

Request for Proposal



Request for Proposal (RFP) on behalf of The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Subject: Operating Agent for an IEA Annex on Retrofitting Heat Pumps in Large Non-Domestic Buildings

Sourcing Reference Number: PS21140

Table of Contents

Section	Content
1	<u>About UK Shared Business Services Ltd.</u>
2	<u>About the Contracting Authority</u>
3	<u>Working with the Contracting Authority.</u>
4	<u>Specification and about this procurement</u>
5	<u>Evaluation model</u>
6	<u>Selection and award questionnaires</u>
7	<u>General Information</u>
Appendix 'A'	Glossary of Terms
Appendix	Annex 1 Code of Practice for Research

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 Contracting Authorities improve efficiency, generate savings and modernise. It is our vision to become the leading service provider for Contracting Authorities 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 Contracting Authorities. 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 the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 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 Contracting Authorities. Our Contracting Authorities who have access to our services and Contracts are detailed [here](#).

Privacy Statement

At UK Shared Business Services (UK SBS) we recognise and understand that your privacy is extremely important, and we want you to know exactly what kind of information we collect about you and how we use it.

This privacy notice link below details what you can expect from UK SBS when we collect your personal information.

- We will keep your data safe and private.
- We will not sell your data to anyone.
- We will only share your data with those you give us permission to share with and only for legitimate service delivery reasons.

Privacy Notice

This notice sets out how the Contracting Authority will use your personal data, and your rights. It is made under Articles 13 and/or 14 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

YOUR DATA

The Contracting Authority will process the following personal data:

Names and contact details of employees involved in preparing and submitting the bid;
Names and contact details of employees proposed to be involved in delivery of the contract;
Names, contact details, age, qualifications and experience of employees whose CVs are submitted as part of the bid.

Purpose

The Contracting Authority are processing your personal data for the purposes of the tender exercise, or in the event of legal challenge to such tender exercise.

Legal basis of processing

The legal basis for processing your personal data is processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller, such as the exercise of a function of the Crown, a Minister of the Crown, or a government department; the exercise of a function conferred on a person by an enactment; the exercise of a function of either House of Parliament; or the administration of justice.

Recipients

Your personal data will be shared by us with other Government Departments or public authorities where necessary as part of the tender exercise. The Contracting Authority may share your data if required to do so by law, for example by court order or to prevent fraud or other crime.

Retention

All submissions in connection with this tender exercise will be retained for a period of 7 years from the date of contract expiry, unless the contract is entered into as a deed in which case it will be kept for a period of 12 years from the date of contract expiry.

Your Rights

You have the right to request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data.

You have the right to request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay.

You have the right to request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement.

You have the right to request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.

You have the right in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data where it is processed for direct marketing purposes.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data.

International Transfers

As your personal data is stored on our IT infrastructure and shared with our data processors Microsoft and Amazon Web Services, it may be transferred and stored securely in the UK and European Economic Area. Where your personal data is stored outside the UK and EEA it will be subject to equivalent legal protection through the use of Model Contract Clauses

Complaints

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
0303 123 1113
casework@ico.org.uk

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

Contact Details

The data controller for your personal data is:

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

You can contact the Data Protection Officer at:

BEIS Data Protection Officer, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Email: dataprotection@beis.gov.uk.

Section 2 – About the Contracting Authority

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) was created as a result of a merger between the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), as part of the Machinery of Government (MoG) changes in July 2016.

The Department is responsible for:

- developing and delivering a comprehensive industrial strategy and leading the government's relationship with business;
- ensuring that the country has secure energy supplies that are reliable, affordable and clean;
- ensuring the UK remains at the leading edge of science, research and innovation; and
- tackling climate change.

BEIS is a ministerial department, supported by 46 agencies and public bodies.

We have around 2,500 staff working for BEIS. Our partner organisations include 9 executive agencies employing around 14,500 staff.

<http://www.beis.gov.uk>

Section 3 – Working with the Contracting Authority.

Section 3 – Contact details		
3.1.	Contracting Authority Name and address	The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
3.2.	Buyer	Jesika Browne
3.3.	Buyer contact details	Professional.services@uksbs.co.uk
3.4.	Maximum value of the Opportunity	£135,000.00 excluding VAT £10,000.00 excluding VAT for additional activities Max Value; combining the above of £145,000.00 excluding VAT
3.5.	Process for the submission of clarifications and Bids	All correspondence shall be submitted within the Messaging Centre of the e-sourcing tool. Guidance Notes to support the use of Delta eSourcing are available here. 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.

