

S1 - PRECEDENT CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF SERVICES

SECTION A

This Contract is dated **TBC** 2023.

Parties

- (1) **The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET (The Contracting Authority).**
- (2) **TBC** a company incorporated and registered in [COUNTRY] with company number [NUMBER] and registered VAT number [NUMBER] whose registered office is at [REGISTERED OFFICE ADDRESS]] [a partnership under the laws of [COUNTRY] whose address is [ADDRESS]] [a business with its trading address at [ADDRESS]] (**the Supplier**).

Background

The Contracting Authority wishes the Supplier to supply, and the Supplier wishes to supply, the Services (as defined below) in accordance with the terms of the Contract (as defined below).

A1 Interpretation

A1-1 **Definitions.** In the Contract (as defined below), the following definitions apply:

Agent: Where UK Shared Business Services is not the named Contracting Authority is Parties (1), UK SBS has been nominated as agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority and therefore all communications both written and verbal will be received as issued by the Contracting Authority.

Associated Bodies and Authorised Entities: Associated Bodies and Authorised Entities include but are not limited to The Science and Technology Facilities Council, The Medical Research Council, The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, The Economic and Social Research Council, The Natural Environment Research Council, The Arts and Humanities Research Council, The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, UK SBS Ltd, Central Government Departments and their Agencies, Further details of these organisations can be found at:

<http://www.uksbs.co.uk/services/procure/contracts/Pages/default.aspx>

Business Day: a day (other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday) when banks in London are open for business.

Charges: the charges payable by the Contracting Authority for the supply of the Services in accordance with clause B4.

Commencement: the date and any specified time that the Contract starts

Conditions: the terms and conditions set out in this document as amended from time to time in accordance with clause C7-11.

Confidential Information: any confidential information, knowhow and data (in any form or medium) which relates to UK SBS, the Contracting Authority or the Supplier, including information relating to the businesses of UK SBS, the Contracting Authority or the Supplier and information relating to their staff, finances, policies and procedures. This includes information identified as confidential in the

Order or the Special Conditions (if any).

Contract: the contract between the Contracting Authority and the Supplier for the supply of the Services, in accordance with these Conditions, any Special Conditions and the Order only.

Contracting Authority: The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy as specified at Section A (1) and any replacement or successor organisation.

Delivery Date (Services): the date or dates specified in the Order when the Services shall commence as set out in the Order and until the end date specified in the Order

Deliverables: all Documents, products and materials developed by the Supplier or its agents, contractors and employees as part of or in relation to the Services in any form, including computer programs, data, reports and specifications (including drafts).

Document: includes, in addition to any document in writing, any drawing, map, plan, diagram, design, picture or other image, tape, disk or other device or record embodying information in any form.

EIR: 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: The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and any subordinate legislation made under the 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.

GDPR: The General Data Protection Regulations as amended from time to time.

Information: has the meaning given under section 84 of FOIA.

Intellectual Property Rights: all patents, rights to inventions, utility models, copyright and related rights, trademarks, service marks, trade, business and domain names, rights in trade dress or get-up, rights in goodwill or to sue for passing off, unfair competition rights, rights in designs, rights in computer software, database right, topography rights, rights in confidential information (including know-how and trade secrets) and any other intellectual property rights, in each case whether registered or unregistered and including all applications for and renewals or extensions of such rights, and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection in any part of the world.

Order: the Contracting Authority's order for the Services, as set out in the Contracting Authority's completed purchase order form (including any Specification) which is in the format of the pro forma order form attached at **Error! Reference source not found..** For the avoidance of doubt, if the Contracting Authority's purchase order form is not in the format of the pro forma order form at **Error! Reference source not found.**, it will not constitute an Order.

Public Body: any part of the government of the United Kingdom including but not limited to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Committee, the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales, local authorities, government ministers and government departments and government agencies.

Request for Information: a request for Information or an apparent request under FOIA or EIR.

Services: The Services, including without limitation any Deliverables, Deliverables and Supplies required to complete the Services, to be provided by the Supplier under the Contract as set out in the Order.

Special Conditions: the special conditions (if any) set out in **Error! Reference source not found.**

Specification: any specification for the Services or Supplies, including any related plans and drawings that is supplied to the Supplier by the Contracting Authority, or produced by the Supplier and agreed in writing by the Contracting Authority.

Supplier or Suppliers: the parties to the contract as named in Section A (2).

Supplies: any such thing that the Supplier is required to Deliver, that does not require or include Services or Deliverables

Supplier's Associate: any individual or entity associated with the Supplier including, without limitation, the Supplier's subsidiary, affiliated or holding companies and any employees, agents or contractors of the Supplier and / or its subsidiary, affiliated or holding companies or any entity that provides Services for or on behalf of the Supplier.

TUPE: The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 as amended or replaced from time to time.

UK SBS: UK Shared Business Services Limited (a limited company registered in England and Wales with company number 06330639). Where UK SBS is not named as the Contracting Authority within section A (1), UK SBS will be acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority.

Working Day: any Business Day excluding 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 December in any year.

A1-2 **Construction.** In the Contract, unless the context requires otherwise, the following rules apply:

A1-2-1 A **person** includes a natural person, corporate or unincorporated body (whether or not having separate legal personality).

A1-2-2 A reference to a party includes its personal representatives, successors or permitted assigns.

A1-2-3 A reference to a statute or statutory provision is a reference to such statute or provision as amended or re-enacted. A reference to a statute or statutory provision includes any subordinate legislation made under that statute or statutory provision, as amended or re-enacted.

A1-2-4 Any phrase introduced by the terms **including, include, in particular** or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding those terms.

A1-2-5 The headings in these Conditions are for ease of reference only and do not affect the interpretation or construction of the Contract.

A1-2-6 A reference to **writing** or **written** includes faxes and e-mails.

A2 Basis of contract

A2-1 Where UK SBS is not the Contracting Authority, UK SBS is the agent of the Contracting Authority for the purpose of procurement and is authorised to negotiate and enter into contracts for the supply of Services on behalf of the Contracting Authority. UK SBS will not itself be a party to, nor have any liability under, the Contract unless it is expressly specified as Contracting Authority in the Order.

