

# Request for Proposal



**Request for Proposal (RFP) on behalf of Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)**

**Subject : The Provision of a Service offering advice, guidance and support for Responsible Research and Innovation to the**

**UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS)**  
[www.ukpbs.co.uk](http://www.ukpbs.co.uk)

Registered in England and Wales as a limited company. Company Number 6330639.  
Registered Office North Star House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 1FF  
VAT registration GB618 3673 25  
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**UKSBS**  
*Shared Business Services*

**Information & Communications Technologies research community**

**Sourcing reference number : UK SBS PR150045**

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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 customers improve efficiency, generate savings and modernise.

It is our vision to become the leading provider for our customers 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 customers. This allows our customers 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 its customers, 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 Innovation and Skills (BIS) 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 Customers.

Our Customers who have access to our services and Contracts are detailed [here](#).

## Section 2 – About Our Customer

### Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

EPSRC is the main UK government agency for funding research and training in engineering and the physical sciences, investing more than £800 million a year in a broad range of subjects – from mathematics to materials science, and from information technology to structural engineering.

The research EPSRC fund affects every aspect of our lives, from energy and the environment, though health, crime prevention, transport, construction and leisure time, to communications, nanotechnology and fundamental science.

The organisation's funded research has already led to improvements in MRI scanning to detect cancer, new ways of predicting and preventing flooding, the first controlled production of atomic antimatter, more durable artificial joints for our bodies, the lasers in our CD and DVD systems and software technologies to boost on-line shopping and the film industry

#### Examples of funded research

- University research into the technology and economics of energy storage, with an emphasis on securing environmentally-friendly and affordable power for the UK.
- A new national Carbon Capture and Storage Research Centre aimed at developing a low- carbon energy system for the UK.
- Developing the next generation of supercomputers.
- Creating a robotic organism for medical use.

Facing the uncertain economic future EPSRC strives to be ahead of the game, investing in world-class research into green technologies, medical advances and high-value manufacturing.

The organisation meets the needs of industry and society by working in partnership with universities to invest in people, scientific discovery and innovation. The knowledge and expertise gained maintains a technological leading edge, builds a strong economy and improves people's quality of life.

[www.epsrc.ac.uk](http://www.epsrc.ac.uk)

## Section 3 – Working with UK Shared Business Services Ltd.

Section 3 – Contact details		
3.1	Customer Name and address	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
3.2	Buyer	Katarzyna Nawrotek
3.3	Buyer contact details	<a href="mailto:Katarzyna.Nawrotek@uksbs.co.uk">Katarzyna.Nawrotek@uksbs.co.uk</a> DD: 01793 86 7558
3.4	Estimated value of the Opportunity	£450K ( excluding VAT)
3.5	Process for the submission of clarifications and Bids	<b>All correspondence shall be submitted within the Emptoris e-sourcing tool. Guidance Notes to support the use of Emptoris is available <a href="#">here</a>.</b>  <b>Please note submission of a Bid to any email address including the Buyer <u>will</u> result in the Bid <u>not</u> being considered.</b>

Section 3 - Timescales		
3.6	Date of posting of Contract advert to OJEU.	27/05/2016
3.7	Date RFP available to Bidders	31/05/2016
3.9	Latest date / time RFP clarifications should be sent be received through Emptoris	20/06/2016 11:00 am
3.10	Latest date / time RFP clarification answers should be sent to all potential Bidders through Emptoris	28/06/2016 11:00
3.12	Closing date and time for Bidder to submit their response (' <b>the deadline</b> ').	07/07/2016 11:00 am
3.14	Notification of proposed Contract	w/c 18/08/2016

	award to unsuccessful bidders	
3.15	Anticipated Contract Award Date	30/08/2016
3.16	Commencement of Contract	01/10/2016
3.17	Bid Validity Period	90 Days

## Section 4 – Specification and about this procurement

### **Specification for the Provision of a Service offering advice, guidance and support for Responsible Research and Innovation to the Information & Communications Technologies research community**

#### **Background: Responsible Research and Innovation**

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is an approach that seeks to promote creativity and opportunities for science and innovation that are socially desirable and undertaken in the public interest. The consideration of RRI often raises questions and dilemmas, is sometimes ambiguous in terms of purposes and motivations, and unpredictable in terms of impacts, beneficial or otherwise. The application of RRI requires spaces and processes to explore these aspects of innovation in an open, inclusive and timely way. This is a collective responsibility, where funders, researchers, users, other stakeholders and the public all have an important role to play. It includes, but goes beyond, considerations of risk and regulation, important though these are.

Unlike other areas of scientific research the outputs of ICT research are not usually informed by an outcome that can be recognised as a public benefit. More often decisions are made about technology without knowing beforehand what the implications will be. We cannot stifle technology but we need to innovate in a way that does inform researchers and the wider community about what technological futures are more or less desirable. This means deciding who is accountable and when. For ICT this is particularly important as researchers are often not in control of the practical applications of their work once these have been taken up by industry and made into products.

There are already examples of ICT having consequences beyond the original intentions. Could researchers have foreseen that the launch of Uber would cause protests from taxi drivers? What about the consequences of social media where applications designed to help people stay in touch have led to identity theft, cyber bullying, the ability to orchestrate illegal activities?

There has been much discussion recently about the increased use of robots in a social context for example as assistants for the elderly and infirm. What might the consequences of such research lead to? Whilst there is an obvious good in terms of providing a helpful function what would be the effect of the machine taking over the role of a human in caring? What would its presence allow? For example, would it be collecting data on how that person lives? If so, how would those data be protected?

As connectivity extends beyond computers and phones into other electronic equipment (the "Internet of Things") what are the consequences of this connectivity for security of data, privacy?

On a different front there is also an issue in ICT that the potential applications are designed around the community that researchers have access to: students and postdoctoral



researchers in universities. Within the UK ICT community these are overwhelmingly male so the research that emerges is tailored for a population that is young, male, able-bodied and often white and fails to take account of gender and other diversity issues.

