Invitation to Quote

Invitation to Quote (ITQ) on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

Subject: Impact of EPSRC's investment in high performance computing infrastructure

Sourcing Reference Number: UK SBS CR18104

UK SBS
Shared Business Services

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

Version 3.3

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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 Contracting Authorities improve efficiency, generate savings and modernise.

It is our vision to become the leading service provider for the Contracting Authorities 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 Contracting Authorities. This allows Contracting Authorities 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 the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 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, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) transition their procurement to UK SBS and Crown Commercial Services (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 Contracting Authorities.

Our Contracting Authorities who have access to our services and Contracts are detailed here.

Section 2 – About the Contracting Authority

Operating across the whole of the UK and with a combined budget of more than £6 billion, UK Research and Innovation represents the largest reform of the research and innovation funding landscape in the last 50 years.

As an independent non-departmental public body UK Research and Innovation brings together the seven Research Councils (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC) plus Innovate UK and a new organisation, Research England.

UK Research and Innovation ensures the UK maintains its world-leading position in research and innovation. This is done by creating the best environment for research and innovation to flourish.

For more information, please visit: www.ukri.org

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Section 3 - Working with the Contracting Authority.

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	Contracting Authority Name and address	UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) , Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1ET
3.2	Buyer name	Jenny Stratton
3.3	Buyer contact details	Research@uksbs.co.uk
3.4	Maximum value of the Opportunity	£50,000.00 Excluding VAT
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 will result in the Bid not being considered.**

Section 3 - Timescales		
3.6	Date of Issue of Contract Advert and location of original Advert	Wednesday 25th July 2018 Location: Contracts Finder
3.7	Latest date/time ITQ clarification questions shall be received through Emptoris messaging system	Monday 13th August 2018 11.00am
3.8	Latest date/time ITQ clarification answers should be sent to all Bidders by the Buyer through Emptoris	Wednesday 15th August 2018 11.00am
3.9	Latest date/time ITQ Bid shall be submitted through Emptoris	Monday 20th August 2018 11.00am
3.11	Anticipated notification date of successful and unsuccessful Bids	Friday 31st August 2018
3.12	Anticipated Award date	Friday 31st August 2018
3.13	Anticipated Contract Start date	Monday 10th September 2018
3.14	Anticipated Contract End date	Thursday 31st January 2019
3.15	Bid Validity Period	60 Days

Section 4 – Specification

1. Background

EPSRC has a long history of supporting high performance computing infrastructure to enhance UK's research competitiveness. HPC machines across the scale are becoming critical for supporting, enhancing and delivering research and innovation. Countries like USA, China, Japan and others are making strategic investments in their HPC infrastructure, and there is an EU wide effort to pool in resources to make strategic investments in large scale HPC infrastructure.

EPSRC continues to make a case for government investments in HPC so that UK's excellent research base has access to the high-end infrastructure that it needs for cutting edge research and to maintain global research competitiveness. To support its case for continuing investment, EPSRC requires robust evidence of impact generated from its investments in HPC-enabled research.

There have been some impact evaluations for HPC like the IDC HPC (Hyperion Research) ROI pilot study[1] which has been focussed primarily on the impact on the innovation side. The impact evaluation of EPSRC's HECTOR HPC (published in December 2014[2]) demonstrated the wide ranging impact of HPC on enabling research exploration, training and innovation. These studies have shown the importance of HPC across academic disciplines and economic sectors.