- A2-2 The terms of this Contract, any Special Conditions and the Order apply to the Contract to the exclusion of all other terms and conditions, including any other terms that the Supplier seeks to impose or incorporate (whether in any quotation, confirmation of order, in correspondence or in any other context), or which are implied by trade, custom, practice or course of dealing.
- A2-3 If there is any conflict or inconsistency between the terms of this Contract, the Special Conditions (if any) and the Order (including any Specification), the terms of the Contract will prevail over the Special Conditions and the Special Conditions will prevail over the Order (including any Specification), in each case to the extent necessary to resolve that conflict or inconsistency.
- A2-4 The Order constitutes an offer by the Contracting Authority to purchase the Services in accordance with this Contract (and any Special Conditions). This offer shall remain valid for acceptance by the Supplier, in accordance with clause A2-5, for 28 days from the date of the Order. Notwithstanding that after 28 days the offer will have expired, the Contracting Authority may, at its discretion, nevertheless treat the offer as still valid and may elect to accept acceptance by the Supplier, in accordance with clause A2-5, as valid acceptance of the offer.
- A2-5 Subject to clause A2-4, the Order shall be deemed to be accepted on the date on which authorised representatives of both parties have signed a copy of this Contract, at which point the Contract shall come into existence. The Contract shall remain in force until all the parties' obligations have been performed in accordance with the Contract, at which point it shall expire, or until the Contract has been terminated in accordance with clause A3.

A3 Termination

- A3-1 The Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority may terminate the Contract in whole or in part at any time before the Services are provided with immediate effect by giving the Supplier written notice, whereupon the Supplier shall discontinue all work on the Contract. The Contracting Authority shall pay the Supplier fair and reasonable compensation for work-in-progress at the time of termination, but such compensation shall not include loss of anticipated profits or any consequential loss. The Supplier shall have a duty to mitigate its costs and shall on request provide proof of expenditure for any compensation claimed.
- A3-2 The Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority may terminate the Contract with immediate effect by giving written notice to the Supplier if:
- A3-2-1 the circumstances set out in clauses B2-1-1, C3 or C4-1 apply;
 - A3-2-2 the Supplier breaches any term of the Contract and (if such breach is remediable) fails to remedy that breach within 30 days of being notified in writing of the breach; or
 - A3-2-3 the Supplier suspends, or threatens to suspend, payment of its debts or is unable to pay its debts as they fall due or admits inability to pay its debts or (being a company) is deemed unable to pay its debts within the meaning of section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986, or (being an individual) is deemed either unable to pay its debts or as having no reasonable prospect of so doing, in either case, within the meaning of section 268 of the Insolvency Act 1986, or (being a partnership) has any partner to whom any of the foregoing apply; or
 - A3-2-4 the Supplier commences negotiations with all or any class of its creditors with a view to rescheduling any of its debts, or makes a proposal for or enters into any compromise or arrangement with its creditors; or

- A3-2-5 (being a company) a petition is filed, a notice is given, a resolution is passed, or an order is made, for or in connection with the winding up of the Supplier; or
- A3-2-6 (being an individual) the Supplier is the subject of a bankruptcy petition or order; or
- A3-2-7 a creditor or encumbrancer of the Supplier attaches or takes possession of, or a distress, execution, sequestration or other such process is levied or enforced on or sued against, the whole or any part of its assets and such attachment or process is not discharged within 14 days; or
- A3-2-8 (being a company) an application is made to court, or an order is made, for the appointment of an administrator or if a notice of intention to appoint an administrator is given or if an administrator is appointed over the Supplier; or
- A3-2-9 (being a company) a floating charge holder over the Supplier's assets has become entitled to appoint or has appointed an administrative receiver; or
- A3-2-10 a person becomes entitled to appoint a receiver over the Supplier's assets or a receiver is appointed over the Supplier's assets; or
- A3-2-11 any event occurs, or proceeding is taken, with respect to the Supplier in any jurisdiction to which it is subject that has an effect equivalent or similar to any of the events mentioned in clause A3-2-3 to clause A3-2-10 inclusive; or
- A3-2-12 there is a change of control of the Supplier (within the meaning of section 1124 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010); or
- A3-2-13 the Supplier suspends, or threatens to suspend, or ceases or threatens to cease to carry on, all or substantially the whole of its business; or
- A3-2-14 the Supplier's financial position deteriorates to such an extent that in the Contracting Authority's opinion the Supplier's capability to adequately fulfil its obligations under the Contract has been placed in jeopardy; or
- A3-3 Termination of the Contract, however arising, shall not affect any of the parties' rights and remedies that have accrued as at termination. Clauses which expressly or by implication survive termination or expiry of the Contract shall continue in full force and effect.
- A3-4 Without prejudice to clause A3-3, clauses B1, B2, B5, **Error! Reference source not found.**, B6, B7, B8, C1, C2, C3, C4, C6 and C7 shall survive the termination or expiry of the Contract and shall continue in full force and effect.
- A3-5 Upon termination or expiry of the Contract, the Supplier shall immediately:
- A3-5-1 cease all work on the Contract;
- A3-5-2 Deliver to the Contracting Authority all Deliverables and all work-in-progress whether or not then complete. If the Supplier fails to do so, then the Contracting Authority may enter the Supplier's premises and take possession of them. Until they have been returned or delivered, the Supplier shall be solely responsible for their safe keeping and will not use them for any purpose not connected with this Contract;
- A3-5-3 cease use of and return (or, at the Contracting Authority's or UK SBS's acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority's election, destroy) all of the Contracting Authority's Materials in the Supplier's possession or control; and

A3-5-4 Cease all use of, and delete all copies of, UK SBS's or the Contracting Authority's or UK SBS's confidential information.

SECTION B

B1 Supply of Services

- B1-1 The Supplier shall from the date set out in the Contract and until the end date specified in the Contract provide the Services to the Contracting Authority in accordance with the terms of the Contract.
- B1-2 The Supplier shall meet any performance dates for the Services (including the delivery of Deliverables) specified in the Order (including any Special Conditions and any applicable Specification) or notified to the Supplier by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority.
- B1-3 In providing the Services, the Supplier shall:
- B1-3-1 co-operate with the Contracting Authority in all matters relating to the Services, and comply with all instructions of the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority;
 - B1-3-2 perform the Services with reasonable skill and care and in accordance with all generally recognised commercial standards and practices for services of the nature of the Services.
 - B1-3-3 use personnel who are suitably skilled and experienced to perform tasks assigned to them, and in sufficient number to ensure that the Supplier's obligations are fulfilled in accordance with this Contract;
 - B1-3-4 ensure that the Services and Deliverables will conform with all descriptions and specifications set out in the Contract (including any Special Conditions and any applicable Specification), and that the Deliverables shall be fit for any purpose expressly or impliedly made known to the Supplier by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority;
 - B1-3-5 provide all equipment, tools and vehicles and such other items as are required to provide the Services;
 - B1-3-6 use the best quality Supplies, materials, standards and techniques, and ensure that the Deliverables, and all Supplies and materials supplied and used in the Services or transferred to the Contracting Authority, will be free from defects in workmanship, installation and design;
 - B1-3-7 obtain and at all times maintain all necessary licences and consents, and comply with all applicable laws and regulations;
 - B1-3-8 observe all health and safety rules and regulations and any other security requirements that apply at any of the Contracting Authority's premises; and
 - B1-3-9 Not do or omit to do anything which may cause the Contracting Authority to lose any licence, authority, consent or permission on which it relies for the purposes of conducting its business, and the Supplier acknowledges that the Contracting Authority may rely or act on the Services.
- B1-4 The Contracting Authority's rights under the Contract are without prejudice to and in addition to the statutory terms implied in favour of the Contracting Authority under the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 and any other applicable legislation.
- B1-5 Without prejudice to the Contracting Authority's statutory rights, the Contracting Authority will not be deemed to have accepted any Deliverables until the Contracting Authority has had at least 14 Working Days after delivery to inspect

them and the Contracting Authority also has the right to reject any Deliverables as though they had not been accepted for 14 Working Days after any latent defect in the Deliverables has become apparent.