The purpose of this tender is to source a service that the ICT community can draw on in looking at the potential consequences of its innovations. Part of the process will, at least initially, involve research and discussions aimed at formulating the problems in more detail so that the appropriate advice and training service can be provided. There will also be an element of publicising the issues to the community more broadly.

As a public funder of research, EPSRC has a responsibility to ensure that our activities and the research we fund are aligned with the principles of RRI, creating value for society in an ethical and responsible way. To that end, EPSRC have created a Framework to support a Responsible Innovation approach in the research that we fund.

<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/framework/>

### **The successful bidder and the contract**

This tendering stage is open to any academic institution, consortium, company or organisation, whatever size or formation, which believes that it can fulfil the criteria given in this document.

EPSRC wish the contract to start in the spring or summer of 2016. However we recognise that a reduced level service may be appropriate immediately following the announcement of the contract, and the tendering organisation should set out an appropriate plan to cover this period from initial to full service.

EPSRC estimates the cost of the service over the five year period to be £1 million. EPSRC will contribute up to £450,000 of this total. The total value comprises the costs associated with defining the nature of the consultancy service to be provided, as well as the cost of providing the service itself. As the initial stages of the contract will necessarily involve developing the service EPSRC's support will be front-loaded, tailing off as the contract progresses and the community pay for the service delivered through subscriptions. The aim is that, by the end of the contract, the service will be self-sustaining.

### **Scope**

The scope has been developed by the EPSRC ICT Theme lead with the help of an expert advisory group.

The purpose of the service is to provide advice, guidance and support to the ICT Research Community (across the entire portfolio), enabling them to engage, address and articulate the ethical and social consequences of their research, and to enable them to undertake research and innovation in a responsible way.

The research and discovery process in the Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) area differs from the Life and Medical Sciences areas, where the fields are constrained by legally binding ethical guidelines. In addition, this type of research is often driven by a recognised public benefit, for example, drug discovery.

For research in ICT there are different considerations. Research is often driven by ideas and

investigations which are not motivated by specific and clear end products. This can lead to results which were not originally intended, with consequences which were not foreseen. When this is coupled to the speed of innovation it presents ethical dilemmas for researchers.

In defining the service for academic and industrial researchers, the provider must recognise that users have the following needs:

- To understand the RRI policy framework and its implications for research practice
- To have access to examples of ethical and social issues arising from the development of a variety of technologies
- To have access to practical support, tools and methodologies to address these issues
- To be able to interface with other researchers and stakeholders to find sustainable ways of engaging in research in a transparently responsible way.

Usage of the Advice Service will vary, and will be dependent on the requirements of individual users and groups of users. The tendering organisation must explain/justify the approach taken in their proposal and how this will meet the needs of the UK community.

### **Specification**

The successful organisation will need to include the following services:

- A well maintained and constantly updated knowledge base for ICT researches including:
  - ICT case studies with real life examples of issues in RRI
  - Examples of good practice and solution for addressing problematical issues
  - New Researcher support advice service for RRI
  - Curriculum guidance for developing training courses in RRI
- A forum for the ICT community to exchange ideas and best practice, facilitating mutual learning
- Consultancy services: proposal development support, helping proposers meet RRI requirements from funding agencies
- Training: offer bespoke courses and workshops in RRI and develop training material specific to particular subject areas or technologies relevant to ICT.
- Develop good practice guidance on integrating RRI into organisational processes.
- Evidence will need to be provided that whatever services and facilities offered are needed by the user communities.

### **Objectives**

- To understand the requirements for a service to offer the advice and support necessary for the Innovation and Communications Technologies (ICT) research community to comply with the responsible research and innovation approach.
- To design a service to provide such advice and support by the most appropriate means including, but not restricted to, electronic dissemination of information including case studies, workshops, consultancy to individuals

- To engage with the research community to promote the need for responsible research and innovation thus enabling easier access to scientific results and the take-up of gender and ethics in the research and innovation content and process.
- To promote the value of the service offered such that by the end of the contract the service will be self-sustaining.

### **Success Features**

1. In one level there is the volume, level and types of engagement that the service providers have with clients –
  - a. Categories of engagement – e.g. visits to the online website resources
  - b. Face to face discussion meetings
  - c. Training for clients
  - d. Workshops for client groups
2. On the other level there is producing evidence that the engagement activities are leading to more take-up activity in RRI:
  - a. RRI is being incorporated into institutional training programmes for staff – e.g. Bidder to collect evidence that participants were satisfied with the outcomes of the training and have gone on to use the information (Exit questionnaire?)
  - b. RRI is part of the training within, for instance, Centres for Doctoral training e.g. Bidder to collect evidence that participants were satisfied with the outcomes of the training and have gone on to use the information (Survey?)
  - c. Clients are holding their own information events at their institutions - Evidence that this is taking place and that this information is being applied
  - d. RRI is being considered in the preparation of written research grants proposals for the UK and the UE. Measure the number of proposals that consider RRI in their documentation, and produce this evidence.
  - e. RRI is being mentioned in the outputs of research programmes (e.g. on reporting tools such as ResearchFish) - Look at ResearchFish data to document that RRI is being mentioned in the research outputs.
  - f. (Other measurable ways that the bidder can define and capture that evidence)

(The goal is to create a shift in culture and attitude, with consideration of RRI being standard practice and widely accepted in the ICT community)

### **Business model**

EPSRC will require a description of the proposed financial structure and how this fits (if appropriate) into the larger scope of the organisation.

The bidding organisation should provide full details of the proposed financial management.

The period of the contract is for 5 years (3+2). At the end of that period EPSRC expects the service to be self-sustaining. The bid will need to include details of how this will be achieved. We expect that this will include an explanation of the added value that will be offered to the UK research communities in providing the proposed services.

A plan should be provided of the timeline to be able to deliver a full national RRI Advice Service from the date of the contract award.

EPSRC will require assurance that the tendering organisation is financially stable and will remain so for the full term of the contracted period and beyond.

## **Resources**

The bids will need to include full details of the resources requested including staff, equipment and running costs. The resource and their cost requested will need to be fully justified in terms of the service that will be offered. Any provision for Travel and Subsistence must follow the Research Council travel policy for such expenditure. All costs associated with resource and equipment must be included in the pricing schedule.

