



Invitation to Quote

Invitation to Quote (ITQ) on behalf of **Innovate UK**

Subject UK SBS **Improving Strategic Communications Phase 2**

Sourcing reference number **PS150053**

UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS)
www.uksbs.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales as a limited company. Company Number 6330639.
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VAT registration GB618 3673 25
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UKSBS

Shared Business Services

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Section 1 – About UK Shared Business Services

Putting the business into shared services

UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS) brings a commercial attitude to the public sector; helping our customers improve efficiency, generate savings and modernise.

It is our vision to become the leading provider for our customers of shared business services in the UK public sector, continuously reducing cost and improving quality of business services for Government and the public sector.

Our broad range of expert services is shared by our customers. This allows our customers the freedom to focus resources on core activities; innovating and transforming their own organisations.

Core services include Procurement, Finance, Grants Admissions, Human Resources, Payroll, ISS, and Property Asset Management all underpinned by our Service Delivery and Contact Centre teams.

UK SBS is a people rather than task focused business. It's what makes us different to the traditional transactional shared services centre. What is more, being a not-for-profit organisation owned by its customers, UK SBS' goals are aligned with the public sector and delivering best value for the UK taxpayer.

UK Shared Business Services Ltd changed its name from RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd in March 2013.

Our Customers

Growing from a foundation of supporting the Research Councils, 2012/13 saw Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) transition their procurement to UK SBS and Crown Commercial Service (CCS – previously Government Procurement Service) agree a Memorandum of Understanding with UK SBS to deliver two major procurement categories (construction and research) across Government.

UK SBS currently manages £700m expenditure for its Customers, our growth projections anticipate this will rise to £1bn in 2013/14.

Our Customers who have access to our services and Contracts are detailed [here](#).

Our achievements

In 2012/13 the Company grew in turnover from £44.7m to £52.4m, within that growth we:

- Reduced the Research Councils' 'back office' expenditure from £32m to £31.3m
- Saved £33m for the Research Councils in verified procurement savings, being greater than the entire cost of the services we provided to them
- Grew our customers from 7 to 22 (this will likely grow by a further 10 in 2013/14)
- Grew our customer base from 11,000 to 18,000 and will likely expand to 23,000+ in 2013/14

- Achieved an annual spend with SMEs that stands out across Central Government as a leading light at 32% (that's over £104.5M) against the 25% Government target

Our Procurement ambition

Our vision is to be recognised as a centre of excellence and deliver a broad range of procurement services across the public sector; to maintain and grow a procurement service unrivalled in public sector.

Procurement is a market-shaping function. Industry derived benchmarks indicate that UK SBS is already performing at or above “best in class” in at least three key measures (percentage savings, compliant spend, spend under management) and compare well against most other measures.

Over the next five years, it is the function's ambition to lead a cultural change in procurement in the public sector. The natural extension of category management is to bring about a fundamental change in the attitude to supplier relationship management.

Our philosophy sees the supplier as an asset to the business and the route to maximising value from supply. This is not a new concept in procurement generally, but it is not a philosophy which is widely employed in the public sector.

We are ideally positioned to “lead the charge” in the government's initiative to reform procurement in the public sector.

UK SBS Procurement's unique selling points are:

- Focus on the full procurement cycle
- Leaders in category management in common and specialised areas
- Expertise in the delivery of major commercial projects
- That we are leaders in procurement to support research
- Use of cutting edge technologies which are superior to those used generally used across the public sector.
- Use of market leading analytical tools to provide comprehensive Business Intelligence
- Active customer and supplier management

‘UK SBS’ contribution to the Government Procurement Agenda has been impressive. Through innovation and leadership UK SBS has built an attractive portfolio of procurement services from P2P to Strategy Category Management.’

John Collington

Former Government Chief Procurement Officer

Section 2 – About Our Customer

Innovate UK

The Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency – driving innovation to boost economic growth. As well as investing in programmes and projects (£1bn investment budget 2008-2011), much of the board's work is in spreading knowledge, understanding policy, spotting opportunities and bringing people together to solve problems or make new advances. Innovate UK offer support and funding to help business develop new products and services - and bring them closer to market.

Innovate UK aim is simple – to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation.