The existing provision for HPC is represented in the pyramid below:

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[1] http://www.hpcuserforum.com/ROI/ , http://www.hpcuserforum.com/downloads/idcstudy.zip , http://www.eesi-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/EESI2_D7.4_Final-report-on-HPC-Return-on-Investment.pdf

[2] http://www.storyofhector.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/HECToR-final-report_2015.pdf
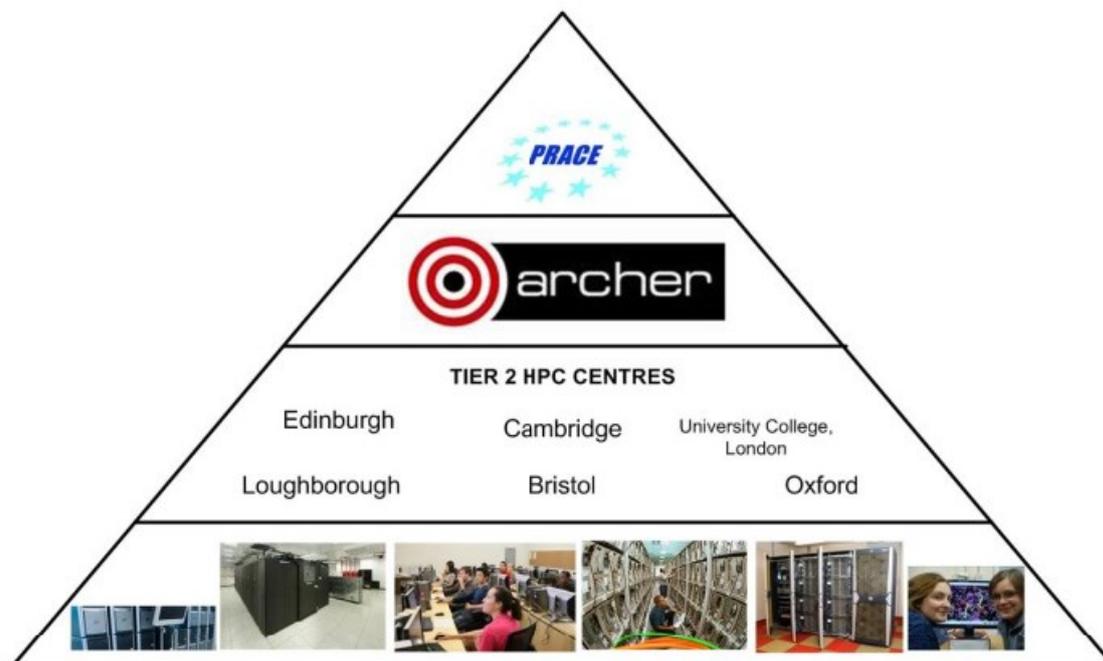
The lowest layer is made up of the 'work–horse' computers enabling basic computational research.

The next layer, the Tier 2 HPC centres, are the regional computers offering higher capability and power for more complex simulations granting researchers access to novel and innovative technology platforms.

The next layer, Tier 1, is the national services, at the moment EPSRC's ARCHER and STFC's DiRAC, both providing capabilities for most complex modelling and simulation.

The highest capability HPC, Tier 0, consists of larger infrastructures that require co-operation at a national level between countries and are used by a small percentage of researchers carrying out the largest simulations.

The proposed study will be focused on EPSRC's Tier 1 (National) and Tier 2 (regional) HPC investments.

We are envisaging that some of the already documented challenges to research impact assessments for example; suitable counterfactuals, attribution, measuring and valuing knowledge, demonstrating and documenting confidential and commercially sensitive impacts etc. will also apply to this study. These issues should be addressed within the context of this study.

2. Aims and Objectives of the Project

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) wishes to commission a study to explore the impact of its investments in 'High Performance Computing' (HPC) infrastructure funded over the last 10 years. It also wants to benchmark

these investments with other UK HPC investments and those of France, Germany and other selected EU countries (the selection will be discussed with the successful bidder at the inception meeting) so as to have a comprehensive understanding of the HPC landscape in which these investments operate. The study is meant to capture the impact of EPSRC's investment in national and regional HPC infrastructure on the[3]

- economy (for example; return on investment through assessing the value of HPC-enabled research to the UK economy),
- research (for example; value of the HPC to research advancement, competitiveness and efficiency and, quality of outputs),
- innovation (for example; research led innovations for new products, processes and businesses),
- skills (for example; value of training a highly skilled technical and analytical workforce across career stages),
- society (for example; finding ways to address the different societal challenges) and
- environment (for example understanding and mitigating climate change, weather patterns etc.).

