Prior Information Note (PIN)

Ground Training Aids Maintenance & Support (GTMS)

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| **Date:** | 29th April 2024 | |
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| **Date of Issue** |  | |

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**Purpose of the PIN**

1. The purpose of this PIN is to notify Industry of an upcoming requirement to contract for the continuing maintenance of approximately seventy-seven (77) in-service Synthetic Training Equipment (STE), located throughout the mainland United Kingdom.

**Summary of Requirements**

2. The Authority requires the following:

1. Preventative and Corrective maintenance of approximately seventy-seven (77) pieces of STE,
2. Provision of Suitably Qualified & Experienced Personnel (SQEP) to fulfil the requirement,
3. Provision of support and engineering services of the equipment, managing the various Original Engineering Manufacturers (OEMs) / Design Authorities (DAs) where available, to enable safe delivery of the training capability,
4. Work closely with the Customer,
5. Management of Authority Spares which may be subject to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR),
6. Implementation and management of Post Design Services (PDS) Taskings, as required,
7. Implementation and management of ad-hoc tasking, as required,
8. The ability to work with the Authority in managing the increasing risk of obsolescence to the ageing STE,
9. The possibility of becoming DA to mitigate maintenance risks should the extant DA become unable to continue, through the life of the contract.
10. The anticipated duration of the Contract is five (5) years with the potential for an additional two further one (1) year Options i.e. 5 + 1 + 1 years.
11. The estimated value is expected to be around £7M (ex. V.A.T.) inclusive of Option Years and Tasking. Please note, this is an estimate only and may be subject to change.

**Background**

1. The Flight Simulation and Synthetic Trainers Delivery Team (FsAST DT) has a remit to provide ongoing maintenance and post design support to STE used for Tri-Service aircraft maintenance, ground and rear crew training until the Out of Service Date (OSD) of the equipment. Failure to deliver defined training outputs could lead to training deficiencies on those passing through training and impact the ability of delivering capabilities to the front line but also assist mitigate risk to life activities.
2. The majority of equipment’s support training conducted by the following Customer Groups:
   1. RAF 1 Group;
   2. RAF 2 Group;
   3. RAF 22 (Training) Group, primarily the Defence School of Aeronautical Engineering (DSAE) and the Defence College of Technical Training;
   4. RAF 38 Group primarily Royal Air Force Centre of Aviation Medicine (RAFCAM).
3. It is anticipated that there shall be several components of the GTMS requirement. These shall be conducted by SQEP resources and shall include;
   1. Preventative Maintenance which is defined as systematic and prescribed work carried out at prescribed intervals or usages, and is carried out to reduce the probability of failure or to mitigate degradation.
   2. Corrective Maintenance which is defined as unscheduled maintenance that is carried out after the item/system has failed in order to restore it to a functioning state. An unscheduled or corrective maintenance task would be carried out after a fault was recognised to effect restoration.
   3. Ad-Hoc tasking is defined as any work to the original equipment, or its records to maintain safety, cost, operational use, reliability and/or maintainability, to the agreed operational/functional base line standard.
   4. Post Design Services (PDS) is defined as work required to undertake discrete tasks not part of the larger repair and maintenance task e.g. disposal and/or investigations.
4. The STEs are located at a number of bases, primarily:
   1. Defence Schools of Aeronautical Engineering (DSAE) Cosford,
   2. Ministry of Defence (MOD) Lyneham,
   3. Royal Navy Air Engineering and Survival School (RNAESS) Gosport,
   4. RAF Brize Norton.
5. Other sites may include, but not necessarily limited to:
   1. RAF Cranwell,
   2. RAF Henlow,
   3. RAF Odiham,
   4. RAF Wittering,
   5. RAF St. Athan,
   6. RAF Conningsby,
   7. RAF Lossiemouth,
   8. RAF Mawgan
   9. Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) Yeovilton.

**Indicative Timelines**

1. The anticipated key dates for this procurement are as follows:

a. Issue Contract Notice and DPQQ: 21st June 2024,

b. Issue ITN: 27th September 2024,

c. Contract Award: 6th January 2026,

d. Mobilisation Period 6th January 2026 – 14th April 2026.

Please note these dates are indicative and may be subject to change.

**Market Interest Days**

1. The Authority shall hold two Market Interest Days (MIDs):
   1. MID 1

Date: 12th February 2024,

Location: RAF Cosford, Cosford, WV7 3EX,

Start: 10:30.

* 1. MID 2

Date: 14th February 2024,

Location: RAF Brize Norton, Carterton OX18 3TB,

Start: 10:30.