- B1-6 If, in connection with the supply of the Services, the Contracting Authority permits any employees or representatives of the Supplier to have access to any of the Contracting Authority's premises, the Supplier will ensure that, whilst on the Contracting Authority's premises, the Supplier's employees and representatives comply with:

B1-6-1 all applicable health and safety, security, environmental and other legislation which may be in force from time to time; and

B1-6-2 any Contracting Authority policy, regulation, code of practice or instruction relating to health and safety, security, the environment or access to and use of any Contracting Authority` laboratory, facility or equipment which is brought to their attention or given to them whilst they are on Contracting Authority's premises by any employee or representative of the Contracting Authority's.

- B1-7 The Supplier warrants that the provision of Services shall not give rise to a transfer of any employees of the Supplier or any third party to the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority pursuant to TUPE.

B2 Contracting Authority Remedies

- B2-1 If the Supplier fails to perform the Services by the applicable dates, the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority shall, without limiting its other rights or remedies, have one or more of the following rights:

B2-1-1 to terminate the Contract with immediate effect by giving written notice to the Supplier;

B2-1-2 to refuse to accept any subsequent performance of the Services (including delivery of Deliverables) which the Supplier attempts to make;

B2-1-3 to recover from the Supplier any costs incurred by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority in obtaining substitute Services from a third party;

B2-1-4 where the Contracting Authority has paid in advance for Services that have not been provided by the Supplier, to have such sums refunded by the Supplier; or

B2-1-5 To claim damages for any additional costs, loss or expenses incurred by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority which are in any way attributable to the Supplier's failure to meet such dates.

- B2-2 These Conditions shall extend to any substituted or remedial Services provided by the Supplier.

- B2-3 The Contracting Authority's rights under this Contract are in addition to its rights and remedies implied by statute and common law.

B3 Contracting Authority Obligations

- B3-1 The Contracting Authority shall:

B3-1-1 provide the Supplier with reasonable access at reasonable times to the Contracting Authority's premises for the purpose of providing the Services;

and

B3-1-2 Provide such information to the Supplier as the Supplier may reasonably request and the Contracting Authority considers reasonably necessary for the purpose of providing the Services.

B4 Charges and Payment

B4-1 The Charges for the Services shall be set out in the Order and shall be the full and exclusive remuneration of the Supplier in respect of the performance of the Services. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority, the Charges shall include every cost and expense of the Supplier directly or indirectly incurred in connection with the performance of the Services.

B4-2 Where the Order states that the Services are to be provided on a time and materials basis, the Charges for those Services will be calculated as follows:

B4-2-1 the charges payable for the Services will be calculated in accordance with the Supplier's standard daily fee rates (as at the date of the Order), subject to any discount specified in the Order;

B4-2-2 the Supplier's standard daily fee rates for each individual person will be calculated on the basis of an eight-hour day worked between such hours and on such days as are agreed by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority and the Supplier;

B4-2-3 the Supplier will not be entitled to charge pro-rata for part days without the prior written consent of the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority;

B4-2-4 the Supplier will ensure that every individual whom it engages to perform the Services completes time sheets recording time spent on the Services and the Supplier will use such time sheets to calculate the charges covered by each invoice and will provide copies of such time sheets to the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority upon request; and

B4-2-5 the Supplier will invoice the Contracting Authority monthly in arrears for its charges for time, as well as any previously agreed expenses and materials for the month concerned calculated as provided in this clause B4-2 and clause B4-3

B4-3 The Contracting Authority will reimburse the Supplier at cost for all reasonable travel, subsistence and other expenses incurred by individuals engaged by the Supplier in providing the Services to the Contracting Authority provided that the Contracting Authority's prior written approval is obtained before incurring any such expenses, that all invoices for such expenses are accompanied by valid receipts and provided that the Supplier complies at all times with Contracting Authority's expenses policy from time to time in force.

B4-4 The Supplier shall invoice the Contracting Authority on completion of the Services. Each invoice shall include such supporting information required by the Contracting Authority to verify the accuracy of the invoice, including but not limited to the relevant purchase order number.

B4-5 In consideration of the supply of the Services by the Supplier, the Contracting Authority shall pay the invoiced amounts within 30 days of the date of a correctly rendered invoice. Payment shall be made to the bank account nominated in writing by the Supplier unless the Contracting Authority agrees in writing to another payment method.

- B4-6 All amounts payable by the Contracting Authority under the Contract are exclusive of amounts in respect of value added tax chargeable for the time being (**VAT**). Where any taxable supply for VAT purposes is made under the Contract by the Supplier to the Contracting Authority, the Contracting Authority shall, on receipt of a valid VAT invoice from the Supplier, pay to the Supplier such additional amounts in respect of VAT as are chargeable on the supply of the Services at the same time as payment is due for the supply of the Services.
- B4-7 The Supplier shall maintain complete and accurate records of the time spent and materials used by the Supplier in providing the Services and shall allow the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority to inspect such records at all reasonable times on request.
- B4-8 The Supplier shall not be entitled to assert any credit, set-off or counterclaim against the Contracting Authority in order to justify withholding payment of any such amount in whole or in part. The Contracting Authority may, without limiting any other rights or remedies it may have, set off any amount owed to it by the Supplier against any amounts payable by it to the Supplier under the Contract.
- B4-9 The Supplier acknowledges and agrees that it will pay correctly rendered invoices from any of its suppliers or other sub-contractors within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.
- B4-10 The Supplier shall be obliged during its performance of the Contract to provide evidence to the Contracting Authority that payments being made to its subcontractors or supply chain, by either of the following methods:
- B4-10-1 information can be easily be obtained directly and free of charge by the Contracting Authority from a national database, with details provided by the Supplier on how the Contracting Authority may access this information at any time during the performance of the Contract when requested to do so by the Contracting Authority; or
- B4-10-2 the information shall be provided to the Contracting Authority by email free of charge on frequency advised below, such as the supplier has a sufficiency of invoice volumes to do so and that the volumes of invoices handled by the Supplier accurately represents the assurance sought.
- B4-11 The Supplier shall not be obliged to provide such above assurances to the Contracting Authority during the Contract by either of the above referred methods, in the following circumstances only:
- B4-11-1 if the Supplier in its performance of the Contract does not at any time need to engage a subcontractor; or
- B4-11-2 if the volumes of invoices processed by the Supplier in its performance of the Contract falls below the above required standard, due to the volumes of invoices processed by the Supplier, being particularly high or particularly low as measurement by percentage may distort the true picture. In such circumstances the Supplier shall suitably inform the Contracting Authority of either of these situations supported by a suitable declaration and supporting evidence in

For the avoidance of doubt, the Contracting Authority reserves the right at any time in considering the Suppliers submission or information secured via access to any national data base, to seek further explanation or declaration from the Supplier to ensure that payments meet the required obligations placed upon the Contracting Authority.