## **Service provision**

EPSRC requires the service to provide the maximum possible access time to users. The bidding organisation must provide information on how this will be achieved. This should include how demand will be managed and how time and resources will be allocated on a consistent and equitable basis.

EPSRC will expect that all relevant research communities and avenues of research will be able to benefit from access to the RRI advice service. Details on how this can be assured should be included in the tender submission.

The bid will need to detail a plan for the number of people and departments that they will contact and engage with in the first year to promote the service, and how this will be achieved. This should include relevant Computer Science and Engineering departments at UK universities and other interested parties.

The bid will need to provide evidence that the service and facilities being offered meet the requirements of the user communities.

## **External Influences**

The bid will need to include details of the plans for dissemination of the service and results. The bidding organisation should also describe how it will market the service and to whom. EPSRC will require details of how the bidding organisation will identify markets in all the appropriate user groups.

The level and quality of advice being offered should also be described.

## **Management**

The bid will need to describe the management structure proposed for the service, including identifying a named Programme Leader/Director and describing their capability to lead the RRI.

The overall RRI team must have the skills, knowledge and experience to provide an effective and efficient advice service to the ICT community.

The bidder must explain the process to be adopted to evaluate user requests for the RRI service, and the basic principles that will be used to approve requests.

The bid should also set out what principles will be used to decline requests that are

considered to be inappropriate or unsuitable.

## **Governance**

The bid will need to include details of how the service will be managed and operated, including both day-to day operations and longer term strategic management.

In order to enhance the reach and credibility of the service EPSRC requires an Independent Steering Committee to be established to oversee the RRI service. Its membership must draw on a wide set of researchers across the ICT portfolio and ensure that diversity is promoted in its make-up. EPSRC must also be present on this Committee. This group will meet every 6 months to monitor and review the activities of the RRI service against the agreed standards and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). It will also provide advice and guidance on future activities.

EPSRC should be advised of the individuals, by role and name, of the Steering Committee. (Once the Contract has been awarded).

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Annual reports must be provided to EPSRC on the performance of the service, including the demand on the service.

At the end of year 3 of the delivery of the RRI Service (year 3), the contract will be reviewed by EPSRC.

EPSRC will expect to be provided with a copy of the minutes of every Steering group meeting as soon as they are published.

The format and content of the reports will be agreed as part of the Service Level Agreement.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee will be to set out what factors (KPIs) the Steering Committee will need to consider to monitor the ongoing progress of the Service.

Steering Committee terms of reference:

- To monitor performance of the Service using, where appropriate, the agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the Service Level Agreements (SLAs)
- To advise on the strategic direction of the Service, and ensure that it is constantly seeking to meet the needs of the UK ICT research community
- To oversee, advise, and review the operation of the Service, including the allocation process, the use of external partners, facility and staff appointments and major spending plans.
- To monitor and assess the annual expenditure of the Service.
- To advise on and monitor the development of the commercial strategy of the Service, and on potential income generation, including where this should potentially be invested.
- To independently investigate User complaints not resolved by the detailed complaints procedure, and to report on the outcome to the Service.

Beyond the expiry date of the contract , the service will cease to be badged an EPSRC

service, and there will be no EPSRC management input to the service.

The Contract duration shall be for a period of 3 years with optional extension of 2 years period from commencement of the Contract, subject to a satisfactory mid-term review. Please note, however, that any extension is of time only: the total value of the EPSRC contribution over the full 5 year period is £450k.

## Section 5 – Evaluation model

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation process will be conducted to ensure that Bids are evaluated fairly to ascertain the bidders who can demonstrate the required skills qualities, technical ability and capacity, commercial stability and experience to ensure successful performance of the Contract.
- 5.1.2 The evaluation team may comprise staff from UK SBS, the Customer and any specific external stakeholders UK SBS deem required

### 5.2 Evaluation of Bids

- 5.2.1 Evaluation of Bids shall be based on a Selection questionnaire defined in the e-sourcing tool.

### 5.3. SELECTION questionnaire

- 5.3.1 The selection questionnaire will be solely marked against Mandatory pass/ fail criteria  
No scoring criteria will be used at the Selection phase.
- 5.3.2 The selection questionnaire shall be marked against the following Mandatory or discretionary pass / fail criteria.

Selection Pass/fail criteria		
Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject
Selection Part B	SEL2.2	Conviction for conspiracy
Selection Part B	SEL2.3	Conviction for corruption
Selection Part B	SEL2.4	Conviction for bribery
Selection Part B	SEL2.5	Conviction for fraud
Selection Part B	SEL2.6	Conviction for Terrorism/ Serious Crime
Selection Part B	SEL2.7	Conviction for Money Laundering
Selection Part B	SEL 2.8	Conviction for proceeds of crime
Selection Part B	SEL 2.9	Conviction for other offences
Selection Part B	SEL 2.10	Tax and social security breaches
Selection Part B	SEL 2.12	Cyber Essentials
Selection Part C	SEL3.2	Compliance with applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law.
Selection Part C	SEL3.3	Bankruptcy, Insolvency or Winding up

Selection Part C	SEL3.4	Grave Professional misconduct
Selection Part C	SEL3.5	Agreements with other economic operators that create a Distortion of Competition
Selection Part C	SEL3.6	Conflict of interest within meaning of regulation 24
Selection Part C	SEL3.7	Distortion of competition within the meaning of regulation 41
Selection Part C	SEL3.8	Deficiencies in performance of prior public contract
Selection Part C	SEL3.9	Serious Misrepresentation
Selection Part C	SEL3.10	Tax Returns
Selection Part C	SEL3.11	Compliance to Modern Slavery Act 2015
Selection Part D	SEL4.1	Economic and Financial standing assessment
Selection Part D	SEL4.3	Guarantee
Selection Part D	SEL4.4	Insurance
Selection Part E	SEL5.1	References
Selection Part E	SEL5.2	Health and Safety Policy
Selection Part E	SEL5.3	Remedial Orders relating to Health and Safety Executive (or equivalent)
Selection Part E	SEL5.4	Conviction of breaching environmental Legislation
Selection Part E	SEL5.5	Sub-contractors infringement of environmental Legislation
Selection Part E	SEL5.6	Unlawful Discrimination
Selection Part E	SEL5.7	Sub-contractor checks for unlawful discrimination
Selection Part E	FOI1.1	Freedom of information
	In the event of a Bidder failing to meet the requirements of a Mandatory pass / fail criteria, UK SBS reserves the right to disqualify the Bidder and not consider evaluation of the any of the selection stage scoring methodology, nor the Award stage scoring methodology or Mandatory pass / fail criteria.	