Section 3 - Timescales		
3.6.	Date of posting of Contract advert to Find a Tender.	Tuesday, 9 th November 2021
3.7.	Date RFP available to Bidders on Contracts Finder	Tuesday, 9 th November 2021
3.8.	Latest date / time RFP clarification questions shall be received through Delta eSourcing messaging system	Monday, 22 nd November 2021 11:00 am
3.9.	Latest date / time RFP clarification answers should be sent to all Bidders by the Buyer through Delta eSourcing Portal	Monday, 29 th November 2021
3.10.	Closing date and time for Bidder to request RFP documents	Wednesday, 15 th December 2021 09:00 am
3.11.	Closing date and time for Bidder to submit their response (' the deadline ').	Wednesday, 15 th December 2021 11:00 am
3.12.	Clarifications (if required)	Week commencing 3 rd January 2022
3.13.	Notification of proposed Contract award to unsuccessful bidders	Monday, 10 th January 2022
3.14.	Anticipated Contract Award Date	Friday, 21 st January 2022
3.15.	Commencement of Contract	Tuesday, 25 th January 2022
3.16.	Completion of Contract	Tuesday, 31 st December 2024
3.17.	Bid Validity Period	90 Days

Section 4 – Specification and about this procurement

1. Background

The UK has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. To achieve this, the Department expects that emissions from all buildings, including non-domestic buildings, will have to be all but eliminated. The challenge of decarbonising energy use in non-domestic buildings is considered one of the most complex policy areas for the department. With the commitment to decarbonise the supply of electricity, electrically driven heat pump systems provide a great potential to achieve reductions in CO₂ emissions and transition buildings to a net zero ready future.

Whilst heat pump systems offer high efficiencies and reductions in carbon emissions, their application to existing large non-domestic buildings is challenging. The diversity of the non-domestic buildings stock is very high in terms of size, shape, use, construction as well as type of heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems installed. Equally, the number of different configurations and specifications of heat pump-based HVAC systems is large. These factors create a complex landscape for decision makers in buildings that want, or need, to take action to retrofit their building with a low carbon heat pump system.

The purpose of this project is therefore to reduce the complexity facing decision makers and provide them with impartial, robust evidence and tools to help facilitate the decisions that will lead to a greater deployment of heat pump systems in existing, large non-domestic buildings.

The UK has historically made use of its extensive gas network to provide heating to the majority of buildings. As a result, heat pump-based systems have been less well developed compared to other countries in which gas was either not an option or less well developed. This project therefore aims to make the most of expertise and experience from other countries through the International Energy Agency (IEA) Technology Collaboration Programme (TCP) on Heat Pumping Technologies (HPT). This programme carries out international collaborative research projects, known as annexes, with participants from its member countries. ([For more info on the HPT TCP](#)).

This project will be a new research annex under the HPT TCP in which the UK will be the leading country and the appointed contractor, the Operating Agent (for more info on the roles and responsibilities of an Operating Agent within the HPT TCP see section 3). The HPT TCP is managed by a secretariat known as the Heat Pump Centre which is currently led by the Research Institute of Sweden (RI:SE).

The project will run for 3 years starting in January 2022 – December 2024.

2. Aims and Objectives of the Project

The key aims of the project are:

- To bring together, and manage, a diverse range of experts from many different countries to contribute information and insight from their own knowledge and expertise, in a timely manner to help achieve the objectives of the project.
- To build on existing tools and evidence to make best use of time and resources to

deliver the objectives of the project.

The objectives of the project are:

- To gather impartial, reliable evidence on the potential options for retrofitting heat pump systems in large, non-domestic buildings. Including information of the potential trade-offs to consider.
- To gather evidence from actual installations, presenting as much data as possible in a clear and engaging manner.
- To develop and produce tools which aid the decision-making process for a non-expert audience when considering retrofitting a large non-domestic building and complement new and future guidance and standards.
- Produce clear, transparent, and accessible outputs from the project which are disseminated to a wide range of different audiences to maximise the reach and impact of the project.

Scope

The term “retrofit” can include many levels of building or system refurbishment. In the case of HVAC systems this can range from the replacement of a boiler to the complete replacement of the building services systems. The system upgrades may be accompanied by changes to the fabric of the building, especially for “deeper” renovations. Whilst the project will focus on the possible HVAC systems, it should also point to opportunities for other fabric upgrades where relevant.

Low carbon, deep renovation is an important element of many national energy plans and policies; but currently most energy saving in non-domestic buildings is associated with the larger number of less comprehensive “medium” (and to some extent “shallow”) refurbishments. These typically combine improvements to both the building fabric and the HVAC systems at more moderate and less expensive levels than for deep renovation. The heat pump system options for deep renovations are similar to those for new construction and are not the focus of this project and are less likely to have complications produced by the need to interact with retained elements of an existing system. Although the carbon savings for each building is smaller than for deep “nearly zero energy” renovation, in practice this is outweighed – in the medium term - by the much greater number of renovations. The focus of this project therefore, is on “medium” and “shallow” levels of renovation, where the choice between heat pump systems can be more complex.

The non-domestic building stock includes buildings of widely differing ages, sizes, and usage. There is a small number of large buildings with high individual energy consumptions, and a much larger number of small and medium-sized buildings with lower individual energy consumptions, that collectively, comprise a substantial proportion of aggregate demand. This project will focus on larger buildings with relatively complex HVAC systems. The definition of “larger” will be determined by the annex participants early in the project.