- B4-12 The Supplier shall without reservation assist the Contracting Authority to the reasonable extent as is requested, to assist the Contracting Authority to secure these assurances during the Contract.

- B4-13 In situations that the Contracting Authority is making payments to the Supplier without an Invoice, the absence of an invoice (e.g. timesheet submissions for services) does not waive any obligation regarding payments made to the Suppliers subcontractors or supply chain.

B5 Contracting Authority Property

- B5-1 The Supplier acknowledges that all information (including confidential information), equipment and tools, drawings, specifications, data, software and any other materials supplied by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority to the Supplier (**Contracting Authority's Materials**) and all rights in the Contracting Authority's Materials are and shall remain at all times the exclusive property of the Contracting Authority and UK SBS (as appropriate). The Supplier shall keep the Contracting Authority's Materials in safe custody at its own risk, maintain them in good condition until returned to the Contracting Authority or UK SBS, and not dispose or use the same other than for the sole purpose of performing the Supplier's obligations under the Contract and in accordance with written instructions or authorisation from the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority.

B6 Indemnity

- B6-1 The Supplier shall indemnify, and shall keep indemnified the Contracting Authority and UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority, in full against all costs, expenses, damages and losses (whether direct or indirect), including any interest, fines, legal and other professional fees and expenses awarded against or incurred or paid by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority as a result of or in connection with:
- B6-1-1 any claim made against the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority by a third party arising out of, or in connection with, the supply of the Services, to the extent that such claim arises out of the breach, negligent performance or failure or delay in performance of the Contract by the Supplier, its employees, agents or subcontractors; and
 - B6-1-2 any claim brought against the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority for actual or alleged infringement of a third party's Intellectual Property Rights arising out of, or in connection with, the receipt, use or supply of the Services; and
 - B6-1-3 Any claim whether in tort, contract, statutory or otherwise, demands, actions, proceedings and any awards arising from a breach by the Supplier of clause B1-7 of these Conditions.
- B6-2 This clause B6 shall survive termination or expiry of the Contract.

B7 Insurance

- B7-1 During the term of the Contract and for a period of 3 years thereafter, the Supplier shall maintain in force the following insurance policies with reputable insurance companies:

B7-1-1 professional Indemnity insurance for not less than £ 1 million per claim;

B7-1-2 public liability insurance for not less than £ 1 million per claim (unlimited claims); [and]

- B7-1-3 employer liability insurance for not less than £ 1 million per claim (unlimited claims); [and]
- B7-1-4 product liability insurance for not less than £1 million for claims arising from any single event and not less than £1 million in aggregate for all claims arising in a year.
- B7-1-5 The Supplier shall ensure that the Contracting Authority's interest is noted on each insurance policy, or that a generic interest clause has been included.
- B7-2 On request from the Contracting Authority's or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority, the Supplier shall provide the Contracting Authority or UK SBS with copies of the insurance policy certificates and details of the cover provided.
- B7-3 The Supplier shall ensure that any subcontractors also maintain adequate insurance having regard to the obligations under the Contract which they are contracted to fulfil.
- B7-4 The Supplier shall:
 - B7-4-1 do nothing to invalidate any insurance policy or to prejudice the Contracting Authority's entitlement under it; and
 - B7-4-2 notify the Contracting Authority if any policy is (or will be) cancelled or its terms are (or will be) subject to any material change.
- B7-5 If the Supplier fails or is unable to maintain insurance in accordance with clause B7-1, the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority may, so far as it is able, purchase such alternative insurance cover as it deems to be reasonably necessary and shall be entitled to recover all reasonable costs and expenses it incurs in doing so from the Supplier.

B8 Liability

- B8-1 In this clause B8, a reference to the Contracting Authority or UK SBS's liability for something is a reference to any liability whatsoever which the Contracting Authority or UK SBS might have for it, its consequences, and any direct, indirect or consequential loss, damage, costs or expenses resulting from it or its consequences, whether the liability arises under the Contract, in tort or otherwise, and even if it results from the Contracting Authority's or UK SBS's negligence or from negligence for which the Contracting Authority's or UK SBS would otherwise be liable.
- B8-2 The Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority is not in breach of the Contract, and neither the Contracting Authority nor UK SBS has any liability for anything, to the extent that the apparent breach or liability is attributable to the Supplier's breach of the Contract.
- B8-3 Subject to clause B8-6, neither the Contracting Authority nor UK SBS acting as agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority shall have any liability for:
 - B8-3-1 any indirect or consequential loss or damage;
 - B8-3-2 any loss of business, rent, profit or anticipated savings;
 - B8-3-3 any damage to goodwill or reputation;
 - B8-3-4 loss, theft, damage or destruction to any equipment, tools, machinery, vehicles or other equipment brought onto the Contracting Authority's premises by or on behalf of the Supplier; or

- B8-3-5 Any loss, damage, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by any third party.
- B8-4 Subject to clause B8-6, the Contracting Authority and UK SBS's total liability shall be limited to the Charges.
- B8-5 [Subject to clause B8-6, the Supplier's total liability in connection with the Contract shall be limited to £1,000,000.
- B8-6 Nothing in the Contract restricts either the Contracting Authority, UK SBS or the Supplier's liability for:
- B8-6-1 death or personal injury resulting from its negligence; or
- B8-6-2 its fraud (including fraudulent misrepresentation); or
- B8-6-3 Breach of any obligations as to title implied by Section 12 of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 or Section 2 of the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982.

