Annex D – Evaluation Criteria and marking of applications

Proposals will be assessed using the criteria and scoring scale shown below, designed to identify those proposals which offer the best Value for Money (VFM) overall. Assessors should complete the scoring sheet and provide a supporting narrative to justify their assessments against the following criteria:

Criteria	Scoring criteria	Page Limit	Weighting %
1. Lot	Not applicable.	1	**Not Scored**
2. Permits	All projects must have (if appropriate) the correct permits and licences in place to carry out your project. We are unable to fund projects who do not have the correct permits or licences in place by your project start date. You must state one option within your proposal: • Yes • No • In process of being applied for • Not applicable	2	**Not Scored**
3. Proposed idea or technology	Proposals are expected to provide a description of your proposed idea or technology which includes a description of the current state of development or readiness of the idea. Proposals should demonstrate their strategic fit to the programme's aim to demonstrate the feasibility of an In-Orbit Demonstration (IOD) of In-Orbit Manufacturing (IOM) for terrestrial applications in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), as described in the competition brief. **You can submit an appendix** as a PDF containing images and diagrams to support your answer. It can be no larger than 10MB and up to 2 A4 pages long. The font must be legible at 100% zoom. **High scoring applicants will:** • Provide a clear, detailed description of the proposed IOM idea or technology, including its current development stage and readiness.	3	15.00%

	• Demonstrate strong alignment with the aims of the competition: feasibility of an In-Orbit Demonstration (IOD) of IOM for terrestrial applications in LEO. • Show understanding of the unique benefits of IOM in space versus terrestrial manufacturing, referencing relevant use cases (e.g., biopharmaceuticals, advanced materials). • Justify the selection of the product/material and test regime, with clear economic and technical rationale. • Evidence engagement with end users or stakeholders to ensure relevance and potential impact. • Support their answer with diagrams or visuals (as appendix), and reference how the proposal meets the scope and mission requirements.		
4. Technical feasibility	Your project must address technical challenges. Your proposal will detail the main technical challenges you are addressing. Explain: • how you will address the challenge • what the innovation is • the main technical deliverables • the research and development that will prove the scientific, environmental and commercial merit of the project • what might be achieved by deploying the innovation to address the selected challenge • Proposals should address the mission requirements (Annex F) and demonstrate how technical challenges specific to IOM in LEO will be overcome. **High scoring applicants will:** • Identify and explain the key technical challenges for the proposed IOM demonstration. • Present a robust plan for addressing these challenges, including technology maturation, risk mitigation, and validation approaches.	4	25.00%

	• Detail the technical deliverables, with clear links to the mission requirements (Annex F). • Provide a credible methodology for progressing through Phase 0/A, including work package descriptions and a work breakdown structure. • Demonstrate understanding of the mission lifecycle, system architecture, and payload requirements. • Address data, environmental, and operational constraints specific to IOM in LEO. • Show how feasibility will be proven within the project timeframe, using real data or prototypes where possible.		

5. Project plan, methodology and risk management	All projects must be well planned and connected to milestones, KPIs, key activities and dates. The emphasis throughout should be on practicality. Proposals must provide evidence that the technology works, can be made into a viable product and can achieve the proposed benefits. All projects will need to demonstrate that they have an effective structure in place for managing the administration of the Contract for Innovation requested and demonstrate that they have a sound approach to planning to achieve their programme aims on time and within budget. The main risks to the project must be identified provide evidence that these have been mitigated. You must: • describe resources that will be needed to deliver the project; this will include a brief description of your technical team, including any subcontractors • describe how each organisation has the skills, capabilities, and experience to deliver the intended benefits, and how much of their time will be spent on the project • describe what the main success criteria will be • identify the project management processes that will ensure you achieve the milestones, including delivering all milestones by 31 March 2026 • clearly explain the Work Breakdown Structure and Work Package Descriptions • provide a clear plan for establishing technical and commercial feasibility • describe the main technical, commercial and environmental risks and what you will do to mitigate them • provide a clear plan for development of a working prototype • include details of how you will maintain freedom to operate and fulfil the IP requirements detailed in the contract if you are working with subcontractors **You must upload a project plan or Gantt chart as an appendix** in PDF format no larger than 10MB and up to 2 A4 pages. The font must be legible at 100% zoom. Your project milestones must: • be clear • be defined using SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound) criteria	3	15.00%

	• be associated with the appropriate deliverables and payments • include at least one milestone delivered by 31 March 2026 • indicate your payment schedule by month Please note information from the finances section will be used to support the assessment of this question. Proposed milestones and associated payments stated in this section must match those entered in the finance summary on your application failure to do so will lead to your project being excluded from consideration. **High scoring applicants will:** • Present a comprehensive, SMART milestone plan with clear deliverables, payment values, and a Gantt chart (appendix). • Clearly identify the project team, their roles, experience, and time commitment. • Demonstrate robust project management, governance, and reporting structures. • Identify and address technical, commercial, operational, and environmental risks, with detailed mitigations. • Show readiness to engage with UKSA and adapt based on feedback. • Ensure milestone values and payment schedules are consistent with the finance summary. • Evidence good time management and clear documentation of progress.		