The principal “filters” for heat pump retrofit options are expected to be the nature of the existing HVAC system and the “depth” of refurbishment that the building owner is prepared to contemplate. The Annex will offer greatest value when it addresses commonly occurring existing systems for which several different heat pump retrofit options are feasible. These

might include, for example, the following system types and options:

- Fossil-fuelled, centralised, high temperature hot water heating
 - Replace boiler by heat pump, operate at lower supply and return temperatures and upgrade emitters
 - Replace boiler by high temperature heat pump and retain existing operating temperatures
 - Supplement boiler with a heat pump and operate as a bivalent system
- Centralised cooling system (all-air or air/water) with heating provided by low temperature hot water or direct electricity. The options above plus:
 - Install chiller with reverse-cycle capacity and/or use heat rejected by chiller

3. Suggested Methodology

The Annex activities have been divided into several tasks, which will be carried out by participants in coordination with and under the management of the Operating Agent. The Operating Agent will likely participate in the work of each task in varying degrees as noted below.

To note, an existing web based platform is available through the IEA Heat Pump Centre in which it is envisaged many, if not all, of the outputs will be published and hosted (<https://heatpumpingtechnologies.org/ongoing-annexes/>).

Task 1 – Communications

The Operating Agent will lead on all internal and external communications of the project including the preparation of the outputs. These are likely to include:

- Initial workshop(s) to identify potential participants' skills, roles and access to case studies.
- A communication strategy to identify key stakeholders within target audiences and select communication channels.
- Co-ordinate the UK participants in the project and seek to encourage participations from a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Liaise with the Heat Pump Centre on all necessary reporting and communication activities for the HPT TCP.
- Develop a website (hosted within the HPT TCP site) and associated web-based outputs such as a collection of case studies visualised on an interactive map and/or database.
- Regular internal and external project workshops/webinar, public articles.
- Dissemination of results and final report to both UK and international audiences.

Task 2 – Evaluation of existing guidance and knowledge.

This will be primarily a desk-based review of academic literature, standards, and industry guidance with direct input from international participants through project workshops with both participants from the HPT TCP but also the equivalent TCP on Buildings.

This task will be led by the Operating Agent with supporting information likely coming from participants. It will be primarily a desk-based review of formal academic and “grey” literature, standards, and industry guidance with direct input from participants through project workshops and correspondence.

- Agree the information needs for key audiences and develop information collection templates for participants.
- Identify, classify and review existing relevant studies (including those in existing annexes).
- Assess the results, identify gaps and priorities and review the ability of the planned work programme to address them.
- Production of a summary report.

Task 3 – Development of options support tool

This task will seek to develop a user-friendly, accessible tool to aid decision makers when considering their options to retrofit a heat pump system. It will therefore need to incorporate information about the building and existing HVAC system under consideration, the suite of heat pumps systems available and point to more detailed guidance and standards as well as the evidence collated and developed through this project.

This task will be led by the Operating Agent with support from the participants. An options support tool will be developed throughout the project and will likely go through many iterations as new evidence from case studies and insight from countries and experts emerge. A number of expert workshops will be held to help build up the tool with proposed sections tested with specific experts throughout. Collaboration with experts from the Energy in Buildings and Communities (EBC) TCP will be essential.

- Identification and classification of retrofit situations (existing system, level of refurbishment....), possible heat pump system solutions and matching or filtering processes.
- Development of user interface(s) and user trials with a representative sample of users.
- Review and summarise results from other tasks.
- Finalise and test options support tool.
- Publication of the options support tool.

Task 4 – Evidence from real installations

This task will be carried out by participants, coordinated by the Operating Agent.

Case studies will be gathered from participants and from industry groups who have an interest in the research and its outputs. These should include cases that have been successful as well as those where problems arose with lessons learnt provided. These will be collated into a standard, easy to access format and made readily available.

- Agree criteria for performance and evaluation metrics, acceptable levels and scope of qualitative and quantitative reporting and monitoring.
- Develop reporting templates and processes.
- Collate and review case study timings, building types and system types covered.
- Develop a user friendly communication tool to present the case studies e.g. web

based and publish this online.

- Gather data and evidence from monitored retrofit projects by participants during the project.
- Where relevant, utilise the findings from the case studies to inform the Options Support Tool development.

Task 5 – Integration and final reporting of results

This task will be carried out by the Operating Agent supported by participants and overlaps with other tasks.

- A final report will be provided including the findings from the literature review, tool development, and other tasks aimed at heating specialists and industry groups.
- A catalogue of case studies targeted at a non-technical audience.
- A web-based presentation of the case studies, preferably in an attractive user friendly format e.g. as presented in IEA HPT Annex 50.
- Publication of the options support tool.