SECTION C

C1 Confidential Information

- C1-1 A party who receives Confidential Information shall keep in strict confidence (both during the term of the Contract and after its expiry or termination) all Confidential Information which is disclosed to it. That party shall only disclose such Confidential Information to those of its employees, agents or subcontractors who need to know the same for the purpose of discharging that party's obligations under the Contract, and shall ensure that such employees, agents or subcontractors shall keep all such information confidential in accordance with this clause C1. Neither party shall, without the prior written consent of the other party, disclose to any third party any Confidential Information, unless the information:
- C1-1-1 was public knowledge or already known to that party at the time of disclosure; or
- C1-1-2 subsequently becomes public knowledge other than by breach of the Contract; or
- C1-1-3 subsequently comes lawfully into the possession of that party from a third party; or
- C1-1-4 Is agreed by the parties not to be confidential or to be disclosable.
- C1-2 To the extent necessary to implement the provisions of the Contract (but not further or otherwise), either party may disclose the Confidential Information to any relevant governmental or other authority or regulatory body, provided that before any such disclosure that party shall make those persons aware of its obligations of confidentiality under the Contract and shall use reasonable endeavours to obtain a binding undertaking as to confidentiality from all such persons.
- C1-3 All documents and other records (in whatever form) containing Confidential Information supplied to or acquired by a party from the other party shall be returned promptly to the other party (or, at the election of the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority, destroyed) on expiry or termination of the Contract, and no copies shall be kept.

C2 Transparency

- C2-1 The Supplier acknowledges that the United Kingdom Government's transparency agenda requires that contracts, such as the Contract, and any sourcing document, such as the invitation to sourcing, are published on a designated, publicly searchable website.
- C2-2 The Supplier acknowledges that, except for any information which is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of FOIA, the content of the Contract is not Confidential Information. The Contracting Authority and or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority shall be responsible for determining in their absolute discretion whether any of the content of the Contract is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of FOIA.
- C2-3 Notwithstanding any other term of the Contract, the Supplier hereby consents to the Contracting Authority and or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority publishing the Contract in its entirety, (but with any information which is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of FOIA redacted) including from time to time agreed changes to the Contract, to the general public.

C3 Force Majeure

- C3-1 If any event or circumstance that is beyond the reasonable control of the Supplier, and which by its nature could not have been foreseen by the Supplier or, if it could have been foreseen, was unavoidable, (provided that the Supplier shall use all reasonable endeavours to cure any such events or circumstances and resume performance under the Contract) prevent the Supplier from carrying out its obligations under the Contract for a continuous period of more than 10 Business Days, the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority may terminate this Contract immediately by giving written notice to the Supplier

C4 Corruption

- C4-1 The Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority shall be entitled to terminate the Contract immediately and to recover from the Supplier the amount of any loss resulting from such termination if the Supplier or a Supplier's Associate:
- C4-1-1 offers or agrees to give any person working for or engaged by the Contracting Authority, UK SBS or any Public Body any favour, gift or other consideration, which could act as an inducement or a reward for any act or failure to act connected to the Contract, or any other agreement between the Supplier and Contracting Authority, or UK SBS or any Public Body, including its award to the Supplier or a Supplier's Associate and any of the rights and obligations contained within it;
 - C4-1-2 has entered into the Contract if it has knowledge that, in connection with it, any money has been, or will be, paid to any person working for or engaged by the Contracting Authority, or UK SBS or any Public Body by or for the Supplier, or that an agreement has been reached to that effect, unless details of any such arrangement have been disclosed in writing to the Contracting Authority, or UK SBS before the Contract is entered into;
 - C4-1-3 breaches the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1889 to 1916, or the Bribery Act 2010; or
 - C4-1-4 Gives any fee or reward the receipt of which is an offence under Section 117(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

C4-2 For the purposes of clause C4-1, "loss" shall include, but shall not be limited to:

C4-2-1 The Contracting Authority's or UK SBS's costs in finding a replacement supplier;

C4-2-2 direct, indirect and consequential losses; and

C4-2-3 Any loss suffered by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS as a result of a delay in its receipt of the Services.

C5 Data Protection

C5-1 The Supplier shall comply at all times with all data protection legislation applicable in the UK.

C6 Freedom of Information

C6-1 The Supplier acknowledges that the Contracting Authority and or UK SBS may be subject to the requirements of FOIA and EIR and shall assist and co-operate with the Contracting Authority and or UK SBS to enable them to comply with its obligations under FOIA and EIR.

C6-2 The Supplier shall and shall procure that its employees, agents, sub-contractors and any other representatives shall provide all necessary assistance as reasonably requested by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS to enable the Contracting Authority or UK SBS to respond to a Request for Information within the time for compliance set out in section 10 of FOIA or regulation 5 of EIR.

C6-3 The Contracting Authority and or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority shall be responsible for determining (in its absolute discretion) whether any Information:

C6-3-1 is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of FOIA or EIR;

C6-3-2 is to be disclosed in response to a Request for Information,

And in no event shall the Supplier respond directly to a Request for Information unless expressly authorised to do so in writing by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority.

C6-4 The Supplier acknowledges that the Contracting Authority and or UK SBS may be obliged under the FOIA or EIR to disclose Information, in some cases even where that Information is commercially sensitive:

C6-4-1 without consulting with the Supplier, or

C6-4-2 Following consultation with the Supplier and having taken its views into account.

C6-5 Where clause C6-4-2 applies the Contracting Authority and or UK SBS shall, in accordance with any recommendations issued under any code of practice issued under section 45 of FOIA, take reasonable steps, where appropriate, to give the Supplier advanced notice, or failing that, to draw the disclosure to the Supplier's attention as soon as practicable after any such disclosure.

C6-6 Where the Supplier organisation is subject to the requirements of the FOIA and EIR, C6-7 will supersede C6-2 – C6-5. Where the Supplier organisation is not subject to the requirements of the FOIA and EIR, C6-7 will not apply.

C6-7 The Contracting Authority and UK SBS acknowledge that the Supplier may be subject to the requirements of the FOIA and EIR and shall assist and co-operate with the Supplier to enable them to comply with its obligations under the FOIA and EIR.

C7 General

C7-1 Entire Agreement

C7-1-1 The Contract constitutes the entire agreement between the Contracting Authority and the Supplier in relation to the supply of the Services and the Contract supersedes any earlier agreements, arrangements and understandings relating to that subject matter.

C7-2 Liability

C7-2-1 Where the Contracting Authority is more than one person, the liability of each such person for their respective obligations and liabilities under the Contract shall be several and shall extend only to any loss or damage arising out of each such person's own breaches.

C7-2-2 Where the Contracting Authority is more than one person and more than one of such persons is liable for the same obligation or liability, liability for the total sum recoverable will be attributed to the relevant persons in proportion to the price payable by each of them under the Contract.

C7-3 Assignment and Subcontracting

C7-3-1 The Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority may at any time assign, transfer, charge, subcontract or deal in any other manner with any or all of its rights or obligations under the Contract.

C7-3-2 The Supplier may not assign, transfer, charge, subcontract or deal in any other manner with any or all of its rights or obligations under the Contract without prior written consent from the Contracting Authority's or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority.