- 5.3.3 Each Mandatory pass / fail question includes a clear definition of the requirements of a successful response to the question.
- 5.3.4 The evaluation model below shall be used for this RFP which will be determined to two decimal places.
- 5.3.5 Questions marked 'for information only' do not contribute to the scoring model.
- 5.3.5 During the evaluation stage, the intention is that only Bidders who pass all the Mandatory and Discretionary requirements of the RFP will be considered for award stage evaluation.



#### 5.4. AWARD questionnaire

- 5.4.1 The award questionnaire shall be marked against the following Mandatory or discretionary pass / fail criteria. Each Mandatory pass / fail question includes a clear definition of the requirements of a successful response to the question.

Award Pass/fail criteria		
Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject
Commercial	AW1.1	Form of Bid
Commercial	AW1.2	Bid validity period
Commercial	AW1.3	Certificate of bona fide Bid
Commercial	AW4.1	Compliance to the Contract Terms
Commercial	AW4.2	Changes to the Contract Terms
Price	AW5.1	Firm and fixed price
Price	AW5.3	Open book policy
Commercial	AW5.5	E Invoice
Quality	AW6.1	Compliance to the Specification
Quality	PROJ1.5	Governance
Quality	RROJ1.6	Monitoring and evaluation / SLA's
-	-	Request for Quotation response – received on time within the e-sourcing tool
	In the event of a Bidder failing to meet the requirements of a Mandatory pass / fail criteria, UK SBS reserves the right to disqualify the Bidder and not consider evaluation of the any of the selection stage scoring methodology, nor the Award stage scoring methodology or Mandatory pass / fail criteria.	

- 5.4.2 The Award questionnaire shall be marked against the following Award scoring criteria.
- 5.4.3 The evaluation model below shall be used for this RFP which will be determined to two decimal places.
- 5.4.4 Questions marked 'for information only' do not contribute to the scoring model.

## Award Scoring criteria

### Evaluation Justification Statement

In consideration of this particular requirement UK SBS has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this RFP. UK SBS 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	10%
Quality	PROJ1.1	Business Model	20%
Quality	PROJ1.2	Service Provision - Methodology	40%
Quality	PROJ1.3	External Influences	20%
Quality	PROJ1.4	Management	10%

## Award 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/Total Points available multiplied by 20 ( $60/100 \times 20 = 12$ )

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 10% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 10.

**Example** if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 6% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points available multiplied by 10 ( $60/100 \times 10 = 6$ )

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.
20	Extremely poor response – they have completely missed the point of the question.
40	Very poor response and not acceptable. Requires major revision to the proposal to make it acceptable. Only partially answers the requirement, with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed.

60	Poor response with deficiencies apparent. Some useful evidence provided but response falls well short of expectations. Low probability of success, sufficient obstacles but correctable
80	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire. Good probability of success, weaknesses can be readily corrected.
100	Response demonstrates they can meet a high performance level. High probability of success, no significant weaknesses noted. The response is compelling in its description of techniques and measurements to be employed.

All questions will be scored based on the above mechanism. Please be aware that there may be multiple evaluators. If so, their individual scores will be averaged (mean) to determine your final score as follows:

### Example

Evaluator 1 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 2 scored your bid as 40

Evaluator 3 scored your bid as 80

Evaluator 4 scored your bid as 60

Your final score will  $(60+40+80+60) \div 4 = 60$

### 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:  $\text{Score/Total Points} \times 50$  ( $80/100 \times 50 = 40$ )

The lowest score possible is 0 even if the price submitted is more than 100% greater than the lowest price.

## 5.5. Evaluation process

5.5.1 The evaluation process will feature some, if not all, the following phases

Stage	Summary of activity
Receipt and Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RFP logged upon opening in alignment with UK SBS's procurement procedures.</li><li>• Any RFP Bid received after the closing date will be rejected unless circumstances attributed to UK SBS or the e-sourcing tool beyond the bidder control are responsible for late submission.</li></ul>
Compliance check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check all Mandatory requirements are acceptable to UK SBS.</li><li>• Unacceptable Bids maybe subject to clarification by UK SBS or rejection of the Bid.</li></ul>
Scoring of the Bid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation team will independently score the Bid and provide a commentary of their scoring justification against the Selection criteria.</li></ul>
Clarifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Evaluation team may require written clarification to Bids</li></ul>
Re - scoring of the Bid and Clarifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Following Clarification responses, the Evaluation team reserve the right to independently re-score the Bid and Clarifications and provide a commentary of their re-scoring justification against the Selection criteria.</li></ul>
Shortlisting of Bidders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UK SBS will shortlist the Bidders based on the Responses received and the Evaluation Model detailed in Section 5 of the RFP.</li></ul>
Validation of unsuccessful Bidders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To confirm contents of the letters to provide details of scoring and relative feedback on the unsuccessful Bidders Bid in comparison with the successful Bidders Bid.</li></ul>

## **Section 6 – Selection and award questionnaires**

### **Section 6 – Selection questionnaire**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

The Selection questionnaires are located in the within the e-sourcing tool.