Success Stories

- A successful partnership with Strathclyde University has led to rapid growth at Glasgow business Clyde Space and the award of a contract by the UK Space Consortium for testing, construction and assembly of UKube-1, the UK's first CubeSat system.
- Start-up business Snap Fashion founded by 25-year-old computer science graduate has attracted £300k in private investment and launched an innovative search engine, website and iPhone app on the market after taking part in the 2011 Tech City Launchpad competition.
- With sustained support from Innovate UK, Fife company *PowerPhotonic* has perfected novel techniques for mass producing tiny lenses that get all the individual beams coming from a laser pointing in the right direction. High powered industrial lasers now have a sharper cutting edge thanks to lenses made in Scotland that focus their light into brighter beams - and the repercussions will be far-reaching.

Section 3 - Working with UK Shared Business Services Ltd.

In this section you will find details of your Procurement contact point and the timescales relating to this opportunity.

Section 3 – Contact details		
3.1	Customer Name and address	Innovate UK North Star House North Star Avenue Swindon Wiltshire SN2 1UE
3.2	Buyer name	Sarah Palmer
3.3	Buyer contact details	ProfessionalServices@uksbs.co.uk
3.4	Estimated value of the Opportunity	£140,000.00
3.5	Process for the submission of clarifications and Bids	All correspondence shall be submitted within the Emptoris e-sourcing tool. Guidance Notes to support the use of Emptoris is available here. Please note submission of a Bid to any email address including the Buyer <u>will</u> result in the Bid <u>not</u> being considered.

Section 3 - Timescales		
3.6	Date of Issue of Contract Advert and location of original Advert	04/03/2015 Contracts Finder
3.7	Latest date/time ITQ clarification questions should be received through Emptoris messaging system	10/03/2015 14:00
3.8	Latest date/time ITQ clarification answers should be sent to all potential Bidders by the Buyer through Emptoris	13/03/2015 14:00
3.9	Latest date/time ITQ Bid shall be submitted through Emptoris	20/03/2015 14:00
3.10	Date/time Bidders should be available if face to face clarifications are required	W/C 06/04/2015
3.11	Anticipated rejection of unsuccessful Bids date	14/4/2015

3.12	Anticipated Award date	14/4/2015
3.13	Anticipated Contract Start date	01/05/2015
3.14	Anticipated Contract End date	30/04/2017
3.15	Bid Validity Period	60 Days

Section 4 – Specification

Requirements:

Innovate UK is looking to engage a strategic communications agency, for a period of 2 years, to support our internal team in delivering the various communications initiatives that contribute to our thought leadership strategy – under our Flagship communications programme, Strategic Communications. A fundamental element of the plan is the delivery of an on-going key stakeholder engagement programme with the associated communications tactics that this will entail. This is an extension of earlier work conducted by Innovate UK to identify key stakeholders and their current awareness and attitudes towards Innovate UK.

Full requirements follow.

Situation:

Innovate UK is the new name for the Technology Strategy Board – the UK’s innovation agency, accelerating economic growth. We know that taking a new idea to market is a challenge. We fund, support and connect innovative businesses through a unique mix of people and programmes to accelerate sustainable economic growth.

The rebranding project, and the resultant name change to Innovate UK, was driven by a desire to address key issues arising from various qualitative research studies amongst key stakeholders. The research consistently confirmed that, although our mission – to increase economic growth by accelerating business-led innovation – was universally understood and recognised as key to the industrial future of the UK, a lack of awareness of the Technology Strategy Board in broader circles was seen as a significant issue and a constraint on our effectiveness.

Our name, the Technology Strategy Board, was seen as confusing and not representative of who we are and what we do. Rather than representing the vital work the organisation does, it was seen as somewhat formal and passive.

The work of rebranding our organisation is the visual manifestation of a much wider programme of planned communications designed to raise awareness and understanding of Innovate UK, who we are, what we do and why we do it.

A significant contributor to the communications strategy will be our strategic communications programme – a planned approach to delivering key organisation messages through considered stakeholder engagement.

Background:

[Note: we will use our previous name, the Technology Strategy Board, in this section as the research to which we refer was conducted at a time when that was our name. Pre testing of the new Innovate UK name produced positive feedback and so we will assume that it will potentially have a positive impact on our strategic communications programme going forward].

Research into the perceptions of the Technology Strategy Board’s senior level stakeholders has shown that they feel positively about the Technology Strategy Board, and that the fact it exists is a

great improvement. It was generally felt that, although there may be imperfections, that some of these are caused by the particular and challenging circumstances in which the Technology Strategy Board operates. Dissatisfaction expressed was largely about missed opportunities rather than failure.

