**Department for Work and Pensions**

Benton Park View

Benton Park Road

Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

NE98 1YX

Date: 19 September 2018

**DWP Digital Group - North East Supplier Event**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy. As the UK’s biggest public service department we administer the State Pension and a range of working age, disability and ill health benefits to around 20 million claimants and customers.

We are responsible for understanding and dealing with the causes of poverty rather than its symptoms, encouraging people to work and making work pay, encouraging disabled people and those with ill health to work and be independent, providing a decent income for people of pension age and promoting saving for retirement, providing value for money and reducing levels of fraud and error and reducing work-related death and serious injury in workplaces through the Health and Safety Executive.

Our priorities are to:

* run an effective welfare system that enables people to achieve financial independence by providing assistance and guidance into employment
* increase saving for, and security in, later life
* create a fair and affordable welfare system which improves the life chances of children
* deliver outstanding services to our customers and claimants
* deliver efficiently: transform the way we deliver our services to reduce costs and increase efficiency

DWP Digital Group operates on a scale unrivalled almost anywhere. Our services touch the lives of almost everyone in the UK at some point. Our IT systems manage 7.35 million benefit claims each year, paying £165 billion in benefits and pensions.

In DWP Digital Group we co-create and evolve modern, secure, user-centered services through user research, technology and data. We are changing the way we work and building our capability to accelerate DWP’s digital transformation.

This transformation is a journey in pursuit of our ambition. We’ve already achieved a great deal on our transformation journey – and we continue to transform the largest IT estate in Europe.

We deliver our digital services from our hubs across the UK: Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Blackpool and London.

Whilst we are building our own capability to support our digital transformation, we are also aware that we can’t do this on our own. We want to work both local and national suppliers to help build our capability so we can meet our ambitions.

We would therefore like to offer suppliers that provide Digital Skills and Software as a Service solutions the opportunity to attend a supplier event. This event is open to suppliers based in the North East area and we are particularly keen to encourage attendance by SME suppliers.

The day will consist of a short presentation delivered by DWP Digital with the opportunity for suppliers to ask questions followed by an afternoon session giving suppliers the opportunity to run stalls which can be visited by DWP attendees.

Overall objectives of the day will be:

* To increase the awareness of the Digital teams to local suppliers in the market place;
* To increase the visibility of local SME’s to DWP;
* To knowledge share and look for new market opportunities.

The date and location of the event are still to be confirmed but it is likely to be late October to early November. A more detailed agenda will be issued nearer the time once attendees etc. are confirmed. Representation will be limited to two attendees per supplier.

If you are a supplier that provides Digital Skills and/or Software as a Service solutions and would like to attend please respond to the email address below by close of business on the 3rd of October registering your interest. Please include a Word document providing a summary of your organisation and service offering, and why you think you should be selected to attend the event.

*Email address - CD.DDSPMAILBOX@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK*

Any supplier that may be contacted directly or who responds to this notice, may not necessarily be invited to the event and does not have a privileged position in relation to any future contract opportunity. Any subsequent procurements that DWP conducts will be based on the fair and objective outcome of a procurement process.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Cranshaw

**DWP Commercial Lead, Digital Delivery of Shared Platforms Category**