Guidance on completion of the questions are is available at  
<http://www.ukpbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/supplier.aspx>

**PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY**

## Section 6 – Award questionnaire

6.2 The Award questionnaires are located within the e-sourcing tool.

6.3 Guidance on completion of the questions is available at  
<http://www.ukpbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/supplier.aspx>

**PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY**

## Section 7 – General information

### 7.1. Introduction

- 7.1.1 UK SBS wishes to establish a Contract for the provision of Service offering advice, guidance, and support for Responsible Research and Innovation to the Information & Communications Technologies research community. UK SBS is managing this procurement process in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as may be amended from time to time) (the “Regulations”). This is a Services Contract being procured under the OJEU Open Procedure
- 7.1.2 UK SBS is procuring the Contract for add for Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- 7.1.3 UK SBS logo, trademarks and other identifying marks are proprietary and may not be incorporated in the Companies response without UK SBS’s written permission.
- 7.1.4 The Bidder shall indemnify and keep indemnified UK SBS against all actions, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, costs, losses, charges and expenses whatsoever in respect of any breach by the Bidder of this document.
- 7.1.5 If there is any doubt with regard to the ambiguity of any question or content contained in this questionnaire then PLEASE ASK a clarification question, but please ensure that your question is via the formal clarification process in writing to the UK SBS representative nominated. No approach of any kind in connection with this opportunity should be made to any other person within, or associated with UK SBS. All information secured outside of this named contact shall have no legal standing or worth and should not be relied upon.
- 7.1.6 It remains the responsibility of the Bidder to keep UK SBS informed of any matter that may affect continued qualification
- 7.1.7 Prior to commencing formal evaluation, Submitted Responses will be checked to ensure they are fully compliant with the Pass / Fail criteria within the Evaluation model. Non-compliant Submitted Responses may be rejected by UK SBS. Submitted Responses which are deemed by UK SBS to be fully compliant will proceed to evaluation. These will be evaluated using the criteria and scores detailed in the matrix set out in [Section 5](#).
- 7.1.8 Following evaluation of the submitted Responses and approval of the outcome UK SBS intends to select a short list of Bidders to proceed to Award stage of this Procurement.

- 7.1.9 Whilst it is UK SBS's [and any relevant Other Public Bodies] intention to purchase the majority of its services under this Contract Arrangement from the Supplier(s) appointed this does not confer any exclusivity on the appointed Suppliers. UK SBS and any relevant Other Public Bodies reserve the right to purchase any services and services (including those similar to the services covered by this procurement) from any Supplier outside of this Contract..
- 7.1.10 UK SBS reserves the right not to conclude a Contract as a result of the current procurement process. Bidders should review the contents of Section 7 paragraph 7.8.1 when considering submitting their Response.
- 7.1.11 The services covered by this procurement exercise have NOT been sub-divided into Lots.
- 7.1.12 UK SBS shall utilise the Crown Commercial Service (CCS – previously Government Procurement Service) Emptoris e-sourcing tool url <https://gpsesourcing.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sso/jsp/login.jsp> to conduct this procurement. There will be no electronic auction following the conclusion of the evaluation of the Request for Proposal (RFP) responses. Bidders will be specifically advised where attachments are permissible to support a question response within the e-sourcing tool. All enquiries with respect to access to the e-sourcing tool and problems with functionality within the tool may be submitted to Crown Commercial Service, Telephone 0345 010 3503.
- 7.1.13 Please utilise the messaging system within the e-sourcing tool located at <https://gpsesourcing.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sso/jsp/login.jsp> within the timescales detailed in Section 3. if you have any doubt as to what is required or will have difficulty in providing the information requested. Bidders should note that any requests for clarifications may not be considered by UK SBS if they are not articulated by the Bidder within the discussion forum within the e-sourcing tool.
- 7.1.14 Bidders should read this document, RFx attachments. messages and the evaluation questionnaires carefully before completing the Response submission. Failure to comply with any of these instructions for completion and submission of the Submitted Response may result in the rejection of the Response. Bidders are advised therefore to acquaint themselves fully with the extent and nature of the goods/services/goods and services and contractual obligations. These instructions constitute the Conditions of Response. Participation in the RFP process automatically signals that the Bidder accepts these Conditions.
- 7.1.15 All material issued in connection with this RFP shall remain the property of UK SBS and/or as applicable relevant OPB and shall be used only for the purpose of this procurement. All Due Diligence Information shall be either returned to UK SBS or securely destroyed by the Bidder (at UK SBS's option) at the conclusion of the procurement
- 7.1.16 The Bidder shall ensure that each and every sub-contractor, consortium member and adviser abides by the terms of these instructions and the Conditions of Response.
- 7.1.17 The Bidder shall not make contact with any other employee, agent or consultant of UK SBS or any relevant OPB or Customer who are in any way connected with this procurement during the period of this procurement, unless instructed otherwise by UK SBS.
- 7.1.18 UK SBS shall not be committed to any course of action as a result of:

- 7.1.18.1 issuing this RFP or any invitation to participate in this procurement ;
  - 7.1.18.2 an invitation to submit any Response in respect of this procurement;
  - 7.1.18.3 communicating with a Bidder or a Bidder's representatives or agents in respect of this procurement; or
  - 7.1.18.4 any other communication between UK SBS and/or any relevant OPB (whether directly or by its agents or representatives) and any other party.
- 7.1.19 Bidders shall accept and acknowledge that by issuing this RFP UK SBS shall not be bound to accept any Response and reserves the right not to conclude a Contract for some or all of the services for which Responses are invited.
- 7.1.20 UK SBS reserves the right to amend, add to or withdraw all or any part of this RFP at any time during the procurement.
- 7.1.21 Bidders should not include in the Response any extraneous information which has not been specifically requested in the RFP including, for example, any sales literature, standard terms of trading etc. Any such information not requested but provided by the Bidder shall not be considered by UK SBS.
- 7.1.22 If the Bidder is a consortium, the following information must be provided: full details of the consortium; and the information sought in this RFP in respect of each of the consortium's constituent members as part of a single composite response. Potential Providers should provide details of the actual or proposed percentage shareholding of the constituent members within the consortium as indicated in the relevant section of the selection questionnaire SEL1.9 specifically refers. If a consortium is not proposing to form a corporate entity, full details of alternative proposed arrangements should be provided as indicated in the relevant section of the RFP. However, please note UK SBS reserves the right to require a successful consortium to form a single legal entity in accordance with regulation 19(6) of the Regulations. UK SBS recognises that arrangements in relation to consortia may (within limits) be subject to future change. Potential Providers should therefore respond in the light of the arrangements as currently envisaged. Potential Providers are reminded that any future proposed change in relation to consortia must be notified to UK SBS so that it can make a further assessment by applying the selection criteria to the new information provided and consider rejection of the Response if UK SBS reasonably consider the change to have a material impact of the delivery of the viability of the Response.