However, understanding of our role and achievements is patchy and one significant opportunity is to improve communications – to promote our successes, of which there are many. Deeper and wider engagement is a key recommendation to widen the positive impact of the Technology Strategy Board.

Although, currently, many senior Technology Strategy Board members engage with a broad range of stakeholders in the UK, Europe and internationally, there is no process in place to consolidate overall activity, to map and track stakeholder interactions maintained by our people. Neither is there a mechanism to track the evolving views of stakeholders or indeed which stakeholders we believe are most important to help us build and manage our reputation over the next 12 – 24 months.

Detailed Requirements:

In Q4 2014 we instigated a strategic communications planning project involving comprehensive stakeholder mapping, plotting existing stakeholder relationships, current views, together with an analysis of key stakeholders with whom we should engage and why. This project, completed in January 2015, concluded with a planned and proactive programme of stakeholder engagement opportunities involving Innovate UK Executive Management team members and other named senior team members. It also produced the Innovate UK key message document and the early drafts of the Innovate UK Agenda – a thought leadership paper outlining Innovate UK's points of view on the current innovation landscape.

This brief is for the provision of on-going support in the execution of the planning and delivery of a programme of stakeholder engagement and will encompass, but not be limited to, the following types of activities:

- Help develop, maintain and support the implementation of an overall communications strategy for Innovate UK, with particular focus on the annual stakeholder engagement plan.
- Contribute to the development of a key stakeholder engagement plan for the new Innovate UK CEO, due to join in May
- Provide strategic support to the Chief Executive, & Director of Communications.
- Carry out regular reviews of the Innovate UK key messages and stakeholder map.
- Put in place an agreed form of measurement for the above programme.

Important impacting milestones:

- May 2015 – new Chief Executive for Innovate UK
- May 2015 – General Election and subsequent spending review
- March 30th 2015 to formation of new government – official purdah period

Objectives for strategic communications programme:

- Overall, raise awareness, amongst key stakeholders, of the work & impact of Innovate UK in accelerating UK economic growth, demonstrating the return on investment for each pound of public money spent by Innovate UK
- Increase HM Treasury, CO, No. 10 awareness & understanding of our role to gain support for our priority areas in future fiscal events ensuring that our funding is maintained and increases with increased responsibility post 2015/16
- Raise parliamentary and key business and industrial bodies recognition, appreciation and advocacy of Innovate UK
- Facilitate improved departmental engagement in SBRI and other programmes
- Build on the initial foundations of our European and International work and have this recognised by influencers so that our international profile grows

Potential Target Audiences:

- Government
- Parliament
- Influential Think tanks
- Business groups
- Academic groups
- Opinion Leaders and influencers of the above

Budget:

The budget for the contracted work will be £72,000.00 per annum.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Innovate UK, as a public body, must act with propriety and abide by civil service codes of practice with regard to engaging with our stakeholders. Please, if you are not already very familiar with the guidance [and even if you are], you should remind yourself of the principles, which you will find on the excellent site:

<https://gcn.civilservice.gov.uk/guidance/propriety-and-standards/>

Section 5 – Evaluation model

The evaluation model below shall be used for this ITQ, which will be determined to two decimal places.

Where a question is 'for information only' it will not be scored.

To maintain a high degree of rigour in the evaluation of your bid, a process of moderation will be undertaken to ensure consistency by all evaluators.

After moderation the scores will be finalised by performing a calculation to identify (at question level) the mean average of all evaluators (Example – a question is scored by three evaluators and judged as scoring 5, 5 and 6. These scores will be added together and divided by the number of evaluators to produce the final score of 5.33 ($5+5+6 = 16 \div 3 = 5.33$))

Pass / fail criteria		
Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject
Commercial	FOI1.1	Freedom of Information Exemptions
Commercial	AW1.1	Form of Bid
Commercial	AW1.3	Certificate of Bona Fide Bid
Commercial	AW3.1	Validation check
Commercial	AW4.1	Contract Terms
Commercial	NDA1.1	NDA
Quality	AW6.1	Compliance to the Specification

Selection Scoring criteria

Evaluation Justification Statement

In consideration of this particular requirement UK SBS has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this RFP. UK SBS considers these weightings to be in line with existing best practice for a requirement of this type.

Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject	Maximum Marks
Quality	SELPS1.1	Delivery of Previous Projects	35%
Quality	SELPS1.2	Previous Teams	35%
Quality	SELPS1.3	Professional Associations	30%

A statement that a particular requirement will be met is not in itself sufficient. Such responses, or responses that are ambiguous, may be taken as failing to meet the Requirement. Detailed information regarding how, when and to what extent a Requirement can be met must be provided where appropriate – and, in evaluating a given requirement, scores will be awarded accordingly. Furthermore, if any requirement or part of a requirement cannot be met, this must be stated explicitly along with reason why.

Selection Evaluation of criteria

Each question will be judged on a score from 0 to 100, which shall be subjected to a multiplier to reflect the percentage of the evaluation criteria allocated to that question.

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 20% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 20.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 12% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points available multiplied by 20 ($60/100 \times 20 = 12$)

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 10% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 10.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 6% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points available multiplied by 10 ($60/100 \times 10 = 6$)

The same logic will be applied to groups of questions which equate to a single evaluation criterion.

The 0-100 score shall be based on (unless otherwise stated within the question):

0	The Question is not answered or the response is completely unacceptable.
10	Extremely poor response – they have completely missed the point of the question.

20 or 30	Very poor response and not wholly acceptable. Requires major revision to the response to make it acceptable. Only partially answers the requirement, with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed.
40 or 50	Poor response only partially satisfying the selection question requirements with deficiencies apparent. Some useful evidence provided but response falls well short of expectations. Low probability of being a capable supplier.
60 or 70	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire.
80 or 90	Good response which describes their capabilities in detail which provides high levels of assurance consistent with a quality provider. The response includes a full description of techniques and measurements currently employed.
100	Response is exceptional and clearly demonstrates they are capable of meeting the requirement. No significant weaknesses noted. The response is compelling in its description of techniques and measurements currently employed, providing full assurance consistent with a quality provider.

All questions will be scored based on the above mechanism. Please be aware that the final score returned may be different as there will be multiple evaluators and their individual scores will be averaged (mean) to determine your final score.

Example

Evaluator 1 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 2 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 3 scored your bid as 50

Evaluator 4 scored your bid as 50

Your final score will $(60+60+50+50) \div 4 = 55$

The process for shortlisting of Bidders for the award stage of the procurement shall be as follows:

During the selection stage, the intention is to arrive at a short List of Bidders who passed all Mandatory and Discretionary requirements and scored a minimum of 70%. Bidders who meet this minimum requirement will be considered for award stage evaluation.

Bidders that are unsuccessful at meeting the minimum score of 70% at the Selection stage, will be notified upon completion of the evaluation at this stage, however full feedback will be provided at the end of the tender process.

Award Scoring criteria

Evaluation Justification Statement

In consideration of this particular requirement UK SBS has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this ITQ. UK SBS considers these weightings to be in line with existing best practice for a requirement of this type.

Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject	Maximum Marks
Price	AW5.2	Price	40%
Quality	Proj1.1	Management and Implementation	20%
Quality	Proj1.2	Engagement Plan	20%
Quality	Proj1.3	“Fast Start” to Engagement Activities	20%

Award Evaluation of criteria

Non-Price elements

Each question will be judged on a score from 0 to 100, which shall be subjected to a multiplier to reflect the percentage of the evaluation criteria allocated to that question.

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 20% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 20.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 12% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points available multiplied by 20 ($60/100 \times 20 = 12$)

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 10% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 10.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 6% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points available multiplied by 10 ($60/100 \times 10 = 6$)

The same logic will be applied to groups of questions which equate to a single evaluation criterion.

The 0-100 score shall be based on (unless otherwise stated within the question):

0	The Question is not answered or the response is completely unacceptable.
10	Extremely poor response – they have completely missed the point of the question.
20 or 30	Very poor response and not wholly acceptable. Requires major revision to the proposal to make it acceptable. Only partially answers the requirement, with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed.
40 or 50	Poor response only partially acceptable with deficiencies apparent. Some useful evidence provided but response falls well short of providing full confidence in the approach / solution described. Low probability of success.
60 or 70	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire. Good probability of success, weaknesses can be readily corrected.
80 or 90	Good response which describes in detail an approach / solution which provides high levels of assurance consistent with a quality provider. Great probability of success, no significant weaknesses noted.
100	Excellent response – comprehensive and useful, demonstrating a detailed understanding of the requirement. High probability of success, no weaknesses noted. The response includes a full description of techniques and measurements to be employed, providing full assurance consistent with a quality provider.

Please be aware that the final score returned may be different as there will be multiple evaluators and their individual scores after a moderation process will be averaged (mean) to determine your final score.

