

RCloud Tasking Form – Part B: Statement of Requirement (SoR)

Title of Requirement	UK-France PhD 2023 Call – Titled: Self-assembly of 2D solid lubricants (PhD 2)
Requisition No.	Redacted under FOI Exemption
SoR Version	0.1

1.	Statement of Requirements
1.1	Summary and Background Information
	<p>The requirement is to fund up to 2 PhDs on the UK-France PhD Scheme in the following area of interest.</p> <p>Frictionless surfaces</p> <p>Friction occurs when materials slide or roll against each other and are an obstacle to mobility. This can occur at both atomic and quantum levels. Quantum-level phenomena within certain nanometre-scale shapes of surfaces can cause repulsion and reduce friction. The structures of surfaces can also retain gases or other substances that facilitate sliding on the surface. The aim of the research would be enhance our understanding of techniques to reduce friction. The research should explore novel materials such as graphene and nano-diamonds that could be used to reduce friction. Particular interest will be in materials that have other properties that could help facilitate practical exploitation.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redacted under FOI Exemption <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redacted under FOI Exemption <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p> <p>Proposed Payment Plan</p> <p>Progress payment 1: end of PhD Year 1 – (proposed end September 2024)</p> <p>Progress payment 2: end of PhD Year 2 - (proposed end September 2025)</p> <p>Progress Payment 3: end of PhD Year 3 – (proposed end September 2026)</p> <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p>
1.3	Options or follow on work <i>(if none, write 'Not applicable')</i>
	There may be opportunity for optional additional work.
1.4	Contract Management Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half yearly reports Annual Reports PhD Thesis

1.5	Health & Safety, Environmental, Social, Ethical, Regulatory or Legislative aspects of the requirement
	The University will be required to comply with all relevant UK legislation

1.6 Deliverables & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)					
Ref.	Title	Due by	Format	Expected classification (subject to change)	What information is required for deliverables
AFPhD2 3-1	Half-yearly technical reports	T0 + 6; 18, 30 months – annual report for the second half	Presentation	O	Report to include but not limited to Update on technical progress
AFPhD2 3-2	Annual reports	T0_12, 24 months	Presentation and written report	O	Annual reports to include but not limited to Update on technical progress
AFPhD2 3-3	PhD Thesis	T0 +35 months	Presentation and Thesis	O	PhD thesis at a standard required by relevant external examiners

1.7	Deliverable Acceptance Criteria
	<p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p> <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p> <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p> <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p>

2	Evaluation Criteria
2.1	Method Explanation
	Evaluating this based on technical compliance and affordability.
2.2	Technical Evaluation Criteria
	<p>Confirmation that the proposal fully meets the Authority's Statement of Requirement.</p> <p>Technical evaluation will be carried out by a team of between 2 and 4 assessors who will review the technical proposals independently and then bring their scores to a moderation meeting. The moderation meeting will be chaired by the Redacted under FOI Exemption</p> <p>The qualitative assessment will be carried out using the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific quality • Potential to underpin Innovation • Tract record of PhD supervisor/s and university <p>The first criteria will carry twice the weighting.</p> <p>Each proposal will be rated as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unacceptable 2. Fairly Good 3. Very Good 4. Outstanding <p>Scientific quality and innovation</p> <p>What is the state of the art/possible in this area and how is the proposed research new and innovative? What key piece of science does this project seek to develop and what is its value?</p> <p>The proposal must have a description of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the challenge that the work seeks to address • the work to be conducted, the proposed methodology • the novelty of the proposed work in relation to the context, and the timelines • how the proposed work is ambitious, adventurous, and transformative • a pathway to impact for the proposed research.

	<p>Track record of PhD supervisor/s and university</p> <p>The proposal must describe the relevance of the centre or research group. Information required here is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the applicant's expertise aligns with the topic of the call <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What aspect(s) have you been researching, and for how long? ○ How many PhD students have you supervised/are supervising? ○ How is the proposed PhD going to contribute to your work? • Evidence that the research group or research centre is leading in the proposed field. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the goal of your research group? ○ What is special about this area? ○ What are potential application areas for this research? 										
2.3	Commercial Evaluation Criteria										
	<p>The Contractor must confirm their unqualified acceptance of the Authority's Terms and Conditions of Contract</p> <p>Tenderer has submitted a commercially compliant bid.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Firm priced version submitted within budget of [Redacted under FOI Exemption]</td> <td>Pass/Fail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labour rates and price as per single source rates uploaded to R Cloud</td> <td>Pass/Fail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Completion of Research Workers Form's</td> <td>Pass/Fail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Completion of Statement Relating to Good Standing</td> <td>Pass/Fail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Confirm acceptance of R Cloud Version 4 Terms and Conditions</td> <td>Pass/Fail</td> </tr> </table>	Firm priced version submitted within budget of [Redacted under FOI Exemption]	Pass/Fail	Labour rates and price as per single source rates uploaded to R Cloud	Pass/Fail	Completion of Research Workers Form's	Pass/Fail	Completion of Statement Relating to Good Standing	Pass/Fail	Confirm acceptance of R Cloud Version 4 Terms and Conditions	Pass/Fail
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