Indicative Milestones

Project kick off meeting	Jan 2022
Existing evidence summary report	May 2022
Options support tool – first draft	Nov 2022
Case Study catalogue – first draft	Mar 2023
Summary technical report – first draft	Nov 2023
Options support tool final version	Mar 2024
Summary technical report – final draft	June 2024
Case study catalogue – final draft	June 2024
Publication of all outputs	Nov 2024

Roles and responsibilities of an Operating Agent in the HPT TCP

- Oversee work progress, as outlined in the Legal text
- Communicate with and support the Annex participants
- Avoid duplication of work of other Annexes or TCPs
- Co-ordinate with other TCPs, when possible
- Co-ordinate the work to ensure that the Annex contributes with one article per year to the HPC Newsletter/Magazine (topical or non-topical)
- Provide summary reports for
 - HPT Magazine, based on results, achievements and/or success stories
 - Annual reports, based on results, achievements and/or success stories
- Each ExCo meeting (including an oral presentation once a year)

- Ensure all participating countries have submitted their participation letter to the IEA and HPC
- Consult HPC or ExCo, when necessary

Any other specific requirements

There may be a requirement for additional adhoc activities outside of the scope of this specification which would be agreed between BEIS and the contractor. Budget for the additional activities is £10,000.00 excluding VAT.

The additional adhoc activities include but is not limited to:-

- additional programme meetings/workshops for Task 1

Please include a day rate for potential additional activities in the pricing schedule.

4. Deliverables

The principal deliverables of the project in which the contractor is responsible for are:

- A summary report of existing guidance and knowledge.
- An options support tool supported by information from case studies, to provide a framework within which building specific choices can be made by building owners and operators.
- A catalogue of case studies in which the pros and cons, successes and failures are all presented to provide high quality evidence to support decision makers and researchers. This should be in written format as well as an online user friendly presentation.
- A technical summary report outlining the key findings of the project including outputs from the literature review, case studies and options tool development. This should include discussion of the key trade offs in system design as well as key issues and barriers that remain to aid policy makers in particular.

Other required deliverables to fulfil the duties of an Operating Agent with the HPT TCP:

- Written progress reports to the HPT ExCo (twice a year).
- Verbal progress report to the HPT ExCo (once a year).
- Co-ordinate the work to ensure that the project contributes one article per year to the HPC Newsletter/Magazine (topical or non-topical).
- Provide summary news items for the HPT Magazine and Annual report, based on results, achievements and/or success stories.

In addition, the following deliverables are also likely but to be agreed with BEIS, the Operating Agent and the participants of the project:

- Workshops/project meetings to be held either virtually or in-person (~6-8).
- Joint workshops with other relevant research groups e.g. IEA EBC TCP.
- Dissemination presentations/webinars/seminars.

In order to carry out the proposed deliverables, a certain degree of international travel is likely and should therefore be accounted for within your proposal. This is likely to be a minimum of 4 trips to a European country for whole day workshops or meetings.

Quality Assurance

Tenderers must set out their approach to quality assurance in their proposal. To demonstrate relevant expertise applicable to producing high quality reporting, the contractor/s must:

- Ensure that quality assurance is done by individuals who were not directly involved in the research, analysis or model development
- Specify who will be responsible for quality assurance before it comes to BEIS

Sign-off for the quality assurance must be by someone of sufficient seniority within the contractor organisation to be able take responsibility for the work done. BEIS reserves the right to refuse to sign off outputs which do not meet the required standard specified in this invitation to tender. The Contractor must state how all of the work on the project will be quality assured by producing a Quality Assurance (QA) plan that should be included within the proposal.

The Contractor will be expected to produce high quality reports that meet the following criteria:

General:

- Answer the research questions clearly, in plain English
- Clearly structured so that information presented in each section of each report is clear
- Connections between sections are clear
- Executive summaries of no more than two sides that set out the findings clearly
- All sections have clear introductions and conclusions (including findings being written concisely upfront)
- A comprehensive bibliography of all references must be provided

Use of good quality English:

- Thoroughly reviewed for writing quality
- No jargon is used and all terms are defined and referenced clearly
- All acronyms are written out in full the first time that they are mentioned in each section of each report
- No grammar and phrasing errors
- No typographical errors present
- Concise and non-wordy sentences and paragraphs
- Concise reports that are not too long and do not have vast annexes

Visualisations:

- All visualisations are labelled
- All axes are labelled, including with appropriate units
- Clear and appropriate use of visualisations (large enough size, data can be read clearly without reference to the raw data, and there are not too many visualisations)

presented at once)

- All visualisations are clearly explained and discussed
- A range of different types of visualisations are used to provide more interesting and innovative ways of presenting the results

Data quality:

- Limitations in the research approach need to be clearly stated and justified
- Further research should be stated to build upon the limitations that cannot be addressed in the research
- Where the findings are stronger and more robust and where they are not needs to be stated clearly
- Appropriate and consistent use of units
- All numerical units should include the range of uncertainty / error margin

Draft outputs of the interim and final reports and datasets must be submitted to BEIS by the deadlines in the indicative timetable for deliverables listed above, and then the contractor should attend a meeting with officials to present the draft interim and final results to the project team at BEIS offices or via videoconferencing. Verbal and written comments will be collated by the BEIS project manager and submitted to the contractor following these meetings. Invoices for deliverables will only be processed if the submitted officials' comments have been addressed to the standard deemed acceptable by the officials and BEIS project manager. The Contractor should make it clear in writing exactly where and how comments have been addressed.