C7-3-3 For above threshold procurements, The Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority may (without cost to or liability of the Contracting Authority or UK SBS) require the Supplier to replace any subcontractor where in the reasonable opinion of the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority any mandatory or discretionary grounds for exclusion referred to in Regulation 57 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 apply to the subcontractors.

C7-4 Further Assurance

C7-4-1 The Supplier will promptly at the request of the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority do (or procure to be done) all such further acts and things, including the execution of all such other documents, as either the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority may from time to time require for the purpose of securing for the Contracting Authority the full benefit of the Contract, including ensuring that all title in the Supplies is transferred absolutely to the Contracting Authority.

C7-5 Publicity

C7-5-1 The Supplier shall not make any press announcements or publicise this Contract in any way without prior written consent from the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority.

C7-5-2 The Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the

Contracting Authority shall be entitled to publicise this Contract in accordance with any legal obligation upon Contracting Authority or UK SBS, including any examination of this Contract by the National Audit Office pursuant to the National Audit Act 1983 or otherwise.

C7-5-3 The Supplier shall not do anything or cause anything to be done, which may damage the reputation of the Contracting Authority or UK SBS or bring the Contracting Authority or UK SBS into disrepute.

C7-6 Notices

C7-6-1 Any notice or other communication given to a party under or in connection with the Contract shall be in writing, addressed to:

C7-6-1-a in the case of the Contracting Authority: The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET; Email: professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 1FF.

C7-6-1-b in the case of the Supplier: the address, fax number and email address set out in the Order, or any other address, fax number or email address which that party may have specified to the other party in writing in accordance with this clause C7-6, and shall be delivered personally, or sent by pre-paid first-class post, recorded delivery, commercial courier, fax or e-mail.

C7-6-2 A notice or other communication shall be deemed to have been received: if delivered personally, when left at the address referred to in clause C7-6-1; if sent by pre-paid first-class post or recorded delivery, at 9.00 am on the second Working Day after posting; if delivered by commercial courier, on the date and at the time that the courier's delivery receipt is signed; or, if sent by fax or e-mail between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm on a Working Day, upon successful transmission (provided that the sender holds written confirmation automatically produced by the sender's fax machine of error free and complete transmission of that fax to the other party's fax number), or if sent by fax or e-mail outside the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm on a Working Day, at 9.00am on the next Working Day following successful transmission (provided that the sender holds written confirmation automatically produced by the sender's fax machine of error free and complete transmission of that fax to the other party's fax number).

C7-6-3 This clause C7-6-3 shall only apply where UK SBS is not the Contracting Authority. In such cases, UK SBS may give or receive any notice under the Contract on behalf of the Contracting Authority and any notice given or received by UK SBS will be deemed to have been given or received by the Contracting Authority.

C7-6-4 Except for clause **Error! Reference source not found.**, The provisions of this clause C7-6 shall not apply to the service of any proceedings or other documents in any legal action.

C7-7 Severance

C7-7-1 If any court or competent authority finds that any provision of the Contract (or part of any provision) is invalid, illegal or unenforceable, that provision or part-provision shall, to the extent required, be deemed to be deleted, and the validity and enforceability of the other provisions of the Contract shall not be affected.

C7-7-2 If any invalid, unenforceable or illegal provision of the Contract would be valid, enforceable and legal if some part of it were deleted, the provision

shall apply with the minimum modification necessary to make it legal, valid and enforceable.

- C7-8 **Waiver.** A waiver of any right or remedy under the Contract is only effective if given in writing and shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach or default. No failure or delay by a party to exercise any right or remedy provided under the Contract or by law shall constitute a waiver of that or any other right or remedy, nor shall it preclude or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy. No single or partial exercise of such right or remedy shall preclude or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy.
- C7-9 **No Partnership, Employment or Agency.** Nothing in the Contract creates any partnership or joint venture, nor any relationship of employment, between the Supplier and either the Contracting Authority or UK SBS. Nothing in the Contract creates any agency between the Supplier and either the Contracting Authority or UK SBS.
- C7-10 **Third Party Rights.** A person who is not a party to this Contract shall not have any rights under or in connection with it, except that UK SBS and any member of the UK SBS, Associated Bodies or Authorised Entities that derives benefit under this Contract may directly enforce or rely on any terms of this Contract.
- C7-11 **Variation.** Any variation to the Contract, including any changes to the Services, these Conditions, the Special Conditions or the Order, including the introduction of any additional terms and conditions, shall only be binding when agreed in writing by the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority and the Supplier.
- C7-12 **Governing Law and Jurisdiction.**
- C7-12-1 Subject to clause C7-12-2, the Contract, and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims), shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, English law, and the parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.
- C7-12-2 The Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority shall be free to enforce its intellectual property rights in any jurisdiction.
- C7-13 **Modern Slavery Act 2015**
- C7-13-1 The Supplier shall not use, or allow its Subcontractors to use, forced, bonded or involuntary prison labour;
- C7-13-2 shall not require any Contract or staff or Subcontractor staff to lodge deposits or identify papers with the Employer or deny Supplier staff freedom to leave their employer after reasonable notice;
- C7-13-3 warrants and represents that it has not been convicted of any slavery or human trafficking offences anywhere around the world.
- C7-13-4 warrants that to the best of its knowledge it is not currently under investigation, inquiry or enforcement proceedings in relation to any allegation of slavery or human trafficking offenses anywhere around the world.
- C7-13-5 shall make reasonable enquiries to ensure that its officers, employees and Subcontractors have not been convicted of slavery or human trafficking offences anywhere around the world.
- C7-13-6 shall have and maintain throughout the term of each Contract its own policies and procedures to ensure its compliance with the Modern Slavery

Act 2015 and shall include in its contracts with its Subcontractors anti-slavery and human trafficking provisions;

C7-13-7 shall implement due diligence procedures to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in any part of its supply chain performing obligations under a Contract;

C7-13-8 shall not use, or allow its employees or Subcontractors to use, physical abuse or discipline, the threat of physical abuse, sexual or other harassment and verbal abuse or other forms of intimidation of its employees or Subcontractors;

C7-13-9 shall not use, or allow its Subcontractors to use, child or slave labour;

C7-13-10 shall report the discovery or suspicion of any slavery or trafficking by it or its Subcontractors to the Contracting Authority without delay during the performance of this Contract to utilise the following help and advice service, so as to ensure that it suitably discharges its statutory obligations.

The "Modern Slavery Helpline" refers to the point of contact for reporting suspicion, seeking help or advice and information on the subject of modern slavery available online at <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/report> or by telephone on 08000 121 700

C7-13-11 During the Term or any extension of the Contract, the Contracting Authority is committed to ensuring that its supply chain complies with the above Act.

