2 Assessments questions marked with an asterisk (*) on the DSP are mandatory, and a response to these must be entered in order for the portal to allow the final PSQ response to be submitted.
- 3.1.3 Guidance to Potential providers for responding to PSQ questions is included within this document, and is shown in ***bold italic font*** under each question, where applicable.
- 3.1.4 The PSQ questions require responses which include a combination of multiple choice, text box entry or attachment uploads. Questions which are pass/fail or require a minimum score that responses must achieve, and may result in a Potential Provider's exclusion from the procurement process are clearly identified.
- 3.1.5 Dependent upon the significance of the assessment topic, some questions have been allocated a weighting, where the score received for that question will be multiplied by the stated weighting to generate a weighted score.

3.2 Clarification Process

- 3.2.1 Potential Providers are permitted to ask Clarification Questions (CQs) either regarding the PSQ process itself, or the questions contained in the PSQ. CQs may be submitted at any time via the DSP from the date of the PSQ publication up until the cut-off date/time of **12:00pm on 14th November 2025**.
The Authority reserves the right not to respond to any CQs submitted after this date.
- 3.2.2 CQs must be submitted in writing via the DSP messaging function directly to The Authority Points of Contact stated on page 3 of this document, to enable The Authority to retain an auditable record of the questions submitted and the subsequent responses provided.
- 3.2.3 The Authority shall not respond to any CQs submitted via any method other than the DSP.
- 3.2.4 All CQs will be treated in confidence. Where The Authority considers a CQ or its subsequent response to be of material significance to the procurement process, it will communicate both the CQ and the response to all Potential Providers registered to participate in this PSQ. In such event The Authority will ensure the anonymity of the originating Potential Provider is preserved.
The Authority will not publish any CQs where it deems that publication of the question and subsequent response would serve no benefit to other Potential Providers.

3.3.5 If a Potential Provider does not wish a CQ or CQ response to be disclosed to other Potential Providers participating in the PSQ, you may request that the CQ and CQ response be treated as commercially sensitive and must provide the rationale and justification to support such a request. The Authority will consider each such request and may choose to discuss it with you, to assist The Authority in determining whether it is appropriate to disclose the CQ and CQ response with all other Potential Providers participating. Where The Authority proposes to disclose the CQ and CQ response to all other Potential Providers participating in the PSQ, The Authority will give the requesting Potential Provider the option to withdraw the question. The Authority's determination as to whether a CQ or CQ response is commercially sensitive shall be final.

3.3 Consortia/Joint Bids

3.3.1 Consortia and joint bids are permitted for this procurement however all Potential Providers must submit separate PSQ responses with the subsequent proposed arrangement made clear. All/both Potential Providers must meet the minimum thresholds for passing the PSQ for this arrangement to be considered by The Authority.

3.3.2 If at any stage through the procurement process the formation of the proposed consortia bid changes, or one of the Potential Providers wishes to bid exclusively, The Authority must be made aware at the first possible opportunity. Should this occur, The Authority reserves the right to revisit the PSQ and potentially request further supporting information to validate responses. If satisfactory information cannot be supplied regarding core legal and financial information or regarding experience based upon the questionnaire, The Authority reserves the right to exclude the Potential Provider from the procurement process.

3.4 PSQ and Document Sharing

3.4.1 The Authority understands that Potential Providers may wish to share the PSQ information and documentation with their parent companies, subsidiaries and/or intended sub-contractors to aid with their responses. Requests to share this information must be made to the MHC Commercial team using the messaging function within the DSP, and approval of these requests shall not be unreasonably withheld.

3.4.2 All approvals are subject to the below conditions:

- Any information sharing is only considered when essential to responses.
- All confidentiality obligations as stated in Section 2.9 are flowed down to recipients.

3.5 PSQ Closing Date and Next Stage

3.5.1 The closing date and time for Potential Providers to submit their PSQ response on the DSP is **12:00pm on 21st November 2025**.

3.5.2 Potential Providers which do not submit a PSQ response or submit a response after the stated PSQ Closing Date will not be considered for further participation in the MHC Block 2 UUV procurement process. PSQ responses submitted after the stated Closing Date will not be assessed.

- 3.5.3 Once the PSQ Closing Date has passed, The Authority will validate and assess all responses fairly and equitably in accordance with the scoring criteria set out at Section 4 below, before communicating the outcome to each Potential Provider. Following assessment, Potential Providers will be issued with their scores, a brief supporting narrative, and notification that either they have been down-selected to be invited to tender or have not been down-selected. Potential Providers which are not down-selected will be excluded from further participation in the procurement process.
- 3.5.4 The assessment of PSQ responses is planned take place during November and December 2025, with the subsequent scoring information and down-selection outcome to be communicated to all Potential Providers during December 2025. Invitations to Tender for the down-selected Tenderers are anticipated to be issued during January/February 2026.

4. PSQ Assessment Questions and Scoring Criteria

This section outlines the assessment questions and scoring criteria that will be used to assess and down-select Potential Providers which will be subsequently invited to submit a tender.

The PSQ is divided into 4 parts, as set out below:

- Part 1 - Potential Provider Declarations and Central Digital Platform (CDP) Supplier Information
- Part 2 - Associated Persons and Subcontractor Information
- Part 3 - Project Specific Assessment Questions
- Part 4 - Procurement Policy Notice Questions

The DSP is aligned to the way the questions are organised within the following Sections 4.1 to 4.4.

Parts 1 and 2 (Potential Provider Declaration and CDP Supplier Information) and (Associated Persons and Subcontractor Information) primarily include questions that are deemed to be self-explanatory and therefore do not require detailed guidance.

A summary of all scoring and assessment criteria can be found at Table 1 on pg.35 of this document.

The PSQ assessment questions are included within this document for reference only, you must complete and submit your PSQ response via the DSP.

Where a response is required to a question and no response has been provided, The Authority will assign a score of '0' or 'fail' to that question.

4.1 Part 1 - Potential Provider Declarations and Central Digital Platform (CDP) Supplier Information

Part 1 is covered by Sections 1.1 to 1.4 within the DSP.

Part 1 covers the Potential Provider's obligation to register on the new Authority Central Digital Platform and the provision of information about your organisation.