BEIS officials will scrutinise not only the quality of the data and analysis, but also the quality of the reporting. Reports deemed by BEIS to be poorly written or poorly presented will be returned to the supplier to re-produce to the high standard required before invoices are paid. Invoices will be paid by deliverable and will not be processed unless deliverables are submitted on time and to the standard required.

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.

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 and the Contracting Authority, and any specific external stakeholders the Contracting Authority deem required

5.2. Evaluation of Bids

- 5.2.1. Evaluation of Bids shall be based on a Selection questionnaire and Award criteria as clearly defined in the e-sourcing tool.

5.3. SELECTION questionnaire

- 5.3.1. The Selection questionnaire shall be marked against the following Selection pass / fail and scoring criteria.
- 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 Questionnaire Part 1: Potential Supplier Information		
Section 1	1.3	Contact details and declaration
Part 2: Exclusion Grounds		
Section 2	2.1 (a)(i)	Participation in a criminal organisation
Section 2	2.1(a)(ii)	Corruption
Section 2	2.1(a)(iii)	Fraud
Section 2	2.1(a)(iv)	Terrorist Offences or offences link to terrorist activities
Section 2	2.1(a)(v)	Money laundering or Terrorist financing
Section 2	2.1(a)(vi)	Child Labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings
Section 2	2.2	Self cleaning
Section 2	2.3(a)	Payment of tax or social security
Section 3	3.1 (a)	Breach of environmental obligations
Section 3	3.1 (b)	Breach of social obligations
Section 3	3.1 (c)	Breach of labour law obligations
Section 3	3.1(d)	Bankruptcy
Section 3	3.1(e)	Guilty of grave professional misconduct
Section 3	3.1(f)	Distorting competition
Section 3	3.1(g)	Conflict of Interest
Section 3	3.1(h)	Prior involvement in procurement process
Section 3	3.1(i)	Prior performance of contract

Section 3	3.1(j)(i)	Serious Misrepresentation
Section 3	3.1(j)(ii)	Withholding information
Section 3	3.1(j)(iii)	Unable to provide supporting documentation for ESPD
Section 3	3.1(j)(iv)	Influenced the decision-making process
Part 3: Selection Questions		
Section 4	4.1	Audited accounts
Section 4	4.2	Minimum financial threshold
Section 5	5.1	Wider group
Section 5	5.2	Parent Company Guarantee
Section 5	5.3	Other Guarantee
Section 6	6.1	Relevant experience and contract examples
Section 7	7.1	Compliance under Modern Slavery Act 2015
Section 8	8.1(a)	Insurance
Section 9	SEL5.5	Health and Safety Policy
Section 9	SEL5.6	Enforcement/remedial orders in relation to the Health and Safety Executive
Section 9	SEL5.7	Breaching environmental legislation
Section 9	SEL5.8	Checking sub-contractors for infringement of environmental legislation
Section 9	SEL5.9	Unlawful discrimination
Section 9	SEL5.10	Checking sub-contractors for unlawful discrimination
Section 9	SEL2.12	General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Act and Data Protection Act 2018
Section 9	FOI1.1	Freedom of information
	In the event of a Bidder failing to meet the requirements of a Mandatory pass / fail criteria, the Contracting Authority 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.

Selection Evaluation of criteria

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.

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by 20%.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 12% by using the following calculation:

$$\text{Score} = \{\text{weighting percentage}\} \times \{\text{bidder's score}\} = 20\% \times 60 = 12$$

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.
10	Extremely poor response – they have completely missed the point of the question.
20	Very poor response and not wholly acceptable. Requires major revision to the response to make it acceptable. Only partially answers the requirement, with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed.
40	Poor response only partially satisfying the selection question requirements with deficiencies apparent. Some useful evidence provided but response falls well short of expectations. Low probability of being a capable supplier.
60	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire.
80	Good response which describes their capabilities in detail which provides high levels of assurance consistent with a quality provider. The response includes a full description of techniques and measurements currently employed.
100	Response is exceptional and clearly demonstrates they are capable of meeting the requirement. No significant weaknesses noted. The response is compelling in its description of techniques and measurements currently employed, providing full assurance consistent with a quality provider.

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 60
Evaluator 3 scored your bid as 40
Evaluator 4 scored your bid as 40
Your final score will $(60+60+40+40) \div 4 = 50$

- 5.3.6. During the evaluation stage, the intention is that only Bidders who achieve a Pass of 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	Maximum Budget
Quality	AW6.1	Compliance to the Specification
Quality	AW6.2	Variable Bids
Quality	PROJ1.5	Code of Practice
-	-	Request for Proposal 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, the Contracting Authority 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 stage of due process 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 the Contracting Authority has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this RFP. The Contracting Authority 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	20.00%
Quality	PROJ1.1	Approach	30.00%
Quality	PROJ1.2	Resource and Capability	30.00%
Quality	PROJ1.3	Understanding the Environment	10.00%
Quality	PROJ1.4	Project Management and Risk	10.00%

Award Evaluation of criteria
Non-Price elements

Each question will be evaluated 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:

$$\text{Score} = \{\text{weighting percentage}\} \times \{\text{bidder's score}\} = 20\% \times 60 = 12$$

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.
10	Extremely poor response – they have completely missed the point of the question.
20	Very poor response and not wholly acceptable. Requires major revision to the response to make it acceptable. Only partially answers the requirement, with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed.
40	Poor response only partially satisfying the question requirements with deficiencies apparent. Some useful evidence provided but response falls well short of expectations. Low probability of being a capable supplier.
60	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire.
80	Good response which describes their capabilities in detail which provides high levels of assurance consistent with a quality provider. The response includes a full description of techniques and measurements currently employed.
100	Response is exceptional and clearly demonstrates they are capable of meeting the requirement. No significant weaknesses noted. The response is compelling in its description of techniques and measurements currently employed, providing full assurance consistent with a quality provider.