C7-13-12 The Supplier shall provide a slavery and trafficking report covering the following but not limited to areas as relevant and proportionate to the Contract evidencing the actions taken, relevant to the Supplier and their supply chain associated with the Contract.

C7-13-12-a Impact assessments undertaken

C7-13-12-b Steps taken to address risk/actual instances of modern slavery and how actions have been prioritised

C7-13-12-c Evidence of stakeholder engagement

C7-13-12-d Evidence of ongoing awareness training

C7-13-12-e Business-level grievance mechanisms in place to address modern slavery

C7-13-12-f Actions taken to embed respect for human rights and zero tolerance of modern slavery throughout the organisation

C7-13-13 The Contracting Authority or UK SBS when acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority reserves the sole right to audit any and all slavery and trafficking reports submitted by the Supplier to an extent as deemed necessary and the Supplier shall unreservedly assist the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority in doing so.

C7-14 Changes in Costs Resulting from Changes to Government Legislation, Levies or Statutory Payments

The Contracting Authority will reimburse during any term or extension (or, where such costs, awards or damages arise following termination/expiry) of this Agreement, any increases in the Supplier's cost of providing the Services by

reason of any modification or alteration to the Government legislation duties or levies or other statutory payments (including but not limited to National Insurance and/or VAT and/or introduction of or amendment to working time minimum wages). Subject always to open book access to the Supplier's records and always after a period of due diligence carried out by the Contracting Authority, relevant and proportionate to the value concerned.

C7-15 Taxation Obligations of the Supplier

C7-15-1 The relationship between the Contracting Authority, UK SBS and the Supplier will be that of "independent contractor" which means that the Supplier is not an employee, worker, agent or partner of the Contracting Authority or UK SBS and the Supplier will not give the impression that they are.

(1.) The Supplier in respect of consideration shall at all times comply with the income tax Earnings and Pensions Act 2003 (ITEPA) and all other statutes and regulations relating to income tax in respect of that consideration.

(2.) Where Supplier is liable to National Insurance Contributions (NICs) in respect of consideration received under this contract, it shall at all times comply with the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (SSCBA) and all other statutes and regulations relating to NICs in respect of that consideration.

(3.) The Contracting Authority may, at any time during the term, completion extension or post termination of this contract, request (Supplier) to provide information which demonstrates how Supplier complies with its obligations under tax and National Insurance Clauses (1) and (2) above or why those clauses do not apply to it.

C7-15-2 As this is not an employment Contract the Supplier will be fully responsible for all their own tax including any national insurance contributions arising from carrying out the Services.

C7-15-3 A request under Clause (3) above may specify the information which Supplier shall provide and the period within which that information must be provided.

C7-15-4 In the case of a request mentioned in Clause (3) above, the provision of inadequate information or a failure to provide the information within the requested period, during any term or extension, may result in the Contracting Authority terminating the contract.

C7-15-5 Any obligation by Supplier to comply with Clause (1) and (2) shall survive any extension, completion or termination and Supplier obligations to Indemnify the Contracting Authority shall survive without limitation and until such time as any of these obligations are complied with.

C7-15-6 The Contracting Authority may supply any information, including which it receives under clause (3) to the commissioners of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for the purpose of the collection and management of revenue for which they are responsible.

C7-15-7 If the Contracting Authority or UK SBS acting as an agent on behalf of the Contracting Authority has to pay any such tax under clauses (1) and (2) then the Supplier will pay back to the Contracting Authority or UK SBS in full, any money that the Contracting Authority or UK SBS has to pay, and they will also pay back the Contracting Authority or UK SBS for any fine or other punishment imposed on the Contracting Authority or UK SBS because the tax or national insurance was not paid by the Supplier.

Schedule 2

Specification

1. Background

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) was created in January 2018 by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and takes forward the work of the previous Regulatory Delivery directorate. Responsibilities of OPSS include:

- Giving detailed advice on the interpretation of safety related regulations, and sits on many standard making committees.
- Responding to incidents where the safety of a consumer product is called into question.
- Offering policy advice to HMG on product safety issues.
- Enforcement of a wide range of other product standards and regulations, including WEEE, RoHS, Ivory and Conflict Mineral regulations.
- Support of businesses through an expanded “Primary Authority” scheme to act as a single point of information for a wide variety of regulations impacting business.
- The work of the former National Measurement Office (NMO) is also within OPSS, which brings a world class test and measurement capability.

This project is being recruited as part of the BEIS Office for Product Safety and Standards Strategic Research Programme (SRP), which was launched in March 2018. This programme provides high quality strategic science-based research to strengthen the evidence base for Safety and Standards policy development, delivery and enforcement, giving business the confidence to innovate and protecting consumers from unsafe products. The wide range of evidence-based research supported by the SRP helps to address critical questions relating to current product safety, and/or issues that might arise due to future market developments.

Digital technologies such as digital twins are becoming more prevalent and integrated into everyday life. The conventional application of a digital twin is used for high cost, low volume assets such as aircraft engines and submarines, however recently the technology is being developed and integrated into lower cost, high volume assets that fall within the consumer product space – an example being EV batteries and chargers.

The UK digital twin market is estimated to grow faster than the global average and will represent almost 7% of the global value by 2026. Currently, the largest applications are in manufacturing, automotive and healthcare, however the consumer goods sector, being typically classed as “low cost, high volume” assets, is among the top 7 sectors to follow this and is rapidly growing.

It is therefore essential to fully explore and understand the current landscape of digital twins and other digital innovations against OPSS’ remit and areas of responsibility and how it may impact us in the future.

The work will inform how OPSS can prepare to maximise the benefits of these technologies as the applications are growing rapidly. The research is focused on the application of digital innovations such as digital twins to consumer products regulated by OPSS (this excludes vehicles and medical devices).

Due to the anticipated breadth and wide remit of this study, it should provide applicable

conclusions and recommendations related to sectors of interest which may lead to further research being commissioned for a deeper dive in some of those areas. The study should also inform where and how OPSS should position itself in order to maximise the benefits of this technology such as enhancing consumer safety and/or reducing regulatory burdens (for example, to make product testing more efficient).

2. Aims and Objectives of the Project

The aim of this research is to strengthen our knowledge and understanding of digital twins and other relevant digital innovations including how we should position ourselves in order to maximise the benefits and opportunities of this technology, such as enhancing consumer safety and/or reduce regulatory burdens on businesses (e.g. with product testing). The research should also examine commercialisation of this technology in the consumer product sector and forecast the direction it will take over the next few years.