A key aspect of the study will also be benchmarking strengths, weaknesses and investment competitiveness of the EPSRC HPC investments with those of other HPC investments in the UK and selected EU countries

The bidder is expected to propose methodologies and plans of how they are going to progress and deliver this study.

EPSRC wishes to understand the contribution that its investment in HPC has made to the advancement of research, innovation and skills and the value of the socio-economic benefits of these investments. In particular the study wants to explore how EPSRC's investments in HPC infrastructure have contributed to economic growth and ROI of the investments, through advancement and competitiveness of research and research led innovations alongside the value that it brings in terms of training highly skilled people for the economy and its benefit to different stakeholders.

The evidence and information gathered through this study will inform decisions on future investments and provide crucial evidence to support continued investments in HPC infrastructure.

The focus of this study is on EPSRC's investments in the Tier 1 and Tier 2 centres.

In scope of this study will primarily be the five Tier 2[4] regional Computing Centres of excellence established in 2012, the six Tier 2 centres that started in 2016 and ARCHER (national HPC service since 2013). It is expected that the study will also build on the previous impact study of HECToR (predecessor of ARCHER 2007-2013) to capture impacts which continued after the service was decommissioned.

The 2016 Tier 2 investments are at an early stage for a comprehensive impact assessment nevertheless, their inclusion in the study can provide valuable data for example, to help in the understanding of the HPC research landscape.

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[3] Examples given are for illustration and are not meant to be comprehensive. We anticipate a wide variety of impact from these investments and expect the study to explore and highlight the different types of impact.
[4] https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/hpc/tier2/

The key questions that we would like the study to address are:

- What are the scientific, economic, societal and environmental impacts of EPSRC's investments in HPC provisions?
- What is the return on EPSRC's investment in HPC?

In order to answer this question, we would like the study to gather qualitative and quantitative data for the following:

Impact on research

What has the impact of HPC investment been on research, for example:

- Quality of research arising from use of the HPC (bibliometric and other types of investigation)
- Impact of the HPC on different disciplines (problem solving in different areas)
- Impact on enabling research in different disciplines (new users, research communities and lines of enquiry)
- Impact of the HPC on national and international collaborative efforts
- Impact of software and datasets generated by the HPC on research
- Impact of the HPC on doctoral training and also training at different career stages in academia
- Impact of the HPC in generating ideas for simulation and testing

Economic impact

What has the overall economic impact of HPC been, for example:

- Return on Investment (ROI) from EPSRC's HPC provision
- Effects on the supply chain
- Effects on Jobs
- Effect on regional growth/local economy
- Effect on leverage and further funding
- Impact on supporting innovations
- Impact on cost/efficiency

Impact on Skills

What has the impact of HPC been on developing skills for the future in computational science and data analytics, for example:

- Impact of the HPC provision on training across career stages, specially generating a high level, skilled, computational workforce
- Impact of the HPC on career choices and destinations

Societal and environmental impacts

What has the impact of HPC been on society and environment, for example:

- Impact on societal challenges such as housing, transport, care etc.
- Impact on environmental issues like climate change, forecasting, conservation etc.
- Impact on policy, science communication and outreach

International benchmarking (selected key countries)

How does EPSRC's investment compare with other UK and European investments, for example:

- Nature and value of investments in Germany, France,
- Proportion of Public and private funding in HPC internationally (including UK)
- Evidence and methodology of benefits realisation of HPC investment and HPC-enabled scientific research;
- How does EPSRC's investment compare in terms of cost effectiveness for researchers to access the services

This study should follow government guidance on evaluations as outlined in the Magenta book which is a complementary guidance to the H.M.Treasury Green Book. (Magenta Book: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/220542/magenta_book_combined.pdf
Green Book: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/685903/The_Green_Book.pdf).