Part 1 - Potential Provider Declaration and CDP Supplier Information	
Potential Provider Declarations	
DSP Question No	Question
1.2.1	Please confirm that you can download and open the attached documents, including: PSQ Guidance Document UK 4 Tender Notice Supporting Information Cyber Security Assurance Questionnaire (SAQ) DEFSTAN 05-138 <i>Question 1.2.1 is a pass/fail question and must be responded to with 'Yes' to score a pass. Potential Providers which fail this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.</i>
1.2.2	Please confirm that: • to the best of your knowledge the answers submitted and information contained in this document are complete, accurate and not misleading • upon request and without delay you will provide any additional information requested of you • you understand that the response to this questionnaire will be used to assess whether your organisation is entitled to participate in, or continue to participate in, this procurement • you understand that your organisation may be excluded from the procurement if requested information has not been provided, if any of this response or any follow up responses are incomplete, inaccurate or misleading, if confidential information has been accessed or if you have unduly influenced our decision-making in this procurement <i>Question 1.2.2 is a pass/fail question and must be responded to with 'Yes' to score a pass. Potential Providers which fail this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.</i>
Preliminary Supplier Information	
DSP Question No	Question
1.3.1	What is your name? (supplier name)
1.3.2	You must be registered on the Central Digital Platform (CDP) Please provide your Central Digital Platform unique identifier.
1.3.3	Please confirm if you are bidding as a single supplier or as part of a group or consortium. If you are bidding as part of a group or consortium (including where you intend to establish a legal entity to deliver the contract), please provide: a) The name of the group/consortium. b) The proposed structure of the group/consortium, including the legal structure where applicable. c) The name of the lead member in the group/consortium.

	d) Your role in the group/consortium (e.g. lead member, consortium member, sub-contractor).
1.3.4	Is your organisation on the debarment list? <i>Question 1.3.4 requests confirmation from the Potential Provider of whether your organisation is on the Debarment List. If a Potential Provider is on the Debarment List, and a mandatory exclusion ground(s) applies, it will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process. If discretionary exclusions apply, The Authority will decide at its sole discretion and on a case-by-case basis, whether the Potential Provider is to be excluded from further participation in the procurement process.</i>
Confirmation of CDP Supplier Information	
DSP Question No	Question
1.4.1	You must submit up-to-date core supplier information on the Central Digital Platform and share this information with us via the DSP. This information should include: . Basic information . Economic and financial standing information . Connected person information (these are persons with the right to exercise, or who actually exercise, significant influence or control over the supplier, or over whom the supplier has the right to exercise, or actually exercises, significant influence or control over, for example: directors, majority shareholders and parent and subsidiary companies). Please confirm you understand this instruction. <i>Question 1.4.1 is a pass/fail question and must be responded to with 'Yes' to score a pass. Potential Providers which fail this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.</i>

4.2 Part 2 – Associated Persons and Subcontractor Information

Part 2 is covered by Sections 1.5 to 1.8 within the DSP.

Part 2 of this PSQ allows Potential Providers to share additional exclusion information for associated persons that you rely on to satisfy any conditions of participation, these could be consortium members of key sub-contractors (but not guarantors), shared via the CDP.

If a sub-contractor is unknown at the start of the procurement (or brought in during it), this should be made clear by the Potential Provider, and relevant details of the sub-contractor should be provided once their identity and role is confirmed, and shared with The Authority as soon as possible or at least by final tenders.

Part 2 - Associated Persons and Subcontractor Information	
Associated Persons	
DSP Question No	Question
1.6.1	Are you relying on an associated person (i.e. another supplier who is a sub-contractor or a consortium member) to satisfy conditions of participation in this procurement? If so, please complete Questions 1.6.2, 1.6.3 & 1.6.4 (otherwise 1.6.2, 1.6.3 & 1.6.4 are not applicable).
1.6.2	For each supplier/associated person, please confirm which condition(s) of participation you are relying on them to satisfy.
1.6.3	Each associated person must confirm they are registered on the Central Digital Platform and have shared their information (this must be in PDF, uploaded to question 1.6.4). This information should include: . Basic information . Economic and financial standing information (if they are being relied upon to meet financial conditions of participation) . Connected person information . Exclusion grounds information Please confirm you have understood and completed the above. <i>Question 1.6.3 is not a mandatory question, however Potential providers must respond to this question with 'Yes' if you have responded positively to Question 1.6.1 to score a Pass. Potential Providers which fail this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.</i>
1.6.4	Please upload confirmation of registration on the CDP for all associated persons. This must be a PDF download from the CDP.
1.6.5	Are any of your associated persons on the debarment list? <i>Question 1.6.5 requests confirmation from the Potential Provider of whether your associated person(s) is on the Debarment List. If an associated person is on the Debarment List, The Authority will provide a reasonable opportunity for the Potential Provider to replace the associated person(s). If this does not take place within a reasonable timeframe, the Potential Provider will be excluded from further participation in the procurement process.</i>
List of All Intended Sub-contractors	
DSP Question No	Question
1.7.2	Please provide: a. a list of all suppliers who you intend to sub-contract the performance of all or part of the contract to (either directly or in your wider supply chain);

	b. their unique identifier (if they are registered on the Central Digital Platform), or otherwise, a Companies House number charity number, VAT registration number, or equivalent; and, c. a brief description of their intended role in the performance of the contract. If you are not intending to sub-contract the performance of all or part of the contract then this question, 1.7.3 and 1.7.4 are not applicable. Please use the following format: [Insert name of supplier - unique identifier - brief description] - Repeat
1.7.3	Please confirm if any intended sub-contractor is on the debarment list. The debarment list can be found on GOV.UK. <i>Question 1.7.3 requests confirmation from the Potential Provider of whether any proposed subcontractor(s) is on the Debarment List. If a subcontractor is on the Debarment List, The Authority will review this on a case-by-case basis, and if required will provide a reasonable opportunity for the Potential Provider to replace that subcontractor(s). If this does not take place within a reasonable timeframe, the Potential Provider will be excluded from further participation in the procurement process.</i>
1.7.4	If you have answered 'yes' to question 1.7.3, please insert sub-contractor(s) name and provide details. <i>Refer to guidance for question 1.7.3 above.</i>
1.7.5	(Applicable to Tier 1 Subcontractors) For each relevant sub-contractor please provide their supplier basic information. Each relevant sub-contractor should be registered on the Central Digital Platform and share their supplier information with the prime in a PDF download taken from the CDP which should be shared with The Authority. This information can be uploaded as a response to this question by the prime supplier. This question is not applicable to Potential Providers which do not require subcontractors or have not yet identified subcontractors.
Russian/Belarusian Entities	
DSP Question No	Question
1.8.1	Please confirm whether you, or any part(s) of your intended supply chain is / are linked to entities who are constituted or organised under the law of Russia or Belarus or under the control (full or partial) of a Russian / Belarusian person or entity. Please note that this does not include companies: a) Registered in the UK or in a country with which the UK has a relevant International Agreement which afford reciprocal rights of access in the relevant field of Public Procurement and/or; b) Which have significant business operations in the UK or in a country with which the UK has a relevant International Agreement which affords reciprocal rights of access in the relevant field of Public Procurement. <i>Question 1.8.1 is a pass/fail question and must be responded to with 'No' to score a pass. Potential Providers which fail this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.</i>

4.3 Part 3 - Project Specific Assessment Questions

Part 3 is covered by Sections 1.9 to 1.16 within the DSP.

The questions in Part 3 of the PSQ include the areas which will be used to assess a Potential Providers technical capability and capacity.