Example

Evaluator 1 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 2 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 3 scored your bid as 50

Evaluator 4 scored your bid as 50

Your final score will $(60+60+50+50) \div 4 = 55$

Price elements will be judged on the following criteria.

The lowest price for a response which meets the pass criteria shall score 100. All other bids shall be scored on a pro rata basis in relation to the lowest price. The score is then subject to a multiplier to reflect the percentage value of the price criterion.

For example - Bid 1 £100,000 scores 100.

Bid 2 £120,000 differential of £20,000 or 20% remove 20% from price scores 80

Bid 3 £150,000 differential £50,000 remove 50% from price scores 50.

Bid 4 £175,000 differential £75,000 remove 75% from price scores 25.

Bid 5 £200,000 differential £100,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.

Bid 6 £300,000 differential £200,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.

Where the scoring criterion is worth 50% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 50.

In the example if a supplier scores 80 from the available 100 points this will equate to 40% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points multiplied by 50 ($80/100 \times 50 = 40$)

The lowest score possible is 0 even if the price submitted is more than 100% greater than the lowest price.

Section 6 – Evaluation questionnaire

Bidders should note that the evaluation questionnaire is located within the **e-sourcing questionnaire**.

Guidance on completion of the questionnaire is available at <http://www.ukpbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/supplier.aspx>

PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY

Section 7 – General Information

What makes a good bid – some simple do's ☺

DO:

- 7.1 Do comply with Procurement document instructions. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification.
- 7.2 Do provide the Bid on time, and in the required format. Remember that the date/time given for a response is the last date that it can be accepted; we are legally bound to disqualify late submissions.
- 7.3 Do ensure you have read all the training materials to utilise e-sourcing tool prior to responding to this Bid. If you send your Bid by email or post it will be rejected.
- 7.4 Do use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint Excel 97-03 or compatible formats, or PDF unless agreed in writing by the Buyer. If you use another file format without our written permission we may reject your Bid.
- 7.5 Do ensure you utilise the Emptoris messaging system to raise any clarifications to our ITQ. You should note that typically we will release the answer to the question to all bidders and where we suspect the question contains confidential information we may modify the content of the question to protect the anonymity of the Bidder or their proposed solution
- 7.6 Do answer the question, it is not enough simply to cross-reference to a 'policy', web page or another part of your Bid, the evaluation team have limited time to assess bids and if they can't find the answer, they can't score it.
- 7.7 Do consider who your customer is and what they want – a generic answer does not necessarily meet every customer's needs.
- 7.8 Do reference your documents correctly, specifically where supporting documentation is requested e.g. referencing the question/s they apply to.
- 7.9 Do provide clear and concise contact details; telephone numbers, e-mails and fax details.
- 7.10 Do complete all questions in the questionnaire or we may reject your Bid.
- 7.11 Do check and recheck your Bid before dispatch.

What makes a good bid – some simple do not's ☹

DO NOT

- 7.12 Do not cut and paste from a previous document and forget to change the previous details such as the previous buyer's name.
- 7.13 Do not attach 'glossy' brochures that have not been requested, they will not be read unless we have asked for them. Only send what has been requested and only send supplementary information if we have offered the opportunity so to do.
- 7.14 Do not share the Procurement documents, they are confidential and should not be shared with anyone without the Buyers written permission.
- 7.15 Do not seek to influence the procurement process by requesting meetings or contacting UK SBS or the Customer to discuss your Bid. If your Bid requires clarification the Buyer will contact you.
- 7.16 Do not contact any UK SBS staff or Customer staff without the Buyers written permission or we may reject your Bid.
- 7.17 Do not collude to fix or adjust the price or withdraw your Bid with another Party as we will reject your Bid.
- 7.18 Do not offer UK SBS or Customer staff any inducement or we will reject your Bid.
- 7.19 Do not seek changes to the Bid after responses have been submitted and the deadline for Bids to be submitted has passed.
- 7.20 Do not cross reference answers to external websites or other parts of your Bid, the cross references and website links will not be considered.
- 7.21 Do not exceed word counts, the additional words will not be considered.
- 7.22 Do not make your Bid conditional on acceptance of your own Terms of Contract, as your Bid will be rejected.