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 $(60+40+80+60) \div 4 = 60$

Once the above evaluation process has been undertaken and the scores are apportioned by evaluator(s) this will then be subject to an independent commercial review and moderation meeting, if required by the commercial lead, any and all changes will be formally recorded relative to the regulatory obligations associated with this procurement, so as to ensure that the procurement has been undertaken in a robust and transparent way.

Price elements will be evaluated 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: Score/Total Points multiplied by 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.

This evaluation criteria will therefore not be subject to any averaging, as this is a mathematical scoring criteria, but will still be subject to a commercial review.

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">• RFP logged upon opening in alignment with UK SBS's procurement procedures.• Any RFP Bid received after the closing date will be rejected unless circumstances attributed to the Contracting Authority or the e-sourcing tool beyond the bidder control are responsible for late submission.
Compliance check	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check all Mandatory requirements are acceptable to the Contracting Authority.• Unacceptable Bids may be subject to clarification by the Contracting Authority or rejection of the Bid.
Scoring of the Bid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation team will independently score the Bid and provide a commentary of their scoring justification against the criteria.
Clarifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Evaluation team may require written clarification to Bids
Re - scoring of the Bid and Clarifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
Moderation meeting (if required to reach an award decision)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To review the outcomes of the Commercial review• To agree final scoring for each Bid, relative rankings of the Bids• To confirm contents of the Standstill letters to provide details of scoring and relative feedback on the unsuccessful Bidders

	response in comparison with the successful Bidders response
Due diligence of the Bid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Contracting Authority may request the following requirements at any stage of the Procurement. • Submission of insurance documents from the Bidder • Request for evidence of documents / accreditations referenced in the / Request for Proposal response / Bid and / or Clarifications from the Bidder • Taking up of Bidder references from the Bidders Customers. • Financial Credit check for the Bidder
Validation of unsuccessful Bidders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To confirm contents of the letters to provide details of scoring and meaningful feedback on the unsuccessful Bidders Bid in comparison with the successful Bidders Bid.

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 **how to register and use the e-sourcing portal** are is available at <http://www.uksbs.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.uksbs.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. The Contracting Authority wishes to establish a Contract for the provision of Retrofit heat pump systems in large non-domestic buildings (IEA Annex). The Contracting Authority is managing this procurement process in accordance with Public Procurement (as may be amended from time to time) (the “Regulations”). This is a service Contract being procured under the OJEU Open Procedure

The Contracting Authority is procuring the Contract for add for its exclusive use.

- 7.1.2. UK SBS and the Contracting Authority logo, trademarks and other identifying marks are proprietary and may not be incorporated in the Companies response without or the Contracting Authority’s written permission.
- 7.1.3. The Bidder shall indemnify and keep indemnified UK SBS and the Contracting Authority against all actions, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, costs, losses, charges and expenses whatsoever in respect of any breach by the Bidder of this document.
- 7.1.4. 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 or the Contracting Authority. All information secured outside of this named contact shall have no legal standing or worth and should not be relied upon.
- 7.1.5. It remains the responsibility of the Bidder to keep UK SBS and the Contracting Authority informed of any matter that may affect continued qualification
- 7.1.6. 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 the Contracting Authority. Submitted Responses which are deemed by the Contracting Authority 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](#).
- 7.1.7. Whilst it is the Contracting Authority’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. The Contracting Authority and any relevant Other Public Bodies reserve the right to purchase any services (including those similar to the services covered by this procurement) from any Supplier outside of this Contract.
- 7.1.8. The Contracting Authority 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.
- 7.1.9. The services covered by this procurement exercise have NOT been sub-divided into Lots.
- 7.1.10. The Contracting Authority shall utilise the Delta eSourcing Procurement Tool available at <https://uksbs.delta-esourcing.com/> 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 problems or functionality within the tool may be submitted to Delta eSourcing on 0845 270 7050