Assessment questions in DSP Section 1.10 will cover the Economic and Financial Standing of Potential Providers. The combined guidance and assessment criteria for these questions is covered within paras 4.3.1 to 4.3.5 below.

Part 3 – Economical and Financial Standing	
DSP Question No.	Question
1.10.1 - Guidance Note	Where the Potential Provider is a consortium or association of economic operators, the financial information is required for each Potential Provider that is a member of the consortium or association. Where the Potential Provider is a subsidiary of a group, the financial information is required for both the subsidiary and the parent company. An assessment of a Potential Provider's financial standing forms part of the PSQ evaluation process. The Authority will assess the financial health of all Potential Providers. These are derived from the application of standard accounting measures to financial information that must be provided by each Potential Provider or obtained from publicly available records. These measures are outlined within the guidance document attached to this PSQ. Potential Providers must provide responses to questions 1.10.2, 1.10.3, 1.10.4 and 1.10.5, that relate to the economic and financial standing of each Potential Provider, and each part of question 1.10.7, 1.10.8 and 1.10.9 which relate to parent company guarantees.
1.10.2	What was the Potential Provider's overall turnover in each of the last three (3) financial years? Please enter the information in the following format for each year required: £..... for year ended DD/MM/YYYY
1.10.3	Please provide the following: A copy of the Potential Provider's audited accounts for the most recent three (3) years. OR If the Potential Provider has been trading for fewer than three (3) years, for the period during which that Potential Provider has been trading.
1.10.4	Please provide a statement of the Potential Provider's turnover, profit and loss account, and cash flow for the most recent year of trading.
1.10.5	If the Potential Provider is unable to provide any of the items described in questions 1.10.3 or 1.10.4 above, please provide alternative means of demonstrating financial status (for example, and without limitation or guarantee that such items will be accepted as suitable, a forecast of turnover for the current year and a statement of funding provided by the Potential Provider's owners or a registered bank).

1.10.6. - Guidance Note	If you have indicated: • that you have a parent company and/or ultimate parent company; or • you are part of a group of economic operators which has formed a Potential Provider (such as a consortium, joint venture, special purpose vehicle or other association) which will contract with The Authority for provision of the goods/services; or • you are otherwise part of a Potential Provider or Potential Provider Supply Chain but will not yourself contract directly with The Authority for the provision of the services (for example, because you will not be the head or prime contractor), please answer the following:
1.10.7	Are you able to provide parent company accounts if requested to at a later stage?
1.10.8	If yes, would the parent company be willing to provide a guarantee if necessary?
1.10.9	If no, would you be able to obtain a guarantee elsewhere (e.g. from a bank)?

4.3.1. Questions relating to economic and financial standing:

- i. Each Potential Provider must provide responses to questions 1.10.2 - 1.10.5 (inclusive) and 1.10.7 - 1.10.9 (inclusive) within this section in order for The Authority to carry out its financial health assessment. If a Potential Provider fails to provide the requested information, The Authority shall exclude the Potential Provider from further participation in the procurement process.***

4.3.2. Evaluation of economic and financial standing:

- ii. The Authority will use the information provided in the responses to DSP questions 1.10.2 - 1.10.5 and 1.10.7 - 1.10.9 to assess the financial standing of each Potential Provider in accordance with the qualification standards set out in Figure 1 below. The resulting assessment will lead to a PASS/FAIL evaluation based on whether the Potential Provider has demonstrated, through meeting the qualification standards, that it has sufficient economic and financial standing to provide goods/services of the technical scope and scale of the MHC Block 2 UUV Procurement. Subject to paragraphs 4.3.3., 4.3.4. and 4.3.5., The Authority reserves the right to exclude a Potential Provider that does not meet the qualification standards set out in Figure 1 below.***

Financial Metrics*Figure 1 - Economic and financial standing qualification standards*

Assessment	Methodology	Qualification standard
All financial information	The Authority will review all financial information obtained from the responses provided to questions 1.10.2 - 1.10.5 and 1.10.7 - 1.10.9, the Potential Provider accounts and the Company Watch credit rating check in order to establish a holistic view of the state of the Potential Provider financial health.	Failure to provide the financial information requested in this PSQ will result in the Potential Provider failing to meet this qualification standard.
Turnover	The Authority will review each Potential Provider's turnover for the three full financial years prior to the date of this PSQ.	If the estimated annual contract value for this procurement exceeds fifty per cent. (50%) of a Potential Provider's annual turnover, the Potential Provider will not meet this qualification standard. Where the Potential Provider intends to provide all or some of the potential requirement via a joint-venture company, Consortium Member, or other special purpose vehicle, The Authority will apply the assessment equally to the Potential Provider. Accordingly, where the annual contract value turnover exceeds 50% of the value of a Potential Provider turnover (assessed as the cumulation of all parties turnover in either the joint venture, Consortia or special purpose vehicle), the Potential Provider will not meet this qualification standard.
Liquidity ratios	A Potential Provider's current assets are divided by current liabilities to establish if there are sufficient assets to cover all of the Potential Provider's liabilities as they fall due over the course of one year.	The Authority requires a Potential Provider to have: • a minimum current ratio of 1.0; and • a minimum acid test ratio of 0.8. If these ratios are not met, the Potential Provider will not meet this qualification standard.

Assessment	Methodology	Qualification standard
Company Watch	Company Watch "H-Score" (an overall measure of a business' financial health – for more information, see https://www.companywatch.net/business-credit-rating-check-h-score/).	If a Potential Provider does not have a score of 20 or above, the Potential Provider will not meet this qualification standard. Where Company Watch "H-Score" is unavailable or for international companies, Net Debt/EBITDA (below) will be used as an alternative.
Net Debt/EBITDA	An entity's EBITDA is a proxy for the cash flow it generates from its ongoing operations. The Net Debt to EBITDA Ratio measures an entity's ability to service its debt.	The Authority requires a Potential Provider to have: a maximum of 2.5 If this ratio is not met, the Potential Provider will not meet this qualification standard.

4.3.3. If a Potential Provider meets all of the qualification standards set out in Figure 1 above they will be awarded a PASS. Subject to paragraph 4.3.4. below, if a Potential Provider does not meet one or more of the qualification standards set out in Figure 1 above, The Authority may award a FAIL for this evaluation (detailed below).