1. Please note that those that wish to attend, must attend both MIDs in person and shall not be permitted to just attend one. Unfortunately, the Authority is unable to live stream or record the event for potential suppliers.
2. Parties interested in attending both of these MIDs shall contact the Authority at DESFsAST-ComrclMailbox@mod.uk no later than 17:00 03rd June 2024 expressing their intention to attend, along with the information requested at point eighteen (18), below. The Authority will respond to expressions of interest and provide further details about the Market Interest Day to coordinate the process of booking attendees onto the event in due course.
3. Please note due to capacity limitations, the Authority shall only invite a maximum of two (2) attendees per organisation to each MID. Details of the event information including the agenda will be provided ahead of the event.
4. Objectives of the Market Interest Days:
   1. Gauge and generate interest around the possible contract opportunity,
   2. Provide an opportunity for suppliers to ask questions and view some of the STE,
   3. Obtain feedback and queries on the Requirement,
   4. For potential suppliers to gain better understanding as to the resources required to deliver the project.
5. The Authority reserves the right to take questions away and respond in the published contract notice if an answer is not known at the time.
6. The Authority reserves the right to not answer any question which has no relation to the

procurement.

**Registration of Interest**

1. Suppliers interested in attending the Market Interest Day, please provide the following

details to [desfsast-comrclmailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:desfsast-comrclmailbox@mod.gov.uk) by email no later than 06th June 2024.

* 1. Company name,
  2. Name(s) of Attendee(s) max two (2) per company,
  3. Position / Role of Attendee(s),
  4. Email Addresses for Attendee(s),
  5. Phone Number of Attendee(s),
  6. Details of vehicle arriving in (manufacturer, model, colour and registration),
  7. Security clearance status,
  8. Confirmation of nationality.

1. Please note all attendees must provide a form of photographic identification i.e. a passport or a valid driving licence (please not passport is preferred, if possible). Failure to do so may impact the individual’s ability to gain entry.
2. When emailing, please use the subject title ‘*GTMS Market Interest Day Supplier Registration*’.
3. Attendees who have not registered will not be permitted to attend the event.
4. The Authority reserves the right to refuse any attendee entry.
5. Due to capacity limitations, no more than two (2) personnel from each supplier organisation shall be invited to attend both the Market Interest Days. Please note, the same two (2) representatives shall attend both MIDs. If it is not possible for the same two (2) representatives to attend both MIDs, please provide the details given above for any proposed alternative representatives and justification, for the Authority’s consideration. Please note, the Authority is under no obligation to accept alternative representatives and the decision as to whether different representatives can attend, shall be unilaterally the Authority’s.
6. For parties that express their interest in attending the MIDs, the Authority shall provide ancillary information regarding the equipment.

**Request for Information**

1. Prior to the Market Interest Days, Industry are invited to provide answers to the following questions which will help inform the Authority’s approach to the Procurement. Answers are required to be provided by 17:00 hours on 03rd June 2024:
   1. Do you have the capability to deliver the Requirement in its totality as detailed above?
2. If no, please explain.
3. Are there only certain areas which can be met?
   1. What risks, issues, concerns or opportunities do you foresee in delivering this Requirement?
   2. What Social Value Model Award Criteria (MAC)[[1]](#endnote-2) could you deliver for this

Requirement. Please detail at least 2.

1. The most relevant defence social value themes are tackling economic inequality; fighting climate change and equal opportunity. The Authority believes the most relevant Policy Outcomes for this Procurement to be:
   1. Create new businesses, new jobs and new skills – MAC 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.
   2. Increase supply chain resilience and capacity – MAC 3.1.
   3. Effective stewardship of the environment – MAC 4.1 and 4.2.
   4. Tackle workforce inequality – MAC 6.1 and 6.2.

Please note that the Authority is mandated to assess Social Value in all Tenders.

**Important points to note:**

1. Information shared during the MIDs which may be relevant to the

procurement process, will be published by the Authority on Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP).

1. The sessions may be recorded. Any recording will not be released to the public, this will help develop the follow up meeting notes to be published with any Contract Notice if the procurement proceeds.
2. Any costs relating to the preparation, submission and attendance of the MIDs is the sole responsibility of the respondent.
3. There is no obligation for the Authority to continue with the requirement following the

MIDs and if potential suppliers choose to act on any answers and/or information they receive from the event, it is entirely at their own risk.

1. Any resulting procurement procedure will be conducted competitively.
2. Any information provided in relation to this procurement may be subject to change.

1. [Social-Value-Model-Edn-1.1-3-Dec-20.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940826/Social-Value-Model-Edn-1.1-3-Dec-20.pdf) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)