- 7.1.11. Please utilise the messaging system within the e-sourcing tool located at <https://uksbs.delta-esourcing.com/> 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 the Contracting Authority if they are not articulated by the Bidder within the discussion forum within the e-sourcing tool.
- 7.1.12. Bidders should read this document, Stage One: Overview Section. 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 services and contractual obligations. These instructions constitute the Conditions of Response. Participation in the RFP process automatically signals that the Bidder accepts these Conditions.
- 7.1.13. All material issued in connection with this RFP shall remain the property of the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority or securely destroyed by the Bidder (at the Contracting Authority's option) at the conclusion of the procurement
- 7.1.14. The Bidder shall ensure that each and every sub-contractor, consortium member and adviser abide by the terms of these instructions and the Conditions of Response.
- 7.1.15. The Bidder shall not make contact with any other employee, agent or consultant of UK SBS or the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority.
- 7.1.16. The Contracting Authority shall not be committed to any course of action as a result of:
- 7.1.16.1. issuing this RFP or any invitation to participate in this procurement ;
 - 7.1.16.2. an invitation to submit any Response in respect of this procurement;
 - 7.1.16.3. communicating with a Bidder or a Bidder's representatives or agents in respect of this procurement; or
 - 7.1.16.4. any other communication between UK SBS, the Contracting Authority and/or any relevant OPB (whether directly or by its agents or representatives) and any other party.
- 7.1.17. Bidders shall accept and acknowledge that by issuing this RFP the Contracting Authority 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.
- 7.1.18. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to amend, add to or withdraw all or any part of this RFP at any time during the procurement.
- 7.1.19. 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 the Contracting Authority.

- 7.1.20. 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 the Contracting Authority reserves the right to require a successful consortium to form a single legal entity in accordance with regulation 19(6) of the Regulations. The Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority 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 and the Contracting Authority may disclose detailed information relating to Responses to its employees, agents or advisers and they may make any of the Contract documents available for private inspection by its officers, employees, agents or advisers. UK SBS and the Contracting Authority also reserve 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, the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority 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. The Government introduced 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. The Contracting Authority 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.

USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS

- [Contracts Finder](#)
- [Find a Tender](#)

- [Equalities Act introduction](#)
- [Bribery Act introduction](#)
- [Freedom of information Act](#)

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 and the Contracting Authority may be required to disclose information submitted by the Bidder to the to the Contracting Authority.
- 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, the Contracting Authority will endeavour to maintain confidentiality. Bidders should note, however, that, even where information is identified as commercially sensitive, the Contracting Authority may be required to disclose such information in accordance with the FoIA or the Environmental Information Regulations. In particular, the Contracting Authority 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, the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority and the Bidder should not attempt to answer the request without first consulting with the Contracting Authority.
- 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 the Contracting Authority, and any contract entered into by the Contracting Authority 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. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to extend the dates and will advise potential Bidders of any change to the dates.

7.7. The Contracting Authority's Contact Details

- 7.7.1. Unless stated otherwise in these Instructions or in writing from UK SBS or the Contracting Authority, 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 Delta eSourcing on 0845 270 7050 please note this is a free self-registration website and this can be done by completing the online questionnaire at <https://uksbs.delta-esourcing.com/>
- 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 the Contracting Authority, 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 the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority to reject a Response.
- 7.8.3. The Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority or their advisers and representatives. Bidders should notify the Contracting Authority 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. The Contracting Authority 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. The Contracting Authority do 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, unless explicitly requested by the Contracting Authority either in the procurement documents or via a formal clarification from the Contracting Authority. Responses received by any other method than requested will not be considered for the opportunity.
- 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 the Contracting Authority, unless the Bidder can justify that the reason for the delay is solely attributable to the Contracting Authority
 - 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 the Buyer in [Section 3](#) in advance of 'the deadline' if a bidder believes their Response will be received late.
 - 7.9.9.3. The Contracting Authority 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.
- 7.9.10. Do not seek changes to the Bid after responses have been submitted and the deadline (date and time) for receipt of responses has passed.

7.10. Canvassing

- 7.10.1. Any Bidder who directly or indirectly canvasses any employee, or agent of UK SBS, the Contracting Authority 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, the Contracting Authority, 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 the Contracting Authority and/or, as applicable, relevant OPB following receipt of the RFP should make their own investigations and their own independent assessment of the Contracting Authority and/or, as applicable, relevant OPB and its requirements for the 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, the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority and the Contracting Authority confirming in writing such acceptance to the Bidder, the Bidder will within 30 days of being called upon to do so by the Contracting Authority 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. The Contracting Authority 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 Delta eSourcing system maintenance or failure, in this instance all clarifications shall be by email to the contact defined in [Section 3](#).
- 7.15.2. The Contracting Authority 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 7 days prior to the date for submission of Responses.
- 7.15.5. In order to ensure equality of treatment of Bidders, the Contracting Authority intends to publish the questions and clarifications raised by Bidders together with the Contracting Authority'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 the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority's response, the Contracting Authority will:
- 7.15.6.1. invite the Bidder submitting the query to either declassify the query and allow the query along with the Contracting Authority'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. The Contracting Authority 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, the Contracting Authority may modify the RFP by amendment. Any such amendment will be numbered and dated and issued by the Contracting Authority to all prospective Bidders. In order to give prospective Bidders reasonable time in which to take the amendment into account in preparing their Responses, the Contracting Authority 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 the Contracting Authority by recorded delivery or equivalent service and delivered to the Head of Policy UK SBS at UK Shared Business Services Ltd, Procurement, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 1ET

7.18. Right to disqualify or reject

- 7.18.1. The Contracting Authority 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. The Contracting Authority 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. The Contracting Authority will notify the successful Bidder of the Contract award in writing and will publish an Award Notice in Find a Tender in accordance with the Regulations within 30 days of the award of the contract.
- 7.20.2. As required by the Regulations all successful and unsuccessful Bidders will be provided with an email advising the outcome of the submission of their RFP response.