- **If a Potential Provider does not meet any of the qualification standards, the Potential Provider will be awarded a FAIL for this evaluation without request of parent company or bank guarantee.**
- **If a Potential Provider meets Company Watch qualification standard only but does not meet the remaining qualification standards the Potential Provider will be awarded a FAIL for this evaluation without request of parent company or bank guarantee.**
- **If a Potential Provider meets Net Debt qualification standard but does not meet the remaining qualification standards, the Potential Provider will be awarded a FAIL for this evaluation without request of parent company or bank guarantee.**
- **If a Potential Provider meets Liquidity Ratio qualification standard only but does not meet the remaining qualification standards, the Potential Provider will be awarded a FAIL for this evaluation without request of parent company or bank guarantee.**
- **If the Potential Provider meets the Turnover qualification standard but does not meet any of the remaining qualification standards, the Potential Provider will be required to provide evidence that its parent company meets the turnover qualification standard. If adequate evidence is provided then the Potential Provider shall be required to provide a parent company guarantee and the financial standing of the parent company shall be assessed in accordance with 4.3.5.5 and 4.3.5.6. If such criteria are met the Potential Provider will be awarded a PASS for this section of the evaluation.**

4.3.4. Save where specifically stated that The Authority shall not request a parent company or bank guarantee, The Authority may choose not to award a FAIL despite a Potential Provider not meeting a qualification standard if:

4.3.4.1. the Potential Provider can provide a parent company guarantee that:

4.3.4.2 meets all the requirements set out in Section 4.3.5. below; and

4.3.4.3 in The Authority's opinion, gives The Authority sufficient comfort that the risks associated with the Potential Provider not meeting the qualification standard(s) will be effectively managed by the guarantee; and/or

4.3.5. Parent company guarantees and bank Guarantees

The Authority may also require a parent company guarantee from a Potential Provider's ultimate parent company. The Authority may require this in a number of circumstances, including where:

4.3.5.1. There is a failure to meet one or more of the qualification standards described at paragraph 4.3.2. above;

4.3.5.2. The Potential Provider that would contract with The Authority is a dormant or "shell" company for an intermediary company;

4.3.5.3. The contracting entity would be a joint venture company, Consortium Member, or other special purpose vehicle; or

4.3.5.4. The contracting entity otherwise:

i) Has no adequate financial track record that The Authority is able to assess;

or

ii) Lacks the financial capacity required to perform the services provided under Project Name but is otherwise, in The Authority's opinion, financially sound.

4.3.5.5. The financial standing of any such parent company will be assessed in the same way as if the parent company were a Potential Provider.

4.3.5.6. Where a Potential Provider does not have an ultimate parent company, The Authority may request a bank guarantee be obtained instead.

Part 3 – Project Specific Assessment	
Electronic Trading	
DSP Question No.	Question
1.11.2	It is a requirement of the proposed contract that electronic trading will take place using the Contracting, Purchasing and Finance (CP&F) system. The Potential Provider must confirm either its current compliance and capability of connecting to CP&F, or that it commits to be able do so by contract award. Question 1.11.2 is a pass/fail question assessed on the following criteria: Pass – The Potential Provider has confirmed that it is currently able, or will be by contract, to trade via Contracting Purchasing and Finance (CP&F). Fail – The Potential Provider is not currently able, and will not be able by contract award, to trade via Contracting Purchasing and Finance (CP&F). Question 1.11.2 is a pass/fail question and must be scored as a pass. Potential Providers which do not score a pass for this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.
Cyber Security	
DSP Question No.	Question
1.12.2	Potential Providers must complete the Security Assurance Questionnaire (SAQ) attached to the PSQ. The completed SAQ must be uploaded here and a copy must also be submitted to the following email address - UKStratComDD-CyDR-DCPP@mod.gov.uk quoting the Risk Assessment Ref: RAR-250602A02 in the title of the email. As stated within the SAQ, for each of the Cyber Risk Profile questions, an asterisk will show the compliant answers. The Cyber Security rating for this procurement is 'Moderate' and therefore it will be a mandatory requirement that the Potential Provider must attain Cyber Essentials Plus. Potential Providers must confirm whether they are either currently compliant, or commit to be compliant by contract award. Question 1.12.2 is a pass/fail question assessed on the following criteria: Pass – The Potential Provider has confirmed that it is fully compliant, or will commit to be fully compliant by contract award, with all requirements of the SAQ. Fail – The Potential Provider has confirmed that it is not currently compliant, and will not be compliant with the requirements of the SAQ by contract award. Question 1.12.2 is a pass/fail question and must be scored as a pass. Potential Providers which do not score a pass for this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.

Technical Questions	
DSP Question No.	Question
1.13.1	<u>Ability to meet core requirements</u> You must provide a statement and evidence demonstrating relevant experience in the last five 5 years of successfully delivering or managing UUV projects in the UK and/or another country with a capital value of at least £10M per project. Evidence should be clearly relevant to the requirements detailed in the 'Annex B – Summary of Requirement' section of the UK 4 Tender Notice Supporting Information document. <i>This question will be scored 0, 1, 3 or 5 as per the assessment criteria stated below these Technical Questions.</i> <i>A weighting of '5' will then be applied to the score awarded, to give a weighted score. This signifies the relative importance of the response to this question.</i> <i>The minimum compliance score for this question is '3'. Any response scored below 3 will be deemed non-compliant, and will exclude the Potential Provider from the further participation in the procurement process.</i>
1.13.2	<u>Evidence of delivering comparable projects to time</u> You must provide a statement and evidence demonstrating experience of previous deliveries of UUVs for mine warfare, seabed warfare and/or hydrographic purposes to a schedule similar the requirements set out the 'Annex B – Summary of Requirement' section of the UK 4 Tender Notice Supporting Information document. Please provide details of lead times on delivery including any delays, how these affected the timescales and if they were able to be resolved. <i>This question will be scored 0, 1, 3 or 5 as per the assessment criteria stated below these Technical Questions.</i> <i>The minimum score for this question is '3'. Any response scored below 3 will be deemed non-compliant, and will exclude the Potential Provider from the further participation in the procurement process.</i> <i>The weighting that will be applied to the score for this question is '3'. This signifies the relative importance of the response to this question. When assessed, the Potential Provider's response will be multiplied by 3 to provide a weighted score.</i>
1.13.3	<u>Ability to deliver an integrated solution</u> You must provide a statement and evidence demonstrating experience of successfully delivering UUVs into service, including meeting customer specific integration requirements (e.g. for planning, post mission analysis and launch and recovery), relevant to the requirement contained the 'Annex B – Summary of Requirement' section of the UK 4 Tender Notice Supporting Information document. Also describe any technical issues and how they were overcome including customer satisfaction with system delivered. <i>This question will be scored 0, 1, 3 or 5 as per the assessment criteria stated below these Technical Questions.</i>

