

Information Notice and Opportunity to attend a Blue Belt Technology Workshop on 16 January 2019 in London, UK.

Project Ref: 25059 - Innovative Technological Solutions for Sea Fisheries Compliance and Enforcement in UK Overseas Territories

Background – UK Overseas Territories Blue Belt Programme

The Blue Belt Programme (the “Programme”) supports delivery of the UK Government’s manifesto commitment to provide long term protection of over four million square kilometres of marine environment across the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs). It provides £20 million over four years (2016 to 2020) to:

- Improve scientific understanding of the marine environment;
- Develop and implement evidence-based, tailored marine management strategies including surveillance and enforcement; and
- Ensure management is sustainable and long term.

The Programme is initially focused on seven islands and archipelagos: British Indian Ocean Territory, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, British Antarctic Territory, Pitcairn, St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha.

The Programme is being delivered in partnership between the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Marine Management Organisation (the “Authority”). The Programme is also working closely with the UKOTs on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The Programme is also committed to working with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), academics and external stakeholders to ensure it has access to world-leading research and experience as the Programme is delivered.

The Programme’s overall focus is to ensure that, in each UKOT, there are marine protection strategies that are:

- Designed, based on the best available scientific knowledge. The Programme will ensure that strategies are designed taking into account current and potential local marine uses, so that the plans balance the environmental protection with local social and economic needs;
- Legally designated in accordance with domestic legislation where appropriate;
- Effectively managed in accordance with comprehensive, locally-agreed Management Plans. These plans will bring together scientific baseline information with an analysis of current and future threats;

- Environmentally monitored, on the basis of cost-effective and sustainable plans to ensure the objectives and the designations are being delivered into the long-term; and
- Enforced through proven surveillance and enforcement tools. Enforcement will be targeted, risk-based and intelligence led.

Information Notice: Expected Upcoming Invitation to Tender (ITT)

New technologies have the potential to represent, and indeed define, the lasting legacy of the Programme. If implemented effectively, with sufficient consideration given as to their application in the context of the fisheries enforcement issues the UKOTs seek to address, then new technologies could represent a real ‘game-changer’ in terms of offering solutions to problems that were previously virtually impossible to address. Conversely, new technologies could be retrospectively perceived as an expensive ‘white elephant’ if implemented ineffectively.

As part of the Programme, the Authority intends to commission a project to provide bespoke Technology Roadmaps for each of the UKOTs. These will identify and appraise innovative solutions for addressing challenges associated with Marine Protected Area (MPA) management and sea fisheries compliance and enforcement in each UKOT, and set out a vision for what might be feasibly implemented and explored in the short, medium and long term.

If the Authority decides to proceed, it is expected that the ITT for this opportunity will be published on the Authority’s e-Tendering System (Bravo) around March 2019.

As the value of the project is expected to be below the relevant financial threshold, if this procurement proceeds, it will not be carried out in accordance with the PCR 2015 Regulations. However, the Authority will conduct the procedure fairly, openly and transparently.

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As part of the preparatory work for the above ITT, the Authority is currently mapping the challenges associated with MPA management and sea fisheries compliance and enforcement in each of the UKOTs, to frame the technology requirements for the Roadmaps.

On 16 January 2019, a workshop will be held in London for interested parties to primarily:

- Hear about Blue Belt technology innovation for fisheries monitoring and surveillance to date;
- Input to help the Authority identify and prioritise key requirements and challenges for fisheries compliance and enforcement for the UKOTs; and
- Input to help the Authority identify current and upcoming technology innovation projects and opportunities for collaboration, which can feed in to the Roadmaps.

The workshop will be attended by representatives of the UKOTs, NGOs and other interested parties.

Tenderers who may be interested in responding to the ITT are invited to attend the workshop. Any tenderer who does not attend the event will **not** be precluded from responding to the ITT. A readout of the event and relevant background will be made available shortly after the workshop, via Bravo's messaging portal.

If you would like to make a bid to attend the Blue Belt Technology Workshop on 16 January 2019, please respond by completing the spreadsheet which accompanies this notice and submit it via the Authority's e-Tendering System (Bravo) by 16:00 on 11 December 2018.

Responses received after 16:00 on 11 December 2018 will not be accepted or considered.

A maximum of two representatives per company/organisation may apply to attend the workshop. However, space at the event is limited, and as such, the Authority may have to limit the number of attendees. In the interests of fairness, if the workshop is oversubscribed, the Authority may have to limit attendance to one representative per organisation or exclude all potential tenderers from attending.

Responding via Bravo will be taken as confirmation that you will attend the workshop, subject to your place being confirmed. The Authority will aim to confirm whether or not you have a place by 14 December 2018 and provide further details at this time.

All successful applicants will cover their own costs of attending the workshop. However, refreshments will be provided during the workshop.

Any questions or clarifications **must** be submitted via the Authority's e-Tendering System (BRAVO).