Section 7 – General Information

What makes a good bid – some simple do's 😊

DO:

Do comply with Procurement document instructions. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification.

Do provide the Bid on time, and in the required format. Remember that the date/time given for a response is the last date that it can be accepted; we are legally bound to disqualify late submissions. Responses received after the date indicated in the RFP shall not be considered by the Contracting Authority, unless the Bidder can justify that the reason for the delay, is solely attributable to the Contracting Authority

Do ensure you have read all the training materials to utilise e-sourcing tool prior to responding to this Bid. If you send your Bid by email or post it will be rejected.

Do use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint Excel 97-03 or compatible formats, or PDF unless agreed in writing by the Buyer. If you use another file format without our written permission, we may reject your Bid.

Do ensure you utilise the Delta eSourcing messaging system to raise any clarifications to our RFP. You should note that we will release the answer to the question to all Bidders and where we suspect the question contains confidential information, we may modify the content of the question to protect the anonymity of the Bidder or their proposed solution

Do answer the question, it is not enough simply to cross-reference to a 'policy', web page or another part of your Bid, the evaluation team have limited time to assess bids and if they can't find the answer, they can't score it.

Do consider who the Contracting Authority is and what they want – a generic answer does not necessarily meet every Contracting Authority's needs.

Do reference your documents correctly, specifically where supporting documentation is requested e.g. referencing the question/s they apply to.

Do provide clear, concise and ideally generic contact details; telephone numbers, e-mails and fax details.

Do complete all questions in the questionnaire or we may reject your Bid.

Do ensure that the Response and any documents accompanying it are in the English Language, the Contracting Authority reserve the right to disqualify any full or part responses that are not in English.

Do check and recheck your Bid before dispatch.

What makes a good bid – some simple do not's ☹

DO NOT

Do not cut and paste from a previous document and forget to change the previous details such as the previous buyer's name.

Do not attach 'glossy' brochures that have not been requested, they will not be read unless we have asked for them. Only send what has been requested and only send supplementary information if we have offered the opportunity so to do.

Do not share the Procurement documents, they may be confidential and should not be shared with anyone without the Buyers written permission.

Do not seek to influence the procurement process by requesting meetings or contacting UK SBS or the Contracting Authority to discuss your Bid. If your Bid requires clarification the Buyer will contact you. All information secured outside of formal Buyer communications shall have no Legal standing or worth and should not be relied upon.

Do not contact any UK SBS staff or the Contracting Authority staff without the Buyers written permission or we may reject your Bid.

Do not collude to fix or adjust the price or withdraw your Bid with another Party as we will reject your Bid.

Do not offer UK SBS or the Contracting Authority staff any inducement or we will reject your Bid.

Do not seek changes to the Bid after responses have been submitted and the deadline for Bids to be submitted has passed.

Do not cross reference answers to external websites or other parts of your Bid, the cross references and website links will not be considered.

Do not exceed word counts, the additional words will not be considered.

Do not make your Bid conditional on acceptance of your own Terms of Contract, as your Bid will be rejected.

Do not unless explicitly requested by the Contracting Authority either in the procurement documents or via a formal clarification from the Contracting Authority send your response by any way other than via e-sourcing tool. Responses received by any other method than requested will not be considered for the opportunity.

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
“Bidder(s)”	means the organisations being invited to respond to this Request for Proposal
“Central Purchasing Body”	means a duly constituted public sector organisation which procures supplies/services/works 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 the Contracting Authority and the Supplier following any award under the procurement
“Contracting Bodies”	means the Contracting Authority and any other contracting authorities described in the Find a Tender Contract Notice
“Contracting Authority”	A public body regulated under the Public Procurement Regulations on whose behalf the procurement is being run
“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 the Contracting Authority 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
“Find a Tender”	Means the UK Government Portal that superseded the OJEU as from 1/1/2021 https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Search
“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
“Further Competition”	means re-opening competition under a framework if applicable to this procurement
“Mandatory”	Means a pass / fail criteria which must be met in order for a Bid to be considered, unless otherwise specified.
“Named Procurement person ”	means the single point of contact for the Contracting Authority based in UK SBS that will be dealing with the procurement
“Order”	means an order for served by any Contracting Body on the Supplier
“Other Public Bodies”	means all Contracting Bodies except the Contracting Authority
“Request for Proposal” or “RFP”	means this Request for Proposal documentation and all related documents published by the Contracting Authority and made available to Bidders and includes the Due Diligence Information. NOTE: This document is often referred to as an Invitation to Tender within other organisations

“Supplier(s)”	means the organisation(s) awarded the Contract
“Supplies / Services / Works”	means any supplies/services and supplies or works set out at within <u>Section 4 Specification</u>