

**Statement of Requirement**

**For**

**The Storage and Maintenance of ECW Clothing and Equipment**

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| **Introduction**  **Purpose**  To provide a UK based infrastructure to accommodate the need for a storage and maintenance facility to house all ECW Clothing and Equipment procured for UK Force Elements to the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) missions during Winter deployments. Specialist Clothing and Equipment requires constant maintenance checks that with this facility can be carried out regularly by SMEs in Winter Warfare, clothing, and equipment. |
| **Background**  To provide a UK based infrastructure to accommodate the need for a storage and maintenance facility to house all ECW Clothing and Equipment procured for UK Force Elements to the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) missions during Winter deployments. Specialist Clothing and Equipment requires constant maintenance checks that with this facility can be carried out regularly by SMEs in Winter Warfare, clothing, and equipment.  There is insufficient infrastructure to store and maintain the ECW Clothing and Eqpt that has been purchased. Capability is currently not appropriate or optimised for operating as a NATO 3\* HQ. |
| **Objectives**  The outcomes required are:  The ECW Kit and Equipment will be inspected regularly both by SMEs and a Fd Army representative to ensure it is kept to operational standards.  By keeping items clean, serviceable, maintained, and stored correctly, will reduce the need to continuously re-purchase and save costs in the long term.  The nature of our mission and constant readiness at a reduced Notice to Move (NTM) to defend, means we will continue to train and maintain our quick reaction throughout the coldest periods of the Winter. Our credibility in the eyes of NATO partners, to operate effectively and efficiently throughout the tour, must not be undone by lacking the proper clothing or equipment.  Failing to address the clothing shortfalls would constitute disregard of explicit command direction and the previous winter deployments, CABRIT, and Learning Accounts completed following previous incidents of Cold Weather Injury.  To significantly reduce the 85% of NCFIs occurred whilst undertaking winter deployments in the UK, and Northern Europe (Brecon, SPTA, Estonia) due to wearing insufficient operational standard clothing and working with unserviceable, non-working equipment. |
| **Specific Requirements**  Virtual Locations to be created for Fd Army, these can be seen in the proposal, that shows the layout for the physical locations created within the warehouse.   * Warehouse to be physically located in UK. * 3 locations required, one for storage, one for items out for repair and one for quarantined items. * POC will confirm receipt date and prepare any goods back from Fd Army. * 2 members of staff will inspect goods received and allocate damaged goods to quarantine where they will be triaged and reported back to authority for work required. * Good condition goods will be sent to storage. * Damaged beyond repair will need to be replaced- report to authority to justify replacement expense. Internally the supplier will raise a ticket with Products dept to liaise with suppliers for replacements. SO will then be raised for replacements and write off action taken. * Repairs will be sent to an external sub-contractor for repair once quote accepted. * POC will track both repairs and replacements. * Skin on skin items which include base layers, glove liners, mouth pieces, balaclavas and socks are issued to SP PHRs as consumables. * Inventory checks and stock take will take place as and when activity occurs and sent to Fd Army upon completion. * Assurance visits will be conducted bi-annually/annually dependant on activity. |
| **Outputs/Deliverables/Acceptance**  Field Army has a current contract for ECW clothing with a trusted supplier. While the contracts and requirements are different there is a synergy with the two contracts as one is the provision of clothing, and the new requirement is for the storage, maintenance, and repair of the same clothing stocks.  There is a recognition that ECW clothing provision is essential to the lived experience of soldiers in the field. Specifically on overseas exercises and Operations in Northern Europe, including Poland, Estonia, Germany and Kosovo, ECW clothing is essential for approximately 6 months of the year to ensuring soldiers are warm and not exposed to Cold Weather Injuries (NFCIs and FCIs).  The Commercial recommendation is to pursue a 5-year contract for storage, maintenance and repair of clothing linked to the current ECW clothing contract. |
| **Payment**  Method of payment shall be through the Authority’s Contracting, Purchasing & Finance (CP&F) portal. The expectation is that the supplier will utilise the Exostar portal to communicate with the Authority’s system. |
| **Contract management arrangements**  The recommendation is for the supplier to retake and inspect the goods in their warehouse and to repair and oversee the maintenance of any damaged goods as they are returned from SP after Operations and exercises.  The supplier will store, maintain, and supply all equipment required by Field Army for ECW Capability. With additional inspections bi-annually from a Fd Army representative to perform their own inspections.  Equipment would be held inside a compound area, which is surrounded be fencing already in place. Racking for storage and shelves would be built for quarantining goods on receipt. There will be enough floor space for inspecting the goods within the compound area. |