	<i>The minimum score for this question is '3'. Any response scored below 3 will be deemed non-compliant, and will exclude the Potential Provider from the further participation in the procurement process.</i> <i>The weighting that will be applied to the score for this question is '5'. This signifies the relative importance of the response to this question. When assessed, the Potential Provider's response will be multiplied by 5 to provide a weighted score.</i>
1.13.4	<u>Ability to deliver support</u> You must provide a statement and evidence demonstrating relevant experience in successfully providing equipment support / logistics services throughout the life of delivered UUVs comparable to those detailed within the 'Annex B – Summary of Requirement' section of the UK 4 Tender Notice Supporting Information document. Include how through-life considerations were factored into the design of the equipment, setting out any relevant performance criteria and supportability engineering methods applied. <i>This question will be scored 0, 1, 3 or 5 as per the assessment criteria stated below these Technical Questions.</i> <i>The minimum score for this question is '3'. Any response scored below 3 will be deemed non-compliant, and will exclude the Potential Provider from the further participation in the procurement process.</i> <i>The weighting that will be applied to the score for this question is '5'. This signifies the relative importance of the response to this question. When assessed, the Potential Provider's response will be multiplied by 5 to provide a weighted score.</i>
Technical Questions – Assessment Criteria <i>The scoring criteria set out below will be applied for the assessment of the Technical Questions above (1.13.1 to 1.13.4.)</i> <i>Responses must satisfy all aspects of the scoring criteria to achieve each score.</i>	
5	<i>The Potential Provider has provided comprehensive detail and has considerable relevant experience, giving complete confidence in their ability to meet The Authority's core requirement.</i>
3	<i>The Potential Provider has provided a good level of detail and relevant experience, giving sufficient confidence in their ability to meet The Authority's core requirement.</i>
1	<i>The Potential Provider has provided limited evidence and/or has limited experience, giving minimal confidence in their ability to meet The Authority's core requirement.</i>
0	<i>The Potential Provider has provided insufficient detail and/or has inadequate relevant experience, giving little to no confidence in their ability to meet The Authority's core requirement.</i>

Quality Assurance	
DSP Question No.	Question
1.14.1	Please provide details including copies of your current certification (ISO 9001:2015 or equivalent) for any Quality Management Systems (QMS) / Business Management System (BMS), both internally and externally, including through the supply chain. Where ISO9001:2015 has not been achieved or no quality certification is held, please detail the steps you are taking to transition or obtain a recognised quality certification prior to contract award. <i>If applicable, Potential Providers should upload copies of relevant certification to the general attachments area of this PSQ.</i> <i>Question 1.14.1 is a pass/fail question assessed on the following criteria:</i> <i>Pass – The Potential Provider <u>has</u> provided evidence of appropriate certification, or detailed to the satisfaction of The Authority of the steps it is taking to transition to or obtain a recognised quality certification prior to contract award.</i> <i>Fail – The Potential Provider <u>has not</u> provided evidence of certification, or detailed to the satisfaction of The Authority of the steps it is taking to transition to or obtain a recognised quality certification prior to contract award.</i> <i>Question 1.14.1 is a pass/fail question and must be scored as a pass. Potential Providers which do not score a pass for this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.</i>
1.14.2	Where a QMS/BMS is operated please provide detail and evidence of how the QMS/BMS has been applied to similar projects. <i>Question 1.14.2 will be scored in accordance with the below criteria:</i> <i>5 – The Potential Provider has provided a comprehensive level of detail for how it has applied QMS/BMS to similar projects, to a degree that provides The Authority with complete confidence.</i> <i>3 - The Potential Provider has provided a good level of detail of how it has applied QMS/BMS to similar projects, to a degree that provides The Authority with a sufficient level of confidence.</i> <i>1 - The Potential Provider has provided a minimal level of detail of how it has applied QMS/BMS to similar projects, to a degree that provides The Authority with minimal level of confidence.</i> <i>0 - The Potential Provider has not demonstrated any detail of how it has applied QMS/BMS to similar projects, to a degree that provides The Authority with little to no confidence.</i> <i>Responses must satisfy all aspects of the scoring criteria to achieve each score.</i> <i>The minimum score for this question is '3'. Potential Providers which score below this will be excluded from further assessment and further participation in the procurement process.</i>

1.14.3	Please detail your procedures for identifying and recording non-compliant work (in terms of quality) and for subsequently implementing corrective and preventive actions. Detail by what method you would gauge the effectiveness of implemented preventative measures. Please provide detail and evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. Question 1.14.3 will be scored in accordance with the below criteria: 5 - The Potential Provider has responded to all elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and has provided comprehensive evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. 3 - The Potential Provider has responded to most elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and has provided good evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. 1 - The Potential Provider has responded to some elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and has provided minimal evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. 0 - The Potential Provider has provided a minimal or no response to elements of the question and has provided no evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. Responses must satisfy all aspects of the scoring criteria to achieve each score. The minimum score for this question is '3'. Potential Providers which score below this will be excluded from further assessment and further participation in the procurement process.
1.14.4	Detail how you ensure that your sub-contractors / suppliers are approved and how compliance with prime contract requirements is met. Please provide detail and evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. Question 1.14.4 will be scored in accordance with the below criteria: 5 - The Potential Provider has responded to all elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and has provided comprehensive evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. 3 - The Potential Provider has responded to most elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and has provided good evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. 1 - The Potential Provider has responded to some elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and has provided minimal evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. 0 - The Potential Provider has provided a minimal or no response to elements of the question and has provided no evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. Responses must satisfy all aspects of the scoring criteria to achieve each score. The minimum score for this question is '3'. Potential Providers which score below this will be excluded from further assessment and further participation in the procurement process.

1.14.5	Please detail the procedures in place to inform the customer, in the event of any issues arising, regarding the provision of products/service. Detail how you would deal with customer complaints and how customer satisfaction will be managed. Please provide detail and evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. Question 1.14.5 will be scored in accordance with the below criteria: 5 - The Potential Provider has demonstrated that the customer is positioned at the heart of the organisation. The response will provide clear evidence of the engagement of top management in the processes and their awareness of customer perceptions and provide comprehensive evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. 3 – The Potential provider has provided evidence that top management are engaged with customer related processes, including the determination of requirements and customer perceptions, and has provided good evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. 1 – The response will provide evidence of the existence of customer related processes but cannot demonstrate: a. the engagement of top management; or b. suitable evidence of methods applied for monitoring, measuring and analysis of customer satisfaction. 0 - The Potential Provider has provided no evidence of how these procedures have been applied to similar projects. Responses must satisfy all aspects of the scoring criteria to achieve each score. The minimum score for this question is '3'. Potential Providers which score below this will be excluded from further assessment and further participation in the procurement process.
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Health and Safety	
DSP Question No.	Question
1.15.1	Please confirm that your organisation's Health and Safety Policy complies with all current legislative requirements. Question 1.15.1 is a pass/fail question and must be responded to with 'Yes' to score a pass. Potential Providers which fail this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.
1.15.2	Please confirm that neither your organisation, nor any of its managers, directors, executive officers or any other persons in a position of authority, has received any enforcement/remedial actions (including prohibitions, improvement notices, formal cautions, formal detentions, warnings or letters of prosecution) issued by any regulatory body or enforcement agency in relation to health and safety (including the Health and Safety Executive or any equivalent body) in the last 3 years. Question 1.15.2 will be scored in accordance with the below criteria: Potential Providers which provide confirmation will score '5'.