## **7.2. Bidder conference**

- 7.2.1 A Bidders' Conference will not be held in conjunction with this procurement

## **7.3. Confidentiality**

- 7.3.1 Subject to the exceptions referred to in paragraph 7.3.2, the contents of this RFP are being made available by UK SBS on condition that:

- 7.3.1.1 Bidders shall at all times treat the contents of the RFP and any related documents (together called the 'Information') as confidential, save in so far as they are already in the public domain;



- 7.3.1.2 Bidders shall not disclose, copy, reproduce, distribute or pass any of the Information to any other person at any time or allow any of these things to happen;
- 7.3.1.3 Bidders shall not use any of the Information for any purpose other than for the purposes of submitting (or deciding whether to submit) a Response; and
- 7.3.1.4 Bidders shall not undertake any publicity activity within any section of the media in relation to this procurement
- 7.3.2 Bidders may disclose, distribute or pass any of the Information to the Bidder's advisers, sub-contractors or to another person provided that either:
  - 7.3.2.1 This is done for the sole purpose of enabling a Response to be submitted and the person receiving the Information undertakes in writing to keep the Information confidential on the same terms as if that person were the Bidder; or
  - 7.3.2.2 The disclosure is made for the sole purpose of obtaining legal advice from external lawyers in relation to the procurement or to any Contract arising from it; or
  - 7.3.2.3 The Bidder is legally required to make such a disclosure
- 7.3.3 In paragraphs 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 above the term 'person' includes but is not limited to any person, firm, body or association, corporate or incorporate.
- 7.3.4 UK SBS may disclose detailed information relating to Responses to its employees, agents or advisers and UK SBS may make any of the Contract documents available for private inspection by its officers, employees, agents or advisers. UK SBS also reserves the right to disseminate information that is materially relevant to the procurement to all Bidders, even if the information has only been requested by one Bidder, subject to the duty to protect each Bidder's commercial confidentiality in relation to its Response (unless there is a requirement for disclosure as explained in paragraphs 7.4.1 to 7.4.3 below).
- 7.3.5 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, UK SBS 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 UK SBS during this Procurement. Subject to section 7.4 below, the information will not be disclosed outside Government. Bidders taking part in this RFP consent to these terms as part of the competition process.
- 7.3.6 From 2nd April 2014 the Government is introducing its new Government Security Classifications ("GSC") classification scheme 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 from 2nd April 2014. The link below to the Gov.uk website provides information on the new GSC: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>

- 7.3.7 UK SBS reserves the right to amend any security related term or condition of the draft contract accompanying this RFP to reflect any changes introduced by the GSC. In particular where this RFP 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.

#### **7.4 Freedom of information**

- 7.4.1 In accordance with the obligations and duties placed upon public authorities by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FoIA') and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the 'EIR') (each as amended from time to time), UK SBS may be required to disclose information submitted by the Bidder to the UK SBS.
- 7.4.2 In respect of any information submitted by a Bidder that it considers to be commercially sensitive the Bidder should complete the Freedom of Information declaration question defined in the Question FOI1.2.
- 7.4.3 Where a Bidder identifies information as commercially sensitive, UK SBS will endeavour to maintain confidentiality. Bidders should note, however, that, even where information is identified as commercially sensitive, UK SBS may be required to disclose such information in accordance with the FoIA or the Environmental Information Regulations. In particular, UK SBS is required to form an independent judgment concerning whether the information is exempt from disclosure under the FoIA or the EIR and whether the public interest favours disclosure or not. Accordingly, UK SBS cannot guarantee that any information marked 'confidential' or "commercially sensitive" will not be disclosed.
- 7.4.4 Where a Bidder receives a request for information under the FoIA or the EIR during the procurement, this should be immediately passed on to UK SBS and the Bidder should not attempt to answer the request without first consulting with UK SBS.
- 7.4.5 Bidders are reminded that the Government's transparency agenda requires that sourcing documents, including RFP templates such as this, are published on a designated, publicly searchable web site, and, that the same applies to other sourcing documents issued by UK SBS, and any contract entered into by UK SBS with its preferred supplier once the procurement is complete. By submitting a response to this RFP Bidders are agreeing that their participation and contents of their Response may be made public.

#### **7.5. Response Validity**

- 7.5.1 Your Response should remain open for consideration for a period of 90 days. A Response valid for a shorter period may be rejected.

## **7.6. Timescales**

- 7.6.1 [Section 3](#) of the RFP sets out the proposed procurement timetable. UK SBS reserves the right to extend the dates and will advise potential Bidders of any change to the dates.

## **7.7. UK SBS's Contact Details**

- 7.7.1 Unless stated otherwise in these Instructions or in writing from UK SBS, all communications from Bidders (including their sub-contractors, consortium members, consultants and advisers) during the period of this procurement must be directed through the e-sourcing tool to the designated UK SBS contact.
- 7.7.2 All enquiries with respect to access to the e-sourcing tool may be submitted to Crown Commercial Service, Telephone 0345 010 3503.
- 7.7.3 Bidders should be mindful that the designated Contact should not under any circumstances be sent a copy of their Response outside of the e-sourcing tool. Failure to follow this requirement will result in disqualification of the Response.