Some additional guidance notes

- 7.23 All enquiries with respect to access to the e-sourcing tool and problems with functionality within the tool may be submitted to Crown Commercial Service (previously Government Procurement Service), Telephone 0345 010 3503.
- 7.24 Bidders will be specifically advised where attachments are permissible to support a question response within the e-sourcing tool. Where they are not permissible any attachments submitted will not be considered.
- 7.25 Question numbering is not sequential and all questions which require submission are included in the Section 6 Evaluation Questionnaire.
- 7.26 Any Contract offered may not guarantee any volume of work or any exclusivity of supply.
- 7.27 We do not guarantee to award any Contract as a result of this procurement
- 7.28 All documents issued or received in relation to this procurement shall be the property of UK SBS.
- 7.29 We can amend any part of the procurement documents at any time prior to the latest date / time Bids shall be submitted through Emptoris.
- 7.30 If you are a Consortium you must provide details of the Consortiums structure.
- 7.31 Bidders will be expected to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.32 Bidders should note the Government's transparency agenda requires your Bid and any Contract entered into to be published on a designated, publicly searchable web site. By submitting a response to this ITQ Bidders are agreeing that their Bid and Contract may be made public
- 7.33 Your bid will be valid for 60 days or your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.34 Bidders may only amend the Contract terms if you can demonstrate there is a legal or statutory reason why you cannot accept them. If you request changes to the Contract and UK SBS fail to accept your legal or statutory reason is reasonably justified we may reject your Bid.
- 7.35 We will let you know the outcome of your Bid evaluation and where requested will provide a written debrief of the relative strengths and weaknesses of your Bid.
- 7.36 If you fail mandatory pass / fail criteria we will reject your Bid.
- 7.37 Bidders are required to use IE8, IE9, Chrome or Firefox in order to access the functionality of the Emptoris e-sourcing tool.

- 7.38 Bidders should note that if they are successful with their proposal UK SBS reserves the right to ask additional compliancy checks prior to the award of any Contract. In the event of a Bidder failing to meet one of the compliancy checks UK SBS may decline to proceed with the award of the Contract to the successful Bidder.
- 7.39 All timescales are set using a 24 hour clock and are based on British Summer Time or Greenwich Mean Time, depending on which applies at the point when Date and Time Bids shall be submitted through Emptoris.
- 7.40 All Central Government Departments and their Executive Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies are subject to control and reporting within Government. In particular, they report to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury for all expenditure. Further, the Cabinet Office has a cross-Government role delivering overall Government policy on public procurement - including ensuring value for money and related aspects of good procurement practice.

For these purposes, UK SBS may disclose within Government any of the Bidders documentation/information (including any that the Bidder considers to be confidential and/or commercially sensitive such as specific bid information) submitted by the Bidder to UK SBS during this Procurement. The information will not be disclosed outside Government. Bidders taking part in this ITQ consent to these terms as part of the competition process.

- 7.41 From 2nd April 2014 the Government is introducing its new Government Security Classifications (GSC) classification scheme to replace the current Government Protective Marking System (GPMS). A key aspect of this is the reduction in the number of security classifications used. All Bidders are encouraged to make themselves aware of the changes and identify any potential impacts in their Bid, as the protective marking and applicable protection of any material passed to, or generated by, you during the procurement process or pursuant to any Contract awarded to you as a result of this tender process will be subject to the new GSC from 2nd April 2014. The link below to the Gov.uk website provides information on the new GSC:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>

UK SBS reserves the right to amend any security related term or condition of the draft contract accompanying this ITQ to reflect any changes introduced by the GSC. In particular where this ITQ is accompanied by any instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as a result of any changes stemming from the new GSC, whether in respect of the applicable protective marking scheme, specific protective markings given, the aspects to which any protective marking applies or otherwise. This may relate to the instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as they apply to the procurement as they apply to the procurement process and/or any contracts awarded to you as a result of the procurement process.

USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS

- [Emptoris Training Guide](#)
- [Emptoris e-sourcing tool](#)
- [Contracts Finder](#)
- [Tenders Electronic Daily](#)
- [Equalities Act introduction](#)
- [Bribery Act introduction](#)
- [Freedom of information Act](#)

TEMPLATE VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Author(s)	Comment
1.0	10/12/2013	James Aldred	Final Template Version
1.1	03/02/2103	James Aldred	Name change GPS - CCS
1.2	04/03/2014	James Aldred	Changes from PPN09/13 and 01/14
1.3	07/04/2014	James Aldred	Enhancements to Section 5.
1.4	04/11/2014	Marian Oram	Change to Section 5 narrative