	<i>Potential Providers which <u>cannot</u> provide confirmation will score '0', and must respond to question 1.15.3 below.</i>
1.15.3	Where any such enforcement and/or remedial actions have been issued, please provide details of said enforcement/remedial actions, including any outcomes and whether any enforcement and/or remedial actions are still outstanding. Please also provide any details of any resultant changes to your procedures or policy. <i>Question 1.15.3 will be scored in accordance with the below criteria:</i> <i>5 - The Potential Provider has responded to all elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and provides The Authority with complete confidence that past enforcements and remedial actions have been resolved.</i> <i>3 - The Potential Provider has responded to most elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and provides The Authority with a sufficient level of confidence that past enforcements and remedial actions have been resolved.</i> <i>1 - The Potential Provider has responded to some elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and provides The Authority with a minimal level of confidence that past enforcements and remedial actions have been resolved.</i> <i>0 - The Potential Provider has provided a minimal or no response to elements of the question and provides The Authority with little to no confidence that past enforcements and remedial actions have been resolved.</i> <i>Responses must satisfy all aspects of the scoring criteria to achieve each score.</i> <i>The minimum score for this question is '3'. Potential Providers which score below this will be excluded from further assessment and further participation in the procurement process.</i>
Environmental	
DSP Question No.	Question
1.16.1	Please state whether your organisation has been convicted of breaching any environmental legislation, or has had any notice served upon it, in the last three years by any environmental regulator or authority (including any local authority). <i>Question 1.16.1 will be scored in accordance with the below criteria:</i> <i>Potential Providers which <u>can</u> provide confirmation of no convictions or notices will score '5'.</i> <i>Potential Providers which <u>cannot</u> provide confirmation will score '0', and must respond to question 1.16.2 below.</i>
1.16.2	Please provide details of any conviction(s) or notices served and detail of any remedial action taken and/or changes made as a result of such conviction or notices served. <i>Question 1.16.2 will be scored in accordance with the below criteria:</i>

	5 - The Potential provider has responded to all elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and provides The Authority with complete confidence that past remedial actions have been resolved. 3 - The Potential provider has responded to most elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and provides The Authority with a sufficient level of confidence that past remedial actions have been resolved. 1 - The Potential provider has responded to some elements of the question to The Authority's satisfaction and provides The Authority with a minimal level of confidence that past remedial actions have been resolved. 0 - The Potential provider has provided a minimal or no response to elements of the question and provides The Authority with little to no confidence that past remedial actions have been resolved. Responses must satisfy all aspects of the scoring criteria to achieve each score. The minimum score for this question is '3'. Potential Providers which score below this will be excluded from further assessment and further participation in the procurement process.
1.16.3	If you use subcontractors, please confirm whether you have processes in place to check whether any of the circumstances in question 1.16.1 above apply to such subcontractors. Question 1.16.3 is a pass/fail question and must be responded to with 'Yes' to score a pass. Potential Providers which fail this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.
1.16.4	Please provide details of your Environmental Management System (EMS), and evidence of how the EMS has been applied to similar projects. Question 1.16.4 will be scored in accordance with the below criteria: 5 – The Potential Provider has provided a comprehensive level of detail on its EMS and how it has applied EMS to similar projects, to a degree that provides The Authority with complete confidence. 3 - The Potential Provider has provided a good level of detail on its EMS, and how it has applied EMS to similar projects, to a degree that provides The Authority with a sufficient level of confidence. 1 - The Potential Provider has provided a minimal level of detail on its EMS, and how it has applied EMS to similar projects, to a degree that provides The Authority with minimal level of confidence. 0 - The Potential Provider has not provided any detail on its EMS or how it has applied EMS to similar projects. Responses must satisfy all aspects of the scoring criteria to achieve each score. The minimum score for this question is '3'. Potential Providers which score below this will be excluded from further assessment and further participation in the procurement process.

4.4 Part 4 – Procurement Policy Note Questions

Part 4 is covered by Sections 1.17 to 1.19 within the DSP.

Part 4 of the PSQ includes questions which assess mandated requirements for central government departments, their executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Part 4 – Procurement Policy Note Questions	
PPN 009 – Tackling Modern Slavery in Supply Chains	
DSP Question No.	Question
1.18.1	If you are a 'relevant commercial organisation*' and are subject to the requirements contained within section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and associated guidance, please provide a statement (or a link to a statement), including information relating to: a. the organisation's structure, its business and its supply chains b. its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking c. its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains d. the parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk e. its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate f. the training and capacity building about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff If you are not a 'relevant commercial organisation' but have a turnover of more than £36 million, please provide a link to an equivalent statement or document which demonstrates information covering a. to f. above. *'Relevant commercial organisations' are defined as commercial organisations that carry on a business or part of business in the UK, supply goods or services and have an annual turnover of £36 million or more. Question 1.18.1 is a pass/fail question. If your organisation is included within the scope of this question (if it is a 'relevant commercial organisation' or has a turnover of over £36m), you must submit an appropriate response. If your organisation is not within scope, please enter 'N/A'. Potential Providers which are within scope and do not provide an appropriate response will fail this question and will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.
PPN 015 – Payment in Contracts	
DSP Question No.	Question
1.19.1	Please confirm if you intend to use a supply chain* for this proposed contract? *References to supply chain means suppliers or sub-contractors of any tier that execute any works, supply any products or provide any services that are used wholly or substantially for the purpose of performing (or contributing to the performance of) the whole or any part of the proposed contract.
1.19.2	Please confirm that you have systems in place to pay those in your supply chain promptly and effectively, i.e. within your agreed contractual terms.

1.19.3	Please confirm that for public sector contracts awarded under the Procurement Act 2023 you have (or commit to have by contract award) systems in place to include (as a minimum) 30-day payment terms in all of your supply chain contracts and require that such terms are passed down through your supply chain. Question 1.19.3 is a pass/fail question and must be responded to with 'Yes' to score a pass. Potential Providers which fail this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.
1.19.4	Please provide the percentage of invoices paid by you to those in your immediate supply chain on all contracts for each of the two previous six month reporting periods. This should include the percentage of invoices paid within each of the following categories: 1. within 30 days. 2. in 31 to 60 days. 3. in 61 days or more. 4. due but not paid by the last date for payment under agreed contractual terms. Please specify which category when completing your response.
1.19.5	Please provide the average number of days taken by you to pay an invoice to those in your immediate supply chain on all contracts for each of the two previous six-month reporting periods. It is acceptable to cross refer to information that has previously been submitted to government or other bodies or is publicly available (provided it covers the required reporting periods), including data published in accordance with the Reporting on Payment Practices and Performance Regulations 2017. If you do wish to cross-refer, please provide details and/or insert link(s).
1.19.6	If you are unable to demonstrate that all payments and invoices have been paid within the agreed contractual terms, you should clearly explain why. Note: if you are required to submit an action plan under the following question, this action plan must also set out steps to address your payment within agreed terms, to achieve a pass for the following question. You must have paid at least 95% of invoices within 60 days. If not, please answer question 1.19.7 below. *Guidance on reporting periods can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-payment-practices-and-performance-reporting-requirements
1.19.7	If you are unable to demonstrate that >95% of payments and invoices payable to your supply chain on all contracts have been paid within 60 days of the receipt of the invoice in at least one of the last two six months reporting periods please provide an action plan for improvement which includes (as a minimum) the following: 1. Identification of the primary causes of failure to pay: (a) 95% of all supply chain invoices within 60 days; and, if applicable (b) all payments and invoices within agreed contractual terms. 2. Actions to address each of these causes. 3. A mechanism for and commitment to regular reporting on progress to the bidder's audit committee (or equivalent). 4. Plan signed off by director. 5. Plan published on its website (this can be a shorter, summary plan)