6. Value for Money	All projects will need to demonstrate that they represent value for money for the taxpayer. This is demonstrated by providing appropriate budgets allocated to appropriate tasks providing significant outputs with excellent value for money. Please note information from the finances section will be used to support the assessment of this question. Proposed milestones and associated payments stated in this section must match those entered in the project plan, methodology and risk management section of your application. Failure to do so will lead to your project being excluded from consideration. **High scoring applicants will:** • Demonstrate a cost-effective proposal, with resources appropriately allocated to tasks and work packages. • Justify all costs, showing how the investment will deliver significant outputs and value for money. • Use existing technologies, partnerships, and freely available data/platforms where possible. • Avoid financial red flags and ensure all costs are reasonable and proportionate. • Ensure consistency between milestone payments and the finance summary.	3	15.00%

7. Commercial Potential	All projects must detail commercial potential. If you are a supplier or integrator, you must focus on your proposed customer's needs. If you are the intended customer, you must explain how the proposed project meets your needs and route to market. All projects must detail your project's, timescales, commercial potential for a marketable product, process or service, delivery plan and your expected route to market in sufficient detail to allow for evaluation to be made. Commercialisation of IOM for terrestrial applications is the key focus of this Contract for Innovation. Your proposal should describe the competitive advantage that your project has over existing or alternative technologies that meet market needs. With the focus on your proposed customer's needs, you can also mention the future commercial potential across the public or private sector in the domestic market. The demonstration of active support and commitment of potential end customers would strengthen the application. **You can submit a letter(s) of support** with your application to highlight this commitment. Your proposal should make it clear how significant the competitive advantage of this technology is over existing technologies that meet the market's needs if such currently exist. Proposals should detail engagement with end users, integrators, and suppliers relevant to IOM. It is also expected that this section details any existing commercial relationships relevant to the project. **High scoring applicants will:** • Provide reliable, quantified evidence of commercial potential and competitive advantage. • Detail a realistic route to market and adoption plan, including engagement with end users and stakeholders. • Show how the capability could transition to operational use and identify wider applications. • Include evidence of user demand (e.g., letters of support or stakeholder engagement). • Address security, sovereignty, and integration dependencies. • Present a clear plan for commercialisation beyond the feasibility study	4	25.00%

8. Benefit to the UK	All projects will need to demonstrate that the investment sought from the UK Government represents clear value for the UK public, through measurable benefits for the UK economy. Proposals should align with UKSA's North Star Metrics and demonstrate benefits to the UK economy, supply chain, and public. **High scoring applicants will:** • Provide detailed evidence of measurable benefits to the UK economy and public, including UK-based employment and supply chain opportunities. • Justify costs against outcomes, quantifying benefits where possible. • Align with UKSA's North Star Metrics (e.g., job creation, innovation spillover). • Articulate both short-term and long-term impacts, including environmental and societal benefits.	2	5.00%

Scoring Guidance

The proposals will be scored on the scale of 1 to 10 for each criteria using the table below as a guide to the scale. The scores for each criteria will then be weighted using the percentages shown below.

Score	Assessment
0	No response is offered in respect of the criteria.
1	An incomplete or very poor response, which fails to address the criteria; and/or the response is not credible, with no evidence to support the claims made meaning there is no confidence of success; and/or the response is assessed as 'low scoring' against the scoring criteria shown in the table above.
2	A poor response which only partially addresses the criteria and would require significant revision to become acceptable; and/or very limited, and inadequate, evidence to support the claims made meaning low confidence of success; and/or the response is assessed as 'low scoring' against the scoring criteria shown in the table above.
4	A limited response with deficiencies apparent against the criteria, requiring some revision to become acceptable; and/or limited evidence provided supporting the claims made meaning limited confidence of success; and/or the response is assessed as 'low scoring' against the scoring criteria.
5	An acceptable response which could have been expanded upon, with identified weaknesses correctable; and/or just sufficient evidence provided in support of the claims made meaning a reasonable confidence of success; and/or the response is assessed as 'moderate scoring' against the scoring criteria.
7	A good response which addresses the criteria well, with identified weaknesses readily correctable; and/or solid evidence provided in support of the claims made meaning a solid level of confidence of success; and/or the response is assessed as 'moderate scoring' against the scoring criteria.
9	A very good response which addresses the criteria very well with very few weaknesses; and/or good evidence provided in support of the claims made meaning a high level of confidence of success; and/or the response is assessed as 'highest scoring' against the scoring criteria.
10	An excellent response which is considered to absolutely address the criteria without weakness; and/or compelling evidence provided in support of the claims made meaning success is considered to be virtually assured; and/or the response is assessed as 'highest scoring' against the scoring criteria.