**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**REFERENCE NO:** UKSAC25\_0015

**CUSTOMER:**  UK Space Agency

**START DATE:**  6th May 2025

**DATE RESPONSE REQUIRED:** 16th May 2025

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 procuring specialist technical resources within the Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE) to provide ad-hoc oversight and advice on projects and proposals.

Please note the following general conditions:

* This RFI will help us to refine the requirements.
* We reserve the right not to proceed with a direct award. Nothing shall constitute a commitment to ordering unless we undertake a direct award that results in the award of a Call-Off Contract.
* Should a Call-Off Agreement be awarded following an evaluation of Service Offers, the Potential Provider agrees to supply the services in accordance with the Call-Off Terms contained within the Service Offer
* Any and all costs associated with the production of such a response to a RFI must be borne by the Supplier. We will not contribute in any way to meeting production costs of any response.
* Information contained within this document is confidential and must not be revealed to any third party without prior written consent from us.
* No down-selection of Potential Providers will take place as a consequence 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 UK Space Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) and provides technical advice on the government’s space strategy, supporting the UK space sector to deliver the government’s vision.

Space is a part of everyday life. Satellites underpin our national economy, from agriculture and banking to aviation and shipping, and support our national security. Space science provides critical data to understand and address global challenges such as climate change, while missions to explore our solar system unite nations and advance humanity’s horizons.

We support a thriving space sector in the UK, which generates an annual income of £16.5 billion and employs 47,000 people across the country.

Through our portfolio of programmes and projects, we encourage the development of national space capabilities and are an early-stage investor in space research and development. We also promote the UK space sector’s interests and achievements; make connections to join up industry and academia; and represent the UK in international space programmes.

We have a powerful global voice, partnering with institutions across the world, including the European Space Agency.

More information about the Agency is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-space-agency

**OCE – Office of the Chief Engineer**

The OCE acts as the principal technical advisor within the UK Space Agency, providing technical insight, assessment and assurance capabilities across the project portfolio. These activities can be broadly mapped into a number of 'services' including, but not limited, to:

Assurance – technical oversight on UK Space Agency funded projects.

Insight & advice – on new space technologies and development approaches.

Policy – technical direction on new regulatory approaches & commercial opportunities.

Best practice & standards – technical leadership at forums.

R &T/D – assessment/studies of new technologies and mission concepts.

Coherence – ensuring consistency of technical implementation across UK Space Agency inc. internal training.

# OUR AIMS – WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

The Buyer is looking for one or more Suppliers to deliver the following aims:

By accessing industry expertise, the OCE will be able to ‘flex’ its ability to support the Agency portfolio and perform its own internal R&D studies more quickly, adding value to the different directorates.

Attached to the notice is our current draft specification, detailing our ongoing approach to our requirement this is not finalised. Following the previous RFI issued to suppliers, the OCE have continued to refine their specification and commercial approach to allow them to best meet their requirements based on feedback from industry and continued thought internally. Now that the Agency has more certainty about its budget position, it is now in a place to retest its approach to the market before it launches the competition. **The Agency’s current approach is that this requirement will be competed as a Mini-competition under the RM6235 -Space-enabled DPS. Suppliers interested in delivering our requirement should consider registering for the DPS**. Our current suggested approach is that the UK Space Agency run a mini-competition under the DPS to establish 2 contract lots: Lot 1 – Technical Assurance, and Lot 2 – Research and Development Support, from which the Agency can call work off of once we have defined a work package. Potential suppliers should review the Schedule of Requirements attached to the notice.

The current estimates for the value of the two lots is below. This is subject to change as the Agency is still evaluating the level of support required and the extension of Year 2 is subject to spending review outcomes: we are planning to run this competition on for up to 2 years on a 1+1 basis.

Current estimated pricing:

**Lot 1: - Technical Assurance**

£475.2k inc. VAT

Year 1 = £175.2k, Year 2 = £250k

**Lot 2: -** **Research and Development Study Support**

£350.4k inc. VAT

Year 1 = £175.2k, Year 2 = £175.2k

# WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for suppliers' views on our proposed specification and route to market. suppliers' responses will be used to refine the route to market and specification before it is set to live.

1. Would you be interested in bidding for these opportunities procurement detailed above? If so, which ones? This question is being asked so we can gauge the crossover between suppliers who are seeking to bid for multiple related opportunities and the need to ensure the timetable can accommodate this.
2. Is there any reason you believe we should not run these procurements via the Space-Enabled DPS? This question is being asked to test the appropriateness of the Space-Enabled DPS for these contracts and to ensure suppliers have the opportunity to register for the DPS ahead of these procurements being issued.
3. If offered the opportunity, would you be interested in bidding for Lot 1, Lot 2 or Both?
4. Do you have resources of acceptable calibre with relevant experience required for our needs? If not, are you able to source them?
5. Some engagements may only be short-term for a number of days/weeks whilst others may be for longer periods – would you still be interested in such an opportunity?
6. By submitting this RFI response form you consent to the UK Space Agency processing your personal data as described in our Privacy Notice. Please click here to view our privacy notice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-space-agency-gdpr-privacy-notice>. Do you consent to your data being collected and used as per the privacy notice above?

# ATTACHMENTS

Statement of Requirements\_Specification – ME Draft

OUR TIMETABLE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **ACTIVITY** |
| 06/05/2025 | Publication of the Request for Information |
| 06/05/2025 | Clarification period starts |
| 09/05/2025 | Clarification period closes |
| 13/05/2025 | Deadline for the publication of responses to RFI Clarification questions |
| 16/05/2025 | Deadline for submission of a RFI Response |

# QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

* 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 only to** [**commercial@ukspaceagency.gov.uk**](mailto:commercial@ukspaceagency.gov.uk) **marked for the attention of Chris Bann and the subject line must clearly state ‘RFI response UKSAC25\_0015’**.
* To ensure that all Potential Providers have equal access to information regarding this Procurement, responses to questions raised by Potential Providers will be published in a questions and answers document, which will be shared after the deadline surpasses for submitting RFI responses. 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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RFI Lead** | |
| Name: | Mr Chris Bann |
| Telephone Number: | n/a |
| Email Address: | commercial@uksapaceagency.gov.uk |