	If you have an existing action plan prepared for a different purpose, it is acceptable to attach this but it should contain the above features. <i>Question 1.19.7 is a pass/fail question and if applicable to your organisation, must be responded to by uploading an appropriate action plan covering all aspects of points 1-5 above to score a pass. Potential Providers which fail this question will be excluded from further assessment and any further participation in the procurement process.</i> <i>If your organisation has confirmed it has paid at least 95% of invoices within 60 days, you do not need to respond to this question and will automatically score a pass.</i>
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Table 1 – Scoring Summary Matrix

DSP Section/Question	Assessment Method	Minimum Compliance Score (unweighted)	Weighting Applied	Minimum Compliance Score (weighted)	Maximum Weighted Score
Part 1 – Declarations & CDP Information					
1.2 Potential Provider Declarations					
1.2.1	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.2.2	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.3 Preliminary Supplier Information					
1.3.1	Not scored	N/A			
1.3.2	Not scored	N/A			
1.3.3	Not scored	N/A			
1.3.4	Not scored	N/A			
1.4 Confirmation of CDP Supplier Information					
1.4.1	Pass/Fail	Pass			
Part 2 – Associated Persons and Subcontractor Information					
1.6 Associated Persons					
1.6.1	Not scored	N/A			
1.6.2	Not scored	N/A			
1.6.3	Pass/Fail (Conditional)	Pass			
1.6.4	Not scored	N/A			
1.6.5	Not scored	N/A			
1.7 Intended Subcontractors					
1.7.2	Not scored	N/A			
1.7.3	Not scored	N/A			
1.7.4	Not scored	N/A			
1.7.5	Not scored	N/A			
1.8 Russian/Belarusian Entities					
1.8.1	Pass/Fail	Pass			

DSP Section/Question	Assessment Method	Minimum Compliance Score (unweighted)	Weighting Applied	Minimum Compliance Score (weighted)	Maximum Weighted Score
Part 3 – Project Specific Assessment Questions					
1.10 Economic and Financial Standing					
1.10.2	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.10.3					
1.10.4					
1.10.5					
1.10.7					
1.10.8					
1.10.9					
1.11 Electronic Trading					
1.11.2	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.12 Cyber Security					
1.12.2	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.13 Technical Questions					
1.13.1	Scored	3	5	15	25
1.13.2	Scored	3	3	9	15
1.13.3	Scored	3	5	15	25
1.13.4	Scored	3	5	15	25
1.14 Quality Assurance					
1.14.1	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.14.2	Scored	3	1	3	5
1.14.3	Scored	3	1	3	5
1.14.4	Scored	3	1	3	5
1.14.5	Scored	3	1	3	5
1.15 Health and Safety					
1.15.1	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.15.2	Scored	0 (Conditional)	1	0	5 (Conditional)
1.15.3	Scored	3 (Conditional)	1	3	5 (Conditional)
1.16 Environmental					
1.16.1	Scored	0 (Conditional)	1	0	5 (Conditional)
1.16.2	Scored	3 (Conditional)	1	3	5 (Conditional)
1.16.3	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.16.4	Scored	3	1	3	5

DSP Section/Question	Assessment Method	Minimum Compliance Score (unweighted)	Weighting Applied	Minimum Compliance Score (weighted)	Maximum Weighted Score
Part 4 – Procurement Policy Note Questions					
1.18 Tackling Modern Slavery in Supply Chains					
1.18.1	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.19 Payment in Contracts					
1.19.1	Not scored	N/A			
1.19.2	Not scored	N/A			
1.19.3	Pass/Fail	Pass			
1.19.4	Not scored	N/A			
1.19.5	Not scored	N/A			
1.19.6	Not scored	N/A			
1.19.7	Pass/Fail	Pass			
	TOTAL:	33 (subject to achieving minimum scoring criteria for each question)			

5. PSQ Supplementary Information for Potential Providers

Public procurement is governed by regulations to ensure that procurement delivers value for money, competition, transparency and integrity.

The Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ) has been designed to help contracting authorities ensure that suppliers share the right information when participating in a procurement. This is separate from the formal tender submission (on how the supplier proposes to meet the tender requirements).

The standard PSQ consists of three main parts:

Confirmation of core supplier information: suppliers participating in procurements will now be expected to register on a central digital platform (CDP). Suppliers can submit their core supplier information and, where a procurement opportunity arises, share this information with the contracting authority via the CDP. It is free to use and will mean suppliers should no longer have to re-enter this information for each public procurement but simply ensure it is up to date and subsequently shared. The CDP is available at <https://www.gov.uk/find-tender>. Part 1 provides confirmation that suppliers have taken these steps.

Additional exclusions information: procurement legislation provides for an 'exclusion regime' and a published 'debarment' list to safeguard procurement from suppliers who may pose a risk (for example, due to misconduct or poor performance). Suppliers must submit their own (and their connected persons¹) exclusions information via the CDP. This includes self-declarations as to whether any exclusion grounds apply to them and, if so, details about the event or conviction and what steps have been taken to prevent such circumstances from occurring again.

As part of a procurement, a supplier will need to also share additional exclusions information for any suppliers that they are relying on to meet the procurement's conditions of participation. These could either be consortium members or key sub-contractors (but excludes any guarantors). These suppliers are 'associated persons' and their exclusions information must be shared with the contracting authority. We recommend this is done by ensuring that associated persons register, submit and share their information via the CDP (like the prime/main supplier).

In addition to the sub-contractors who are being relied on to meet the conditions of participation (who are associated persons), suppliers will need to share an exhaustive list of all their intended sub-contractors, which will be checked against the debarment list.

If a sub-contractor is unknown at the start of the procurement (or brought in during it), this should be made clear by the supplier and relevant details of the sub-contractor should be provided once their identity and role is confirmed. This information should be shared with the contracting authority as soon as possible and at least by final tenders.

