

**DGC FIXED REPLICATION EARLY MARKET ENGAGEMENT AND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**

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**Section 1 - Objectives**

1. **Objective**
	1. The objective of this Request for Information is to help the MOD to:
		1. To establish the scale and scope of the current marketplace for the Defence Geographic Centre (DGC) Fixed Replication capabilities and to gain a clearer picture of the market and the level of technology maturity within industry.
		2. To obtain information from industry experts to inform the Statement of Requirements and the Procurement Strategy.
		3. Identify the necessary next steps in the project through analysis of the responses received and through potential meetings with questionnaire respondents at the DGC, Feltham, TW13 7AH
2. **Acquisition**

3.1 It is anticipated that any future Fixed Replication solution will be procured through competitive acquisitions.

3.2 The classification of the completed questionnaire must not exceed OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE. It is acknowledged that this may preclude disclosure of some projects and this should be highlighted if applicable. Please identify the classification of the completed submission where indicated at the start of the questionnaire.

1. **Participation**
	1. Participation of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) is encouraged.
2. **Submission of Responses**
	1. Please return the completed questionnaire to chris.stubbs101@mod.gov.uk 11:00 hours on 6th March 2023.
	2. Responses received after 11:00 hours on 6th March 2023 will not be considered.
3. **Conditions**

6.1. This RFI does not constitute the initialisation or otherwise form part of any official procurement procedure. The MOD may, at its discretion and at any time, choose not to proceed with this procurement, but maintains the right to use any Information supplied for the purposes of future procurements.

6.2. The issue of this RFI is not a commitment by the Authority to place a contract because of this RFI or at a later stage.

6.3. The procurement of any goods or services described in this RFI may not necessarily take place as described or at all.

6.4. All responses to this RFI will be held and remain the property of the MOD once received.

6.5. The MOD shall have the right to use or have used any Information, supplied as part of this activity, for United Kingdom Governmental purposes. The aforesaid rights shall be free of payment. The MOD shall not release the identity of the supplier of Information received.

6.6. The MOD will only disclose information on a confidential basis where the respondent permits this within the response to this survey. As such, except for any permissions provided in response to this questionnaire. MOD shall request consent of respondents for any further disclosure to third parties, specifically detailing the third parties, the purpose of the disclosure and any relevant conflict of interest management arrangements.

6.7. The MOD reserves the right at its sole discretion to:

6.7.1. seek clarification in respect of your submission.

6.7.2. cancel this activity at any time or to re-invite participation on the same or any alternative basis, for any reason; and

6.7.3. make whatever changes it sees fit to the timetable and process for any reason.

6.8. Any expenditure, work or effort undertaken by the Respondent to participate in this activity, is a matter solely for their commercial judgement. The MOD shall not be liable for any costs, expenditure, work, or effort incurred by the Respondent in proceeding with or participating in this activity, including if the activity is cancelled or amended by the MOD. The Respondent shall bear all costs associated with participation in this activity, including but not necessarily limited to preparing and submitting questionnaire responses, providing responses to any clarification requests raised by the MOD, demonstrating capability or to conduct any follow up engagements; and

6.9. Participation is entirely without prejudice to any future procurement. Failure to participate will not preclude you from responding to any invitation to tender/negotiate or such other procurement procedure as may be applicable to the programme.

6.10. This Agreement and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.

**Section 2 – Requirements and Specifications**

**1. Questionnaire**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company Name** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Respondent Name** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Respondent Role** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Respondent Email** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Respondent Contact Number** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Security Classification of Questionnaire submission** | Click here to enter text. |

‘Fixed Replication’ is the DGC’s on-premises plotting, scanning and media replication capability. The Digital Replication Section (DRS) is the primary plotting capability for MOD map and charts.  It consists of a network of distributed large format plotters, scanners and media replicators which provide both a ‘business as usual’ low volume facility for copying, plotting and media replication and a ‘operational’ capability for times where a ‘surge demand’ needs to be met.

DRS currently uses equipment and technology that is approaching end of life and obsolescence.  Methods and processes used by the section have remained extant over many years and DGC are looking for new ways of working to benefit from modern plotting, scanning, and replicating solutions.

