



Request for Information (RFI) for Light Gun Post Design Services

27/05/2021

Contents

1. Notice to Reader and Disclaimer.....	3
2. Background.....	3
2.1. Project Governance	4
3. Light Gun Post Design Services Programme	4
3.1. Vision.....	4
4. Request for Information.....	5
4.1. Details of Request to Industry	5
5. Project Timeline	5
5.1 Project Timeline and Key Dates.....	5
6. Market Engagement.....	5
6.1. Requests for Information.....	5
6.2. Communicating with the MOD's Project Team	6
7. Responses.....	6
7.1. Responding to this RFI	6
7.2. Clarification Questions	6
7.3. Response Timelines	6
8. Commercial.....	7
8.1. MOD Commercial Notice – Subject to Contract	7
8.2. Supplier Commercially Sensitive/Confidential Information.....	7

1. Notice to Reader and Disclaimer

This RFI forms part of market engagement and is NOT part of any competitive procedure. Any information you submit will be considered solely for the purposes of building a greater understanding of the marketplace, and industry's ability to undertake the potential project. Should the decision be made to formally compete the requirement, any information provided must be resubmitted as part of the formal bid process. Information specific to the Industry participant provided through this process will not be shared or distributed directly to other participants but will inform the discussions that MOD will have with Industry and may subsequently be used to inform the terms on which the formal procurement process is conducted.

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

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

2. Background

The MOD is conducting further market engagement for a future Light Gun project for Artillery Systems. This is a project within the Land Domain.

The Lt Gun was designed and developed in the 1960's by the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (RARDE) at Fort Halstead and in the 1970s Royal Ordnance Nottingham took on its production. The initial staff requirement GSR 3038 dated 16 Feb 70 was for a marked increase in firepower, accuracy, mobility, robustness and performance over the previous towed guns with a reduction in weight to enable the new gun to be truly air portable. After successful trials it was accepted into service with the British Armed Forces in 1975. The Lt Gun was produced as a towed lightweight artillery weapon designed for artillery close support and anti-tank roles.

PDS activity – Although the base design of the ordnance has not changed the system has. Changes such as change of paint system, component supplier, braking components, material specification and technical publications all constitute to design changes. Currently, the delivery team has responsibility for these changes, and this leads to delays, quality issues and inefficiencies in resolution. Each specific issue requires ad-hoc resolution, often using a less than optimal solution. A support contract would enable timely updates to

components, processes and publications and provide assurance that the capability can be retained in-service until 2030.

The proposed scope for this Project will be a standard PDS type contract with core and non-core activities, to cover both field gun and Ceremonial Gun:

Core activity to include but not limited to

- Provision for advice and assistance requests.
- Maintenance of reference system, excluding LINAPS.
- Quality assurance.
- Obsolescence Management.
- Safety monitoring and input to safety cases, SNvE and ENvE.
- Legislation management, and assessment.
- TLS.
- Technical publication updates.
- Disposal Plan.

Non-Core (costed separate to core)

- PDS tasking shall also be included to allow capability changes, and ad-hoc taskings.
- Modifications design and embodiment.
- Configuration management/legislation compliance.

Due to the demand on resource, competing priorities, and lack of capacity, the support provided by DE&S alone is no longer fit for purpose, and if it continues in this way the availability of the platform will be affected, as supportability becomes unsustainable.

2.1. Project Governance

The TOWED Project is being delivered as part of the Lightweight Fires Programme. The Project governance is as follows:

Army Headquarters – LF Programme

- Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) – Col. Wade
- Programme Director –
- Programme Manager –

Defence Equipment and Support – Artillery Systems Portfolio

- Artillery Systems Team Leader – Col. Cameron Simpson
- Light Gun Project Lead – Kayleigh Burton

3. Light Gun Post Design Services Programme

3.1. Vision

A standard PDS (Post Design Service) type contract with core and non-core activities is recommended to sustain the availability and improve reliability of the Light Gun, while ensuring it remains supported until OSD (out of service date) of 2030.

Currently, the PT conduct ad-hoc tasks to maintain the Light Gun, resulting in multiple projects that become difficult to manage. With the age of the equipment, these tasks are becoming more regular, and the primary concern is ensuring the safety of the equipment as it progresses to OSD in 2030.

A support contract is required to provide technical capabilities that are beyond those available to the organic delivery team. The contract would also appoint a Design Organisation that would take responsibility for the safety of the design.

4. Request for Information

4.1. Details of Request to Industry

The Authority requests the following information from Industry in response to this RFI:

1. A brief description of your company and any relevant technical capability information to demonstrate why, and how, you plan to complete this work.
2. A Rough Cost Breakdown for the Core and Non-Core activity in support of the Light Gun. *The Authority recognises that without further detail these will be rough costs, and any response to this RFI will not hold you or your company to any of the costs provided in any future tender/competition.*
3. Any other information you feel is relevant at this time.

5. Project Timeline

5.1 Project Timeline and Key Dates

This project is currently in pre-concept phase.

The timeline for this RFI return is 1200GMT, Monday 5th July 2021.

Project initiation is anticipated as Q4 2021 – Q2 2022.

6. Market Engagement

6.1. Requests for Information

This RFI is intended to:

- Identify a Market for Light Gun PDS tasking,
- Develop Authority understanding of technical solutions, and
- Develop Authority understanding of costs for Light Gun Design Services Solutions.

6.2. Communicating with the MOD's Project Team

Suppliers wishing to communicate directly with those responsible for delivering the Light Gun PDS project should only communicate via the Defence Sourcing Portal. Any other communication will be re-directed through to the DSP and responses received external to the DSP may be ignored.

7. Responses

7.1. Responding to this RFI

Suppliers wishing to respond to this RFI are requested to do so via the messaging function in the Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP)

Responses should be attached documents in PDF and/or Excel spreadsheet format only. Responses are not to exceed Four A4 pages/4 Sheets

Any responses received after the deadline will not be reviewed. However, this will not exclude you from further Early Market Engagement or future involvement in the project.

7.2. Clarification Questions

The Authority aims to respond to any Clarification Questions received through the messaging function in DSP. Unless explicitly labelled as containing supplier commercially sensitive information, Clarifications questions and responses will be shared with all participating suppliers.

All clarification questions regarding this RFI should be sent via the DSP. Closing date for Clarifications will be Friday 25th June 2021 at 1700 GMT. The Team will not guarantee a response to any clarification question submitted after this date.

7.3. Response Timelines

Suppliers are requested to respond to this RFI by Monday 5th July 2021, 1200 GMT. Achieving this response date will support the MOD's scheduled RFI response review and support decisions by the customer on the validity of this project moving forward.

8. Commercial

8.1. MOD Commercial Notice – Subject to Contract

- This RFI is subject to contract.
- The LIGHT GUN POST DESIGN SERVICES project is at an early stage of development and UK MOD wishes to engage with Industry to gain a better understanding of the market capability.
- The existence of this RFI does not imply that UK MOD will make a purchase relating to the requirements within the indicated timescale, later, or at all.
- Information received from Industry will be treated as being in the public domain unless specifically noted at the time and in writing as 'confidential', in which case the confidentiality will be protected by UK MOD.

8.2. Supplier Commercially Sensitive/Confidential Information

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

Suppliers wishing to respond to this RFI with sensitive/confidential information are requested to submit a Clarification through the DSP so that the Authority may determine how we will receive the response document.

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