Outcomes of this Study:

- A clear understanding of the qualitative and quantitative impacts generated by the EPSRC HPC (Tier1 and Tier2) investments.
- Robust evidence base with linkages to specific past investments to help future bids
- Increased understanding of the international HPC ecosystem
- Indicators and metrics that can be used for future investments

3. **Suggested Methodology**
4.
The bidder is expected to propose methodologies and plans of how they are going to progress and deliver this study.

The following data and information will be available to assist the study:

The ARCHER website (http://www.archer.ac.uk/) has various published reports for usage, information on projects and organisations involved as well as other details. Additionally the study will be provided with

Benefits realisation data from ARCHER which includes training, quarterly reports, case studies, eCSE[5] final reports and eCSE economic benefits analysis, SAFE[6] data, RAP(Resource Allocation Panel) final reports

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[5] Through a series of regular calls, Embedded CSE (eCSE) support provides funding to the ARCHER user community to develop software in a sustainable manner to run on ARCHER.
[6] SAFE is an online ARCHER service management system.

Annual reports from consortia which includes case studies

Annual reports from relevant CCPs (Collaborative Computational Projects)[7]

Data from websites of the regional Tier 2 centres[8] for example ARCHIE-WeSt (https://www.archie-west.ac.uk/) HPC Midlands, Mid plus (now superseded by HPC midlands plus, http://hpc-midlands.ac.uk/), N8 HPC (https://n8hpc.org.uk/) , HPC Wales and others.

Researchfish returns, data from Grants on the web (https://epsrc.ukri.org/links/gow-links/grants-on-the-web-gow/), Gateway to research (http://gtr.ukri.org/)

It will be expected that any additional data collection will take account of what is already available, and be designed to minimise additional burden on researchers.

Interaction with the study provider:

It is expected that the winning bidder will work closely with EPSRC to develop approaches and methods and maintain close working relations as the study progresses. The study will have an internal EPSRC steering board.

Progress will be monitored through fortnightly phone/email updates and monthly highlight reports with face to face meetings as appropriate.

5. Deliverables

- Datasets gathered as a result of the exercise

- Case studies or any other qualitative outputs generated

- Possible approaches/metrics to quantifying the economic value of investment in HPC and associated template which can be used by us on an ongoing basis

- Workshop with relevant stakeholders to discuss final findings

- Report summarising the findings of the study including the RoI figure and the underlying basis on which it has been derived.

- Summary of the final report as a power point presentation for EPSRC's use at key meetings

Terms and Conditions

Bidders are to note that any requested modifications to the Contracting Authority Terms and Conditions on the grounds of statutory and legal matters only, shall be raised as a formal clarification during the permitted clarification period.

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[7] https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/researchinfrastructure/subthemes/einfrastructure/software/ccprojects/
[8] https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/hpc/tier2/

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.

The evaluation team may comprise staff from UK SBS and the Contracting Authority and any specific external stakeholders the Contracting Authority deems required. After evaluation 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÷3 = 5.33)

Pass / fail criteria

Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject
Commercial	SEL1.2	Employment breaches/ Equality
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	SEL3.11	Compliance to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act
Commercial	SEL3.12	Cyber Essentials
Commercial	SEL3.13	General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
Commercial	AW4.1	Contract Terms Part 1
Commercial	AW4.2	Contract Terms Part 2
Price	AW5.1	Maximum Budget
Price	AW5.5	E Invoicing
Price	AW5.6	Implementation of E-Invoicing
Quality	AW6.1	Compliance to the Specification
-	-	Invitation to Quote – received on time within e-sourcing tool

Scoring criteria

Evaluation Justification Statement

In consideration of this particular requirement the Contracting Authority has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this ITQ. The Contracting Authority 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	20.00%
Quality	PROJ1.1	Approach	40.00%

Quality	PROJ1.2	Staff to Deliver	10.00%
Quality	PROJ1.3	Understanding the Environment	20.00%
Quality	PROJ1.5	Risk Management	10.00%

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 = {weighting percentage} x {bidder's score} = 20% x 60 = 12

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	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	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	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire.
80	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 may 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 40
Evaluator 4 scored your bid as 40
Your final score will (60+60+40+40) ÷ 4 = 50

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 x 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.uksbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/supplier.aspx

PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY

Section 7 – General Information

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. Responses received after the date indicated in the ITQ shall not be considered by the Contracting Authority, unless the Bidder can justify that the reason for the delay, is solely attributable to the Contracting Authority

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 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 the Contracting Authority is and what they want – a generic answer does not necessarily meet every Contracting Authority'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, concise and ideally generic 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 ensure that the Response and any documents accompanying it are in the English Language, the Contracting Authority reserve the right to disqualify any full or part responses that are not in English.