This RFI is to request a suitably qualified subject matter expert (SME) to provide DGC with options which would enable increased output from the DRS capability and bring about efficiencies wherever possible.  It will be used to develop robust requirements for and potential procurement strategies. The SME would be required to review current ways of working and determine if there were alternative solutions to the current methods that would provide those efficiencies. The SME would determine what replacement and/or additional technology is required to enable those efficiencies and any change to the ways of working.

1a) Please select a descriptor that best describes your present role in delivering DGC Fixed Replication or perceived future roles associated with the DGC Fixed Replication environment. *Tick all that apply.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prime Supplier | Direct and key contact with MOD, responsible for delivery of complete system capable of meeting requirements. |[ ]
| System Integrator | Responsible for bringing together sub-systems and de-conflicting sub-systems. |[ ]
| Sub-Systems Support | Responsible for delivery of complete sub-system to integrator. |[ ]
| Component Provider | Development and production of individual components of sub-systems. |[ ]
| Support Services | Provision of support to project and delivery of requirements. |[ ]
| Technical Services/Customer Friend | Provision of technical support and non-competitive advice to MOD. |[ ]
| Software Provider | Responsible for the provision of software in relation to requirement and delivery of requirements. |[x]

1b) Please provide detail of your expertise and experience in relation to large format Digital Printing

* 1. Evidence of providing consultancy to organisations involved in large scale digital plotting
	2. Evidence of involvement with the plotting of maps, charts, and imagery products.
	3. Evidence of dealing with new generation digital print presses and plotters.
	4. Evidence of managing colour profiles
	5. Evidence of expertise regarding the finishing of plotted products and associated technologies

 ***500 words max, or reference material may be provided***:

|  |
| --- |
| Click here to enter text. |
|

1c) Please provide details of your expertise and experience in relation to bulk scanning of large format maps, charts, and documents

1. Evidence of integrating large format (54”) scanning into a digital print solution
2. Evidence of operating large format scanning devices for large volume rapid scanning of maps charts and other products on a variety of substrates.
3. Evidence of safely scanning delicate, fragile, or highly valued unique artefacts

***500 words max, or reference material may be provided***:

|  |
| --- |
| Click here to enter text. |

1d) Please provide details of your expertise and experience in relation to RIP software

1. Evidence of experience using the latest RIP software used in digital print capabilities
2. Evidence of experience using colour profiling
3. Evidence of integrating multiple RIPs within a network of digital print devices

**500 words max, or reference material may be provided:**

|  |
| --- |
| Click here to enter text. |
|

1e.  Please provide details of your expertise and experience in relation to Media Replication:

I Evidence of experience using latest technologies for multiple optical disk replication

I Evidence of experience of using latest technologies for multiple hard drive replication

**500 words max, or reference material may be provided:**

|  |
| --- |
| Click here to enter text. |

**Section 3 – Engagement**

1a) Please provide a suitable lead Point of Contact and their contact details

***300 words max***

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**Annex A –Definitions**

**Fixed Replication – is the name given to the ‘on-premises’ printing and scanning solution for DGC** This capability is formed of a series of large format digital plotters, large format pinch roller scanners and RIPs all connected to a network of high-performance workstations. Staff utilise the capability to copy, edit and print geospatial products to satisfy the requirements of Defence customers.

**Digital Replication Section (DRS) – is the name given to the ‘on-premises’ team that replicate hardcopy products**. This team of geospatial analysts and operators who check, edit, and transform digital map data to prepare it for replication using large format digital plotters. They also create digital copies of large format paper maps and charts for use in GIS systems and for further replication.

**Digital Products Replication Section (DPRS) – is the name given to the ‘on-premises’ team that replicate digital products (softcopy) to media.** This team of geospatial analysts and operators who check, edit and transform digital map data in order to replicate it onto CD/DVD or HDD for distribution to customers.

**Annex B – List of Acronyms**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Acronym** | **Description** |
| **CD** | **Compact Disk** |
| **DGC** | **Defence Geographic Centre** |
| **DVD** | **Digital Versatile Disk** |
| **DRS** | **Digital Replication Section** |
| **HDD** | **Hard Disk Drive** |
| **RIP** | **Raster Image Processor** |
| **RFI** | **Request For Information** |
| **SME** | **Subject Matter Expert** |