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FILE REF Cnt_705040451 – FUTURE ENERGY TRIAL (HYDROGEN REFUELLING EQUIPMENT – AUTOMOTIVE) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Potential Opportunity

1. The Innovation team within Defence Support Transformation, Strategic Command (UK MOD), wish to inform potential suppliers of an intended procurement to acquire the services of a suitably skilled and qualified supplier to undertake a trial of hydrogen storage and refuelling systems to refuel vehicles at various locations. This trial would be used to inform the use of hydrogen as an automotive fuel. The installed equipment during the trial and any potential follow-on activity will be a temporary solution to gain experience of the use of hydrogen as a fuel.
2. This RFI Notice has been published, as an initial enquiry only, to obtain information from potential suppliers and/ or independent experts to develop a robust requirement and procurement/ commercial strategy. This RFI is not a commitment to launch a formal procurement procedure or to ask potential suppliers to express an interest in the requirement.
3. Link to the Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP) Opportunity Listing and RFI Notice:

High Level Statement of Need

4. With the increasing electricity power requirement on sites, due in part to the increase in EVs, the upper limit for EV recharging is being reached on some sites without major investment. Therefore the Authority is keen to understand the use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel source for cars.
5. For potential suppliers' awareness, the Authority is keen to understand the green/blue/grey fuels mix available to meet this requirement today and the future aspirations to move towards green hydrogen.
6. The Authority wishes to engage early with the market with the objective of gathering knowledge in these key areas:
 - 6.1 to engage and gain potential suppliers' opinion on the viability of the concept.
 - 6.2 to gain insight to the market possibilities and potential innovative solutions.
 - 6.3 to understand potential risks and issues.

RFI Notice Key Dates

7. RFI responses must be submitted electronically via paul.hayes105@mod.gov.uk by 1200 on the 9 September 2022.

Additional Information

8. This RFI will give potential suppliers the opportunity to comment on the proposed requirement and perhaps offer alternative solutions to better inform the trial.
9. The Authority reserves the right to choose not to approach the market for formal expressions of interest, and if potential suppliers choose to act on any information, it is entirely at their own risk. Any resulting formal procurement procedure will be conducted competitively.
10. Potential suppliers will bear all costs associated with preparing and submitting the RFI responses. The Authority will not be liable for the costs of any work or effort incurred by potential suppliers participating in this RFI, including where the Authority decides not to launch a formal procurement procedure.
11. The Authority reserves the right to seek clarification or additional information or documents in respect of potential suppliers' responses where necessary.

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12. Potential suppliers' responses to an RFI may be marked as commercially sensitive if they include technical, financial or other commercially sensitive information.
13. RFI responses provided by potential suppliers will not be carried forward, used or acknowledged for the purpose of evaluating the potential supplier in any subsequent formal procurement procedure.
14. If a potential supplier does not respond to this RFI, it will not prevent their participation in any subsequent formal procurement procedure.

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Annex A – RFI Questions. The list below is not exhaustive, there may also be occasions where the full level of detail is not available but the intent is to gain a view on how suitable the product is for expansion within the MOD.

Ref	Question	Response (no word limit)
1.	<p>To gain insight to the market possibilities, please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Technical solutions to meet the RFI. b. The fuel mix choices available (green, blue, grey hydrogen), to include availability around the UK, ease of handling of the fuel and the estimated operating cost (cost of unit (lease) + cost of fuel) per Kg of hydrogen issued over 1000kg and 6 mths). c. Indicate if a lease option is available. For the trial, this is likely to be a preferred option. d. Remote system monitoring options. e. User access control, key code or RFID system or similar. f. If there is a private user charging system available. 	
2	<p>Please comment on the following supply chain considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supply chain resilience for the system and any supply chain interdependencies. b. Lead times on the equipment needed from order to delivery. c. How long it would take your organisation to complete total build of the equipment to first refuel on location (UK based). c. Detail key component lead times and countries of origin. 	
3	<p>To gain opinion on the viability and operating nature of the product please detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The servicing schedule and indicative costs. b. Detail support logistics (servicing and spare parts required). c. Environmental infrastructure and training required to support the system. d. How will system failures be rectified. e. Demonstrate system reliability. This may also reference environmental conditions or factors that may impact on the system, such as dust or purity of fuel and describe the mitigation(s). 	
4	<p>To understand system operation and transportation risks whilst operating at either end of European climatic conditions please comment on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Transportation requirements. b. Site selection. c. Operation, to include user experience of refuelling. d. Nature and handling requirements of the site equipment refuelling procedure. e. Any other system operating risks that might 	

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	be present such as the system process operating at hot/cold temperatures, electrical and fire risk and safety.	
6	<p>To inform the Authority's strategy, please comment on the types of social value that could be delivered by your organisation on this requirement across the themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Covid-19 Recoveryb. Tackling economic inequalityc. Fighting climate changed. Equal opportunitye. Wellbeing <p>Please provide a short commentary explaining your answer.</p>	