## **7.8. Preparation of a Response**

- 7.8.1 Bidders must obtain for themselves at their own responsibility and expense all information necessary for the preparation of Responses. Bidders are solely responsible for all costs, expenses and other liabilities arising in connection with the preparation and submission of their Response and all other stages of the selection and evaluation process. Under no circumstances will UK SBS, or any of their advisers, be liable for any such costs, expenses or liabilities borne by Bidders or their sub-contractors, suppliers or advisers in this process.
- 7.8.2 Bidders are required to complete and provide all information required by UK SBS in accordance with the Conditions of Response and the Request for Proposal. Failure to comply with the Conditions and the Request for Proposal may lead UK SBS to reject a Response.
- 7.8.3 UK SBS relies on Bidders' own analysis and review of information provided. Consequently, Bidders are solely responsible for obtaining the information which they consider is necessary in order to make decisions regarding the content of their Responses and to undertake any investigations they consider necessary in order to verify any information provided to them during the procurement.
- 7.8.4 Bidders must form their own opinions, making such investigations and taking such advice (including professional advice) as is appropriate, regarding their Responses, without reliance upon any opinion or other information provided by UK SBS or their advisers and representatives. Bidders should notify UK SBS promptly of any perceived ambiguity, inconsistency or omission in this RFP, any of its associated documents and/or any other information issued to them during the procurement.
- 7.8.5 Bidders must ensure that each response to a question is within any specified word count. Any responses with words in excess of the word count will only be considered up to the point where they meet the word count, any additional words beyond the volume defined in the word count will not be considered by the evaluation panel.
- 7.8.6 Bidders must ensure that each response to a question is not cross referenced to a response to another question. In the event of a Bidder adding a cross reference it will not be considered in evaluation.

## **7.9. Submission of Responses**

- 7.9.1 The Response must be submitted as instructed in this document through the e-sourcing tool. Failure to follow the instruction within each Section of this document, to omit responses to any of the questions or to present your response in alignment with any guidance notes provided may render the Response non-compliant and it may be rejected.
- 7.9.2 UK SBS may at its own absolute discretion extend the closing date and the time for receipt of Responses specified [Section 3](#).
- 7.9.3 Any extension to the RFP response period will apply to all Bidders.
- 7.9.4 Any financial data provided must be submitted in or converted into pounds sterling. Where official documents include financial data in a foreign currency, a sterling equivalent must be provided. Failure to adhere to this requirement will result in the Response not being considered.
- 7.9.5 UK SBS does not accept responsibility for the premature opening or mishandling of Responses that are not submitted in accordance with the instructions of this document.
- 7.9.6 The Response and any documents accompanying it must be in the English language
- 7.9.7 Bidders must submit their response through the e-sourcing tool:
- 7.9.8 Responses will be submitted any time up to the date indicated in [Section 3](#). Responses received before this deadline will be retained in a secure environment, unopened until this deadline has passed.
- 7.9.9 Responses received after the date indicated in [Section 3](#) shall not be considered by UK SBS unless the Bidder can justify the reason for the delay.
  - 7.9.9.1 The Bidder must demonstrate irrefutable evidence in writing they have made best endeavours to ensure the Response was received on time and that the issue was beyond their control.
  - 7.9.9.2 Any request for a late Response to be considered must be emailed to [bids@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:bids@uksbs.co.uk) in advance of 'the deadline' if a bidder believes their Response will be received late.
  - 7.9.9.3 UK SBS reserves the right to accept or reject any late Response without justification to the affected Bidder and make no guarantee it will consider any request for a late Response to be considered.

## **7.10. Canvassing**

- 7.10.1 Any Bidder who directly or indirectly canvasses any employee, or agent of UK SBS or its members or any relevant OPB or any of its employees concerning the establishment of the Contract or who directly or indirectly obtains or attempts to obtain information from any such officer, member, employee or agent or concerning any other Bidder, Response or proposed Response will be disqualified.

## **7.11. Disclaimers**

- 7.11.1 Whilst the information in this RFP, Due Diligence Information and supporting documents has been prepared in good faith, it does not purport to be comprehensive nor has it been independently verified.

7.11.2 Neither UK SBS, nor any relevant OPB's nor their advisors, nor their respective directors, officers, members, partners, employees, other staff or agents:

7.11.2.1 makes any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of the RFP; or

7.11.2.2 accepts any responsibility for the information contained in the RFP or for their fairness, accuracy or completeness of that information nor shall any of them be liable for any loss or damage (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation) arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication.

7.11.3 Any persons considering making a decision to enter into contractual relationships with UK SBS and/or, as applicable, relevant OPB following receipt of the RFP should make their own investigations and their own independent assessment of UK SBS and/or, as applicable, relevant OPB and its requirements for the goods/services/goods and services and should seek their own professional financial and legal advice. For the avoidance of doubt the provision of clarification or further information in relation to the RFP or any other associated documents (including the Schedules) is only authorised to be provided following a query made in accordance with Paragraph 7.15 of this RFP.

## **7.12. Collusive behaviour**

7.12.1 Any Bidder who:

7.12.1.1 fixes or adjusts the amount of its Response by or in accordance with any agreement or arrangement with any other party; or

7.12.1.2 communicates to any party other than UK SBS or, as applicable, relevant OPB the amount or approximate amount of its proposed Response or information which would enable the amount or approximate amount to be calculated (except where such disclosure is made in confidence in order to obtain quotations necessary for the preparation of the Response or insurance or any necessary security); or

7.12.1.3 enters into any agreement or arrangement with any other party that such other party shall refrain from submitting a Response; or

7.12.1.4 enters into any agreement or arrangement with any other party as to the amount of any Response submitted; or

7.12.1.5 offers or agrees to pay or give or does pay or give any sum or sums of money, inducement or valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any party for doing or having done or causing or having caused to be done in relation to any other Response or proposed Response, any act or omission,

shall (without prejudice to any other civil remedies available to UK SBS and without prejudice to any criminal liability which such conduct by a Bidder may attract) be disqualified.

## **7.13. No inducement or incentive**

- 7.13.1 The RFP is issued on the basis that nothing contained in it shall constitute an inducement or incentive nor shall have in any other way persuaded a Bidder to submit a Response or enter into the Contract or any other contractual agreement.