7.12   Do check and recheck your Bid before dispatch.

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

DO NOT

7.13   Do not cut and paste from a previous document and forget to change the previous details such as the previous buyer's name.

7.14   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.

7.15   Do not share the Procurement documents, they are confidential and should not be shared with anyone without the Buyers written permission.

7.16   Do not seek to influence the procurement process by requesting meetings or contacting UK SBS or the Contracting Authority to discuss your Bid. If your Bid requires clarification the Buyer will contact you. All information secured outside of formal Buyer communications shall have no Legal standing or worth and should not be relied upon.

7.17   Do not contact any UK SBS staff or the Contracting Authority staff without the Buyers written permission or we may reject your Bid.

7.18   Do not collude to fix or adjust the price or withdraw your Bid with another Party as we will reject your Bid.

7.19   Do not offer UK SBS or the Contracting Authority staff any inducement or we will reject your Bid.

7.20   Do not seek changes to the Bid after responses have been submitted and the deadline for Bids to be submitted has passed.

7.21   Do not cross reference answers to external websites or other parts of your Bid, the cross references and website links will not be considered.

7.22   Do not exceed word counts, the additional words will not be considered.

7.23   Do not make your Bid conditional on acceptance of your own Terms of Contract, as your Bid will be rejected.

7.24   Do not unless explicitly requested by the Contracting Authority either in the procurement documents or via a formal clarification from the Contracting Authority send your response by any way other than via e-sourcing tool. Responses received by any other method than requested will not be considered for the opportunity.

7.25   All enquiries with respect to access to the e-sourcing tool and problems with functionality within the tool must be submitted to Crown Commercial Service (previously Government Procurement Service), Telephone 0345 010 3503.

7.26   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 as part of the evaluation process.

7.27   Question numbering is not sequential and all questions which require submission are included in the Section 6 Evaluation Questionnaire.

7.28   Any Contract offered may not guarantee any volume of work or any exclusivity of supply.

7.29   We do not guarantee to award any Contract as a result of this procurement

7.30   All documents issued or received in relation to this procurement shall be the property of the Contracting Authority. / UKSBS.

7.31   We can amend any part of the procurement documents at any time prior to the latest date / time Bids shall be submitted through Emptoris.

7.32   If you are a Consortium you must provide details of the Consortiums structure.

7.33   Bidders will be expected to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or your Bid will be rejected.

7.34   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

7.35   Your bid will be valid for [modify duration if not 60✍] days or your Bid will be rejected.

7.36   Bidders may only amend the contract terms during the clarification period only, only if you can demonstrate there is a legal or statutory reason why you cannot accept them. If you request changes to the Contract terms without such grounds and the Contracting Authority fail to accept your legal or statutory reason is reasonably justified we may reject your Bid.

7.37   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.

7.38   If you fail mandatory pass / fail criteria we will reject your Bid.

7.39   Bidders are required to use IE8, IE9, Chrome or Firefox in order to access the functionality of the Emptoris e-sourcing tool.

7.40   Bidders should note that if they are successful with their proposal the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority may decline to proceed with the award of the Contract to the successful Bidder.

7.41 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.

7.42 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, the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority 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.

7.43 The Government introduced its new Government Security Classifications (GSC) classification scheme on the 2nd April 2014 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. The link below to the Gov.uk website provides information on the new GSC:

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

The Contracting Authority 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
- Equalities Act introduction
- Bribery Act introduction
- Freedom of information Act