**Reference:** Project\_4199.

**Title:**TRA – Future Data Commercial Strategy

**Background:**

The Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) exists to defend the UK against unfair international trade practices. We investigate whether trade remedies are needed to prevent injury to UK industries caused by unfair trading practices or unforeseen import surges, and we make recommendations on appropriate measures to defend UK economic interests.

The Trade Remedies Authority is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Business and Trade.

**Context:**

Our mission is to defend UK economic interests against unfair international trade practices. We carry out investigations based on applications from businesses which are, or may be, harmed by unfair trade practices.

Evidence from these cases can come from four main sources:

1. Data provided by relevant and interested businesses. These include their own accounts or records and private sector sources they have procured themselves.
2. Data collected by the TRA through surveys and questionnaires from relevant stakeholders for the case.
3. Data from publicly available databases from governmental or NGO sources.
4. Data from third-party suppliers.

The TRA currently has access to several databases on company data, international trade flows, and market data on commodities, which is sourced from existing commercial agreements with 3rd party information providers or via open source: <https://www.trade-remedies.service.gov.uk/public/cases/?cookie-policy-updated=1>.

However, feedback from our case teams have identified the following gaps in how we can access data:

* Specificity: TRA investigations focuses on very specific commodities and imported goods. These are usually defined at the 10-digit commodity code level. We have found that either the raw data or the tools provided often don’t provide the sufficient granularity required.
* Scope: The TRA may be asked to investigate a wide range of products. While many of our investigations focus on metals, our investigations have ranged from rainbow trout to e-bikes.
* Time sensitivity: Although TRA investigations can last up to 18 months, the pulling of appropriate third-party data and building small tables and/or reports is sporadic and concentrated in specific parts of the overall investigation. Hence our need for data is very targeted and time sensitive. Long term access to data is not necessary.

This Early Engagement Questionnaire is to understand the view of the market in terms of whether there are potential data solutions available to the TRA that can meet our needs set out above, including costings and feasibility. Information gathered from this questionnaire will feed into refined requirements and to inform a future business case for data procurement.

It should be noted that DBT and TRA makes no commitment to procure these services and may decide to not progress this any further following this engagement with the market. TRA and DBT are not liable for any costs incurred by respondents to this Early Engagement Questionnaire.

DBT and TRA reserves the right to change any information contained within the Early Engagement documentation at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely upon any information provided entirely at their own risk.

**Early Engagement Process & Market Questionnaire:**

Suppliers that are interested in engaging are asked to complete the questionnaire in **Annex B** of this document and submit by the deadline stated below.

Once the deadline has passed, DBT and TRA will review the submissions, and this will aid internal decision making ahead of any potential future procurement work. This is not a formal invitation to tender.

**Submission of Response:**

Please submit your completed questionnaires in **Annex B** by no later than **Friday 12th July 2024 at 17:00hrs.**

Please submit your completed questionnaire to: [CommercialDDaT@BusinessAndTrade.gov.uk](mailto:CommercialDDaT@BusinessAndTrade.gov.uk).

**ANNEX A – High Level Requirements**

**ANNEX B – QUESTIONNAIRE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Question | Response |
| 1 | **Pricing and Commercial Options:**   1. TRA are exploring flexible commercial options, such as short-term subscriptions, overarching enterprise agreements, flexible access to data and research. Our requirements are based upon sporadic access at specific points over an 18-month period, which is at odds with, say, a 12-month licence where the requirements are monitoring up-to-date data for forecasting market trends/pricing, etc. What is your current model for data access, data sharing and data tools? 2. Do you offer bespoke commercial models, for clients like TRA? |  |
| 2 | **Publication of Data:**   1. The TRA will need to publish excerpts of data as part of our investigations and to use it to inform trade remedies measures. Feedback from our cases show that for each investigation, there is typically somewhere between 5-20 excerpts and/or tables referencing third-party data. What is your policy on publication of data? 2. Are there limits to what the data can be used for? |  |
| 3 | **Wider Marketplace Innovation:**   1. Based on the information you have been presented, are there any innovative ideas or suggestions on how to deliver this requirement you would like to share with DBT and TRA? 2. Are there any market considerations which you would like to highlight to DBT and TRA which should be factored into the procurement? |  |
| 4 | **Case Studies:**   1. Do you have any prior experience, lessons learned or case studies delivering similar projects – ideally providing data to the public sector and/or government bodies? 2. Do you have prior experience, lessons learned or case studies delivering similar projects where the contractual agreement was more attuned to the requirement for data ‘pulls’ at sporadic intervals? |  |
| 5 | **Future Discussions:**   1. Would you be open to a 121 non-committal discussion with TRA about this early engagement questionnaire? |  |