The study should identify current trends and the latest developments in digital innovations/twins through conducting a literature review and consulting experts. The review should cover the associated costs, efficacy, opportunities, barriers and challenges in addition to how the technology is applied to other sectors to explore its transferability to the consumer product sector. It should also consider impacts it could have on processes of bringing products to market and if there's a risk to current testing and conformity assessments if novel methods are adopted. An example being that if having a digital twin or other innovations meant that you could possibly relax some of the upfront testing or make it easier and cheaper to test products (for e.g. the National Physical Laboratory project on creating a digital test bed for face masks [1]), where this could also be used to demonstrate product compliance.

[1] <https://www.npl.co.uk/news/npl-creates-digital-test-bed-for-face-masks>

The project will involve conducting a literature review to scope out primarily the digital twin domain against OPSS' remit and areas of responsibility (with a focus on product safety & testing) and to understand what is currently out there in the low-cost, high-volume asset domain.

This technology appears to have lots of opportunity in improving safety of products. The project should look to explore what product manufacturers (e.g. large appliances) are doing in the digital twin space and how they are implementing and managing it. The research should also uncover some of the blockers and enablers for getting this to the consumer market along with what might accelerate or decelerate the move. As part of this, the study should highlight risks that OPSS should be aware of once products are on the market and the challenges on how products deemed unsafe/non-compliant are tested if digital twins were involved. It will also be beneficial to perform an assessment of the current legal and standards framework surrounding this technology and others of particular interest.

The review should cover all novel and advanced areas of digital twins/innovations in the consumer products space. This will cover technical details, how they work in practice, opportunities it provides, associated costs/resources, efficacy, and barriers to implementation. It is important to note that the research should not rule out exploring technologies applied to other sectors which may be more developed. This will be important

as it will capture any transferable knowledge/information that can be applied cross-sector.

It would be beneficial for the supplier to have knowledge and/or networks with a wide range of stakeholders who are actively developing and commercialising the technologies of interest in consumer products.

The project should develop at least one case study that is relevant to OPSS in the form of an application of a digital twin or novel technology in order to help contextualise some of the theoretical findings and use it to clearly picture some of the benefits, risks and challenges.

Overall research question:

How can digital twins/innovations support OPSS objectives*, including protecting consumers and reducing burden on businesses, and what are the associated risks?

*Link to the published OPSS strategy on gov.uk. [2]

[2] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/opss-product-regulation-strategy-2022-2025>

Further research questions on this topic are themed and centred around data, security/cyber security, operation and safety of the technologies being studied and how this would apply to the consumer product sector.

The anticipated breadth and wide remit of this study should provide evidence to support conclusions and recommendations related to sectors and areas of interest which may lead to further research being commissioned.

3. Suggested Methodology

We are open to the methodologies put forward by bidders, though it is suggested that the contractor will undertake the following activities:

- 1) Attend a formal kick off meeting virtually or at BEIS London office. This will include a check that the contractor understands the context and objectives of the work, the project working arrangements, and resolution of any queries regarding the detailed programme of work.
- 2) Write and submit a short Inception Report to confirm the agreed final programme of work, a list of suggested stakeholders and project timeline for sign off by the OPSS Project Management Officer (PMO).
- 3) Produce an interim report to contain the following:
 - a. Desk research and a review of the latest literature for digital innovations with a particular focus on digital twins, and its potential applications to consumer products covering the latest developments in this space. Explore what product manufacturers/businesses are doing in this space to further understand industries position with innovative technologies (i.e. Digital Twins) from a broad perspective.

- b. It is key to explore the possible applications in consumer products and include products already on the market and those that could emerge over the next decade. This should include an analysis of the different product sectors, an overview of the types of Digital Twins and other technologies that are being incorporated, how it works, how it is being implemented and insights into the development process and the challenges/risks they currently face. It should also assess the current legal and standards framework surrounding the technology and how this may impact safety to consumers.
 - c. Undertake preliminary desk research to identify key stakeholders to interview and inform topics for discussion. Structure a topic guide along with a list of identified stakeholders, why they were chosen and methodology for conducting the interviews should be provided to the OPSS Project Management Officer (PMO) for sign off.
- 4) Conduct consultations with key stakeholders (indicatively 15 – 20 interviews) from a range of sectors such as manufacturers, developers, industry/government bodies, conformity assessment bodies, test houses and academics to take a deeper dive into topics/areas of interest. The consultations will be used to supplement the findings from the desk analysis / research and gather market insights and the impact it's having on them. Consultations should be structured and analysed systematically. If wished, the Office can send a note of introduction to all stakeholders to explain the nature of the project and the contractor's role in it.
- 5) Produce a draft final report (indicatively 40 – 60 pages) incorporating findings from previous steps of the project including the desk research and stakeholder interviews and ultimately provide evidence to support conclusions and recommendations related to sectors and areas of interest for OPSS. The report should also incorporate one or multiple case studies to contextualise and help illustrate some of the theoretical findings. Submit to OPSS PMO for final review (2-3 weeks).
- 6) The final report will be peer reviewed* and the contractor should respond to any comments within two weeks.
- 7) Submit a final report to the satisfaction of OPSS PMO.
- 8) Create and deliver a presentation to disseminate the findings of the project to BEIS staff virtually or at the London office.

Case study examples based on actual or hypothetical examples should be used where useful to illustrate points made.

*Contractors should consider and include costs for the preparation and publication of the results of their work in peer reviewed journal(s) where relevant.

Project reporting: Generally a bi-monthly phone call, however this can be discussed at the kick off meeting.

4. Deliverables

1. Project kick off meeting and a short Inception report. (week 1)

2. Submit inception report. (*week 3*)
3. Literature review and desk-research, including market analysis (*weeks 1 – 7*)
4. Interim report containing research findings and sectors/focus areas identified for stakeholder consultations, including rationale and approach. (*weeks 6 – 10*)
5. Topic guide and stakeholder consultations (*weeks 10 – 13*)
6. Draft final report (indicatively 40 – 60 pages) to include findings from all previous steps (*weeks 11 – 18*)
7. Peer review final report (*weeks 18 – 20*)
8. Submit final report (*week 21*)
9. Presentation to BEIS staff (*week 22*)

BREAK CLAUSE: Unless terminated by the Department in accordance with the terms of the contract, the contract is to be for a period of 22 weeks with a break clause at the end of financial year 22/23 (31 March). Continuation of the contract at this point will be subject to approval of budgets for future financial year and satisfactory performance by the contractor.

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.

Schedule 3
The Charges for the Services

- 1 The Charges for the Goods and/or Services shall be as set out in this Schedule 3.
- 2 The Charges for the Goods and/or Services are set out in the Appendix to this Schedule 3.
- 3 The contract charges are as seen in the AW5.2 Price Schedule below; £**TBC** Excluding VAT.

For and on behalf of **TBC** (The Supplier)

Signed

Name

Position

Date

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For and on behalf of **The Department for
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
(The Contracting Authority)**

Signed

Name

Position

Date

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