**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

# RM6123 Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Solutions (VCIS) Framework

Agreement Reference No: Contracts Finder

Lots Covered:

Customer: **Department for Transport**

Start date: 22/07/2024

Date response required: 07/08/2024

Dear Supplier,

We would like to notify you of an upcoming requirement, and by doing so we are keen to understand where the market stands in terms of our requirement below. This Request for Information (RFI) seeks information relating to provision of data and associated services related to the Open Data requirements of the Public Chargepoint Regulations 2023 (PCPR), which come into force on 24 November 2024.

Please note the following general conditions:

* This RFI will help us to refine the requirements.
* We reserve the right not to proceed with a further competition. Nothing shall constitute a commitment unless we undertake a procedure or further competition that results in the award of a Contract.
* Should a Contract be awarded following a competition, the potential provider agrees to supply the services in accordance with the Department for Transports Terms & Conditions.
* All costs associated with the production of such a response either to this RFI or a further competition must be borne by the supplier. We will not contribute in any way to meeting production costs of any response.
* No down-selection of potential providers will take place because of any responses or interactions relating to this RFI.
* We expect that all responses to this RFI will be provided by potential providers in good faith to the best of their ability in the light of information available at the time of their response.
* No information provided by a potential provider in response to this RFI will be carried forward, used, or acknowledged in any way for the purpose of evaluating the potential provider, in any subsequent formal procurement process.

# CURRENT SITUATION

The Public Charge Point Regulations 2023 are intended to ensure that the experience of consumers using public charge points across the United Kingdom is consistent and positive. This will support the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and help the UK to reach its climate targets.

The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV), as a joint unit of the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, oversees the implementation of the PCPR. These regulations mandate several requirements for Charge Point Operators (CPOs), including opening charge point data accurately through the Open Charge Point Interface (OCPI) protocol by 24th Nov 2024, with reference and availability data made publicly available in a machine-readable format without terms and conditions.

We expect industry, including CPOs, eMSPs and other intermediaries, to use open data to ensure that consumers have access to accurate, timely data on public chargepoints, enabling them to find and use the most appropriate chargepoints for their needs with confidence. Given the prevalence of such providers, we do not see a need for DfT to build a data platform to serve open data to consumers. There is however a clear need to build a solution to enable DfT, regulators and other government departments and agencies to use open data effectively.

# WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

We plan to build a data platform, pipeline and tools to consume and use open data from public chargepoints to monitor policy outcomes, help regulate the industry and shape future policy. As part of this initiative, the EV Open Data Programme, we intend to appoint a partner who will collect open data across all public UK chargepoints in real time and provide this to the DfT. We will ingest this data on a periodic basis into the DfT data platform for processing and serving use cases to different user groups.

# WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for a supplier who can do the following (please confirm Y/N)

* Aggregate all of the data specified in section 10 of the PCPR ([The Public Charge Point Regulations 2023 (legislation.gov.uk)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/1168/made)) in real time from all public EV chargepoints in the UK, which chargepoint operators (CPOs) must publish using OCPI v 2.2.1.
* Carry out data quality checks and rectification processes on an ongoing basis
* Capture data quality metrics on a chargepoint and CPO basis.
* Carry out additional validations that DfT will specify, especially related to those required for publishing Government statistics on the basis of this data
* Facilitate the ingestion of the cleansed open data (as well as the data quality metrics mentioned above) on a periodic basis, currently planned to be monthly, into DfT’s GCP based data platform.
* Provide a lightweight (10-20 hours per month) support service to address any queries or quality issues raised by DfT on receipt of the open data at the end of every period.
* Demonstrate compliance with ISO 27001 and Cyber Essentials Plus.

**Questions to be answered:**

* Can you share details of any experience you have in working – at scale - with EV chargepoint open data and chargepoint operators, especially with respect to OCPI compliant data?
* Can you provide key lessons learnt, risks and opportunities from such experience, which should be accounted for in the requirements for this service?
* What approach and considerations would you take to regarding data quality for chargepoint data? Can you share any experience you have in this regard?
* What is your typical approach to transition and knowledge transfer both in taking over and exiting a data provision service?
* The DfT’s aspiration, aligned to government best practice, is for solutions to be developed open by default. Given that the data to be provided is open by design, do you anticipate any aspect of your solution to include proprietary IP that you would expect to retain? If so, can you outline these?

**Please respond to the above questions at the earliest opportunity. Responses should be no longer than 8 sides of A4 maximum.**

# OUR TIMETABLE

**EV Chargepoint Data Indicative Procurement Timetable**

The timetable for this Procurement is set out in the table below.

**This is an indicative timetable, and maybe changed if circumstances dictate, suppliers will be notified of any changes as soon as practicably possible.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Publication of the Request for Information | 22nd July 2024 |
| Clarification period starts | 22nd July 2024 |
| Clarification period closes | 23:59 GMT on 26th July 2024 |
| Deadline for the publication of responses to RFI Clarification questions | 23:59 GMT on 31st July 2024 |
| Deadline for submission of a RFI Response | 23:59 GMT 7th August 2024 |
| Analysis of RFI responses | 8th August 2024 – 15th August 2024 |
| Confirm next steps to RFI Respondents | 16th August 2024 |
| Supplier Day (Venue TBC) | W/C 19th August 2024 |
| Draft Contractual Documentation | 26th August 2024 – 06th September 2024 |
| Tender documentation issued | 9th September 2024 |
| Clarification Period Starts | 9th September 2024 |
| Deadline for clarifications questions | 23:59 GMT on 24th September 2024 |
| Deadline for publication of responses to Clarification questions | 23:59 GMT on 27th September 2024 |
| Deadline for Supplier Submissions | 23:59 GMT on 4th October 2024 |
| Independent Evaluations & Moderation | 07th October 2024 – 11th October 2024 |
| Intention to Award / Standstill Period | 14th October 2024 – 25th October 2024 |
| Contract awarded | 28th October 2024 |
| Service commences | 29th October 2024 |

# QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

* Only Potential Providers who submit a response to this RFI will be invited to a subsequent supplier day. However, not responding to the RFI won’t restrict Potential Providers from submitting a bid in response to the ITT.
* Potential Providers may raise questions or seek clarification regarding any aspect of this RFI document at any time prior to the Response Deadline. Questions must be submitted via Email – [Jason.thrupp@dft.gov.uk](mailto:Jason.thrupp@dft/gov.uk) & [Ines.Noumedem@dft.gov.uk](mailto:Ines.Noumedem@dft.gov.uk)
* Each question will be responded to separately.
* To ensure that all Potential Providers have equal access to information regarding this Procurement, responses to questions raised by Potential Providers will be published to all parties who confirm interest via email throughout the period where the RFI is live.
* Responses to questions will not identify the originator of the question.
* If a Potential Provider wishes to ask a question or seek clarification without the question and answer being published in this way, then the Potential Provider must notify us and provide its justification for withholding the question and any response. If we do not consider that there is sufficient justification for withholding the question and the corresponding response, the Potential Provider will be invited to decide whether:
  + the question/clarification and the response should in fact be published; or
  + it wishes to withdraw the question/clarification.

# GENERAL CONTACT POINT FOR THIS RFI

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