¹ Connected persons are persons who exercise (or have a right to exercise) significant influence or control over the supplier and those over which the supplier exercises (or has the right to exercise) significant influence or control. This includes majority shareholders, directors and shadow directors, parent and subsidiary companies and predecessor companies. The majority of the exclusion grounds state that they apply to the supplier or a connected person of the supplier.

Conditions of participation: contracting authorities may set conditions of participation which a supplier must satisfy in order to be awarded a public contract. They can relate to the supplier's legal and financial capacity or their technical ability.

Some of the information requested in the PSQ will be for information purposes only. Other information will be assessed by the contracting authority. This might include a pass or fail mechanism, or a threshold which the supplier must meet. Under certain procurement processes, a contracting authority might use the information shared via the PSQ as part of a selection process to limit the number of participating suppliers. For example, inviting the five suppliers that submitted the highest scoring responses. Where this is the case, the contracting authority will outline the maximum number of suppliers, and the criteria used to select the limited number of suppliers, in their tender notice (section 20(4)(a) of the Procurement Act and regulation 19(2)(d) of the Procurement Regulations 2024).

Suppliers should note that contracting authorities have legislative duties to publish certain information which relate to the supplier in their contract award notices. This information includes, but is not limited to:

- details of the winning supplier's associated persons
- details of the winning supplier's connected person information
- for certain procurements over £5 million, details of unsuccessful bidders

Where a supplier is unsure or requires any clarification, they should check with the contracting authority.

6. Glossary

Term	Definition
Associated person	A supplier may be an excluded supplier or an excludable supplier if any exclusion ground applies to either the supplier or an associated person (see the references to 'associated person' in section 57 of the Act) and if the circumstances giving rise to the ground are continuing or likely to occur again. An associated person for these purposes is defined in section 26(4) as a person the supplier is relying on in order to satisfy the conditions of participation (other than a guarantor). Associated persons are likely to be within the first tier of sub-contractors, but may be further down the supply chain, for example in procurements of contracts with highly technical elements.
Central digital platform (CDP)	The online system referenced in the Procurement Act 2023 (Act) and defined in the Procurement Regulations 2024 as the central digital platform. It is available at www.gov.uk/find-tender The central digital platform will enable: - contracting authorities and suppliers to register and receive a unique identifier - contracting authorities to publish notices and other information as required under the Act for covered and below-threshold procurements - suppliers to submit and store certain core organisational information as required by the regulations to participate in a covered procurement. This information will only be available to those contracting authorities that a supplier chooses to share it with; it cannot be freely accessed - anyone to view the notices and access related public procurement data
Conditions of participation	The Procurement Act 2023 includes rules on conditions of participation under a competitive tendering procedure and a competitive selection process under a framework. Contracting authorities are allowed to set conditions of participation only if they are a proportionate means of ensuring that suppliers have: a. legal and financial capacity; or b. technical ability, to perform the contract. Suppliers must satisfy these conditions if they are to be awarded the contract. The conditions must be proportionate having regard to the nature, complexity and cost of the public contract. Whereas compared with award criteria (section 23) which are used to assess the tender, conditions of participation are used to assess the supplier. Contracting authorities must make these conditions clear in the tender notice, supplemented (where necessary) by the tender documents.
Connected persons	A connected person is defined in paragraph 45 of Schedule 6 to the Act. In summary, it covers: a. a person with 'significant control' over the supplier (within the meaning given by section 790C(2) of the Companies Act 2006 (CA 2006))

Term	Definition
	b. a director or shadow director of the supplier c. a parent undertaking or a subsidiary undertaking of the supplier d. a predecessor company e. any other person who it can reasonably be considered stands in an equivalent position in relation to the supplier as a person within paragraph a to d. f. any person with the right to exercise, or who actually exercises, significant influence or control over the supplier g. any person over which the supplier has the right to exercise, or actually exercises, significant influence or control
Core supplier information	The core supplier information defined in the regulation 6(9) of the Procurement Regulations 2024 is divided into four key categories of information and covers (in summary): • basic information – this includes (and is not limited to) the supplier's name, unique identifier, address, VAT number (if applicable), legal form and date of company registration (if applicable), details of qualifications/trade associations and classification, for example whether the supplier is an SME and/or a public service mutual • economic and financial standing information – as set out in the supplier's most recent financial accounts • connected person information – this includes (but is not limited to) information relating to relevant connected persons such as names, date of birth and nationality, service address and legal form • exclusion grounds information – this includes information relating to relevant convictions and events that form either a mandatory or discretionary exclusion ground under the Act
Debarment	Debarment is a mechanism under which a Minister of the Crown can put a supplier on the centrally-published debarment list. This must be following an investigation, whereby the minister is satisfied that a supplier is an excluded supplier or an excludable supplier and should be added to the debarment list. Depending on why a supplier is on the debarment list, contracting authorities either must exclude them or may exclude them from procurements. The list will be managed by the Procurement Review Unit (PRU) and published on GOV.UK
Excluded supplier	A supplier is an 'excluded supplier' where the contracting authority considers, firstly, that a mandatory exclusion ground applies to the supplier or an associated person and, secondly, that the circumstances giving rise to the exclusion ground are continuing or likely to occur again. A supplier will also be an excluded supplier where a Minister of the Crown has already determined this – i.e. where the supplier or an associated person is on the debarment list because of a mandatory exclusion ground.
Excludable supplier	A supplier is an 'excludable supplier' where the contracting authority considers, firstly, that a discretionary exclusion ground applies to the supplier or an associated person and, secondly, that the circumstances giving rise to the

Term	Definition
	exclusion ground are continuing or likely to occur again. A supplier will also be an excludable supplier where a Minister of the Crown has already determined this – i.e. where the supplier or an associated person is on the debarment list because of a discretionary exclusion ground.
Exclusions	The Procurement Act sets out a list of mandatory (schedule 6) and discretionary (schedule 7) exclusion grounds and places a duty on contracting authorities to consider both whether any of these apply to suppliers (including by virtue of a connected person), as well as whether the circumstances are continuing or likely to occur again. Contracting authorities must exclude an excluded supplier and may exclude an excludable supplier from procurements.
Intended sub-contractors	As part of a competitive tendering process, contracting authorities must ask for details of all sub-contractors a supplier intends to use as part of the procurement (as required by section 28(1)(a) of the Act). This is not restricted to sub-contractors that the supplier is relying on to meet conditions of participation (who will in any event be associated persons) but applies to all sub-contractors (of all tiers) the supplier intends to sub-contract the performance of all or part of the contract to. A contracting authority must check whether any of the intended sub-contractors are on the debarment list (as required by section 28(1)(b) of the Act). A contracting authority may also request information for the purpose of determining whether any intended sub-contractor is an excluded or excludable supplier.
Unique identifier	Unique identifiers are defined in regulation 8 of the Procurement Regulations 2024. In the case of a supplier, it is the unique code which is submitted to the central digital platform and is recognised by that platform or, where no such code is submitted and recognised, it is the unique code which is allocated by that platform when the supplier registers on that platform.