#### **7.14. Acceptance of the Contract**

- 7.14.1 The Bidder in submitting the Response undertakes that in the event of the Response being accepted by UK SBS and UK SBS confirming in writing such acceptance to the Bidder, the Bidder will within **30 days** of being called upon to do so by UK SBS execute the Contract in the form set out in the Contract Terms or in such amended form as may subsequently be agreed.

- 7.14.2 UK SBS shall be under no obligation to accept the lowest priced or any Response.

#### **7.15. Queries relating to the Response**

- 7.15.1 All requests for clarification about the requirements or the process of this procurement shall be made in through the e-sourcing tool unless where the e-sourcing tool is unavailable due to Emptoris or Crown Commercial Service system maintenance or failure when a clarification by email to the contact defined in [Section 3](#).

- 7.15.2 UK SBS will endeavour to answer all questions as quickly as possible, but cannot guarantee a minimum response time.

- 7.15.3 In the event of a Bidder requiring assistance uploading a clarification to the e-sourcing portal they should use the contact details defined in [Section 3](#).

- 7.15.4 No further requests for clarifications will be accepted after 5 days prior to the date for submission of Responses.

- 7.15.5 In order to ensure equality of treatment of Bidders, UK SBS intends to publish the questions and clarifications raised by Bidders together with UK SBS's responses (but not the source of the questions) to all participants on a regular basis.

- 7.15.6 Bidders should indicate if a query is of a commercially sensitive nature – where disclosure of such query and the answer would or would be likely to prejudice its commercial interests. However, if UK SBS at its sole discretion does not either; consider the query to be of a commercially confidential nature or one which all Bidders would potentially benefit from seeing both the query and UK SBS's response, UK SBS will:

- 7.15.6.1 invite the Bidder submitting the query to either declassify the query and allow the query along with UK SBS's response to be circulated to all Bidders; or

- 7.15.6.2 request the Bidder, if it still considers the query to be of a commercially confidential nature, to withdraw the query prior to the end of the closing date and time for Bidder clarifications.

- 7.15.7 UK SBS reserves the right not to respond to a request for clarification or to circulate such a request where it considers that the answer to that request would or would be likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

#### **7.16. Amendments to Response Documents**

- 7.16.1 At any time prior to the deadline for the receipt of Responses, UK SBS may modify the RFP by amendment. Any such amendment will be numbered and dated and

issued by UK SBS to all prospective Bidders. In order to give prospective Bidders reasonable time in which to take the amendment into account in preparing their Responses, UK SBS may, at its discretion, extend the time and/or date for receipt of Responses.

#### **7.17. Modification and withdrawal**

7.17.1 Bidders may modify their Response where allowable within the e-sourcing tool. No Response may be modified after the deadline for submission of Responses.

7.17.2 Bidders may withdraw their Response at any time prior the deadline for submission of Responses [or any other time prior to accepting the offer of a Contract]. The notice to withdraw the Response must be in writing and sent to UK SBS by recorded delivery or equivalent service and delivered to UK SBS at UK Shared Business Services Ltd, Procurement Policy Manager, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 1ET

#### **7.18. Right to disqualify or reject**

7.18.1 UK SBS reserves the right to reject or disqualify a Bidder where

7.18.1.1 the Bidder fails to comply fully with the requirements of this Request for Proposal or presents the response in a format contrary to the requirements of this document; and/or

7.18.1.2 the Bidder is guilty of serious misrepresentation in relation to its Response; expression of interest; or the Response process; and/or

7.18.1.3 there is a change in identity, control, financial standing or other factor impacting on the selection and/or evaluation process affecting the Bidder.

#### **7.19. Right to cancel, clarify or vary the process**

7.19.1 UK SBS reserves the right to:

7.19.1.1 cancel the evaluation process at any stage; and/or

7.19.1.2 require the Bidder to clarify its Response in writing and/or provide additional information. (Failure to respond adequately may result in the Bidder not being selected),

#### **7.20.. Notification of award**

7.20.1 UK SBS will notify the successful Bidder of the Contract award in writing and will publish an Award Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union in accordance with the Regulations within 30 days of the award of the contract.

7.20.2 As required by the Regulations all unsuccessful Bidders will be provided with an email advising the outcome of the submission of their RFP response.

## Appendix ‘A’ Glossary of Terms

TERM	MEANING
“UK SBS”	means UK Shared Business Services Ltd herein after referred to as UK SBS.
“Bid”, “Response”, “Submitted Bid”, or “RFP Response”	means the Bidders formal offer in response to this Request for Proposal
“Bidders”	means the organisations being invited to respond to this Request for Proposal
“Central Purchasing Body”	means a duly constituted public sector organisation which procures goods/services for and on behalf of contracting authorities
“Conditions of Bid”	means the terms and conditions set out in this RFP relating to the submission of a Bid
“Contract”	means the agreement to be entered by UK SBS and the Supplier following any award under the procurement
“Contracting Bodies”	means UK SBS and any other contracting authorities described in the OJEU Contract Notice
“Customer”	means the legal entity (or entities) for which any Contract agreed will be made accessible to.
“Due Diligence Information”	means the background and supporting documents and information provided by UK SBS for the purpose of better informing the Bidders responses to this Request for Proposal
"EIR"	mean the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or relevant Government department in relation to such regulations
FoIA	means the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and any subordinate legislation made under such Act from time to time together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or relevant Government department in relation to such legislation
“Lot”	means a discrete sub-division of the requirements
“Mandatory”	Means a pass / fail criteria which must be met in order for a Bid to be considered, unless otherwise specified.
“OJEU Contract Notice”	means the advertisement issued in the Official Journal of the European Union
“Order”	means an order for served by any Contracting Body on the Supplier
“Other Public Bodies”	means all Contracting Bodies except UK SBS
“Request for Proposal” or “RFP”	means this Request for Proposal documentation and all related documents published by UK SBS and made available to Bidders and includes the Due Diligence Information. <b>NOTE:</b> This document is often referred to as an Invitation to Tender within other organisations
“Supplier”	means the organisation awarded the Contract
“Standard Goods /Services”	means any goods/services set out at within <a href="#">Section 4 Specification</a>



