

704414450-RFI
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION TO ENABLE THE PROVISION OF
FUTURE SUBMARINE TECHNOLOGY

RFI Title: Future Architecture for Submarine Technology to Enable RIOT (FASTER), where RIOT stands for Rapid Insertion of Technology

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1. Introduction

This RFI forms a part of market engagement and is NOT part of any competitive procedure. Any information you submit will be considered solely for the purposes of building a greater understanding of the areas listed in Annexes A of this RFI.

Should the decision be made to formally compete the FASTER requirement, any information provided will not be considered as part of a formal bid and must be re-submitted as part of the formal bid process. Information specific to the Industry participant provided through this process will not be shared or distributed directly to other participants.

The information contained in this RFI and any further information (whether written, electronic or oral) supplied by the Secretary of State and/or any of its representatives in respect of this RFI is, and will be, supplied on the condition that neither the Secretary of State, any of its representatives nor any agents, servants, officers or affiliates of the Secretary of State or its representatives whatsoever is liable for any error, omission, or inaccuracy therein nor for any loss or damage sustained by any party arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication, including any error or omission or inaccuracy resulting from any negligent act or omission of any of the Secretary of State, its representatives or any other person (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation). No party accepts any responsibility or gives any undertaking to provide further information, including any information required to correct any earlier inaccuracy or error.

Any participation in this industry market engagement and any response to this RFI is entirely at your cost and risk. The MOD is under no obligation to proceed with a formal procurement or in any other way proceed with the DMS-NG project and shall not be liable to any participants for any costs arising from participation in this process.

2. Background

Future Architecture for Submarine Technology to Enable RIOT (FASTER), where RIOT stands for Rapid Insertion of Technology, is developing a candidate future submarine Combat Management System over which MOD has ownership and control, by building a cloud development environment that enables a broad base of innovative app suppliers from MOD, academia, and industry to participate in a fast-moving Agile DevSecOps cycle.

We are developing an advanced Platform-as-a-Service concept that enables the loose coupling of small components (microservices) with an active community of suppliers developing capabilities. An overview of the work is described in a recent Defence Digital Blog: <https://defencedigital.blog.gov.uk/2022/03/30/a-faster-way-forward-for-defence-innovation/>

A fundamental part of the delivery is the nurturing of a community. To learn and understand how best to develop a close community of engaged suppliers, we are holding a number engagement events with industry and academia to understand how best to collaborate.

If you would like to be included, please express an interest.

3. RFI intended outcomes

This RFI aims to inform potential community members of the opportunity to engage with the FASTER team to develop ways of working and provide an opportunity for expressions of interest.

4. MOD Commercial Notice – Subject to Contract

This RFI is Subject to Contract.

The existence of this RFI does not imply that UK MOD will make a purchase relating to the requirements within the indicated timescale, later, or at all.

All information provided by UK MOD during discussions with industry is provided in good faith but is indicative only and does not constitute an invitation to tender or an offer of contract.

5. How to submit responses to this RFI

Respondents should provide responses in accordance with the format provided in **Annex A** quoting the RFI reference on all documentation and emails.

In addition to the Annex A, as this is an EOI we will accept 1 x document covering the company overview.

Any responses received after the deadline will be passed to the subject matter experts for information, however they may not be included in the RFI review meetings which are to be held immediately following the deadline.

Once completed, please return electronically to the e-mail address(es) shown below in **section 9**, no later than **12:00 Friday 08th July 2022**.

Responses will be acknowledged electronically by return e-mail.

6. Supplier Commercial Sensitive/Confidential Information

Suppliers are requested to annotate all commercially sensitive/confidential information clearly and explicitly so that the Authority can manage the provided information correctly.

7. Contact

Quoting the RFI reference, please submit

- i) any requests for clarification
- ii) all responses to this RFI and
- iii) any questions regarding Classification of document(s) intended for submission, to:

lee.culshaw100@mod.gov.uk

Annex A

704414450-RFI - EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION TO ENABLE THE PROVISION OF FUTURE SUBMARINE TECHNOLOGY

| Question | Answer |
|---|--------|
| Company Name | |
| Company Address | |
| Is the company a Small - Medium Enterprise (less than 250 employees)? | |
| | |
| Name of Company representative completing the RFI | |
| Contact details (e-mail and telephone number) | |
| Company web site address | |
| | |
| Main products/services/line of business | |
| Main market sector | |
| Number of years in this market sector | |
| Relevant Capability to FASTER | |
| <u>QUESTIONS</u> | |
| 1. How best should FASTER collaborate with the community (Industry/Academia)? | |
| 2. In your experience what approaches have worked well and should be replicated? | |
| 3. In your experience what are the barriers to effective collaboration with MOD to develop capability? | |
| Ideas, sharing of experience and lessons are most welcome, even if they do not meet all of the requirements above, we would welcome the opportunity to consider the positives and negatives. | |