**Reference:** Project\_2576

**Title:** TRA - Trade in Goods Data – Early Engagement Questionnaire

**Background:**

The Trade Remedies Authority (“the Customer”) has a potential requirement for the provision of “Trade in Goods Data”.

The Secretary of State for the Department for Business and Trade (“DBT”) (previously known as Department for International Trade) is the Authority responsible for meeting this anticipated requirement on behalf of the Customer.

The objective is to secure access to detailed international trade in goods statistics to be used in trade remedy investigations by the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA). Detailed international trade in goods statistics should be reported on a bilateral basis (country A imports from country B, country A exports to country B) and available at Harmonized Standard (HS) code level and at a national tariff line level (8- or 10-digit commodity codes). Data should include volume of trade, value of trade and unit prices.

The Authority currently has a Contract with ‘IHS Markit Group Limited’ (now formally part of S&P Global) to provide this data until 26 May 2023, with a possible extension until 26 August 2023.

The dataset will be procured by DBT but used and contract managed by the TRA. DBT intends to publish the Contract Notice in May 2023, with a possible contract start date of August 2023. It is anticipated the contract shall be for a period of 12 months, with the option to extend. The requirement has an estimated total value of £56,000.00 excluding VAT (£67,200.00 including VAT) and this value includes any available contract option(s).

At this stage, DBT wants to understand the view of the market in terms of its approach to this requirement, key considerations, and costings. Information that it gathers will be used to refine requirements to ensure they are fit for suppliers to deliver against.

It should be noted that DBT makes no commitment to procure these services and may decide to not progress this any further following this engagement with the market. DBT reserves the right to change any information contained within the Early Engagement documentation at any time, and potential suppliers rely upon any information provided entirely at their own risk.

**High-level requirements:**

TRA would at the minimum require access to detailed international trade in goods data for the last complete four years. It is an essential requirement that TRA must be able to publish excerpts of these data, including analyses of these data and their derived works, in their external and internal publications.

At a high-level, TRA expect the dataset to include:

* Data from reputable sources, including customs and statistics authorities.
* A methodology which shows that the data are collected in a transparent manner, considering proprietary and commercial confidentiality.
* A clear quality assurance processes to ensure the data are timely and of sufficient quality.
* It is preferrable that all TRA staff that are involved in trade remedy investigations (i.e. investigators, analysts, verification advisers, policy advisers and legal advisers) have their own individual accounts with individual log-in details (including creation of new individual accounts with individual log-in details for new members of staff that join TRA while the data subscription is in place).
* TRA should be able to access the dataset from the Reading office and from the alternative locations in the UK (including work from home). Occasionally, TRA staff should be able to access these data from non-UK locations, where investigations involve on-site verification visits overseas but also other work overseas.
* The supplier of data should agree to train TRA staff on how to navigate their data as part of onboarding and also agree to provide on-going support to TRA staff (for example, helpdesk – email or telephone support), especially in the event of specific data and methodology queries, and technical and IT queries.
* TRA staff must be able to extract data to Excel. It is preferable for the supplier to provide a web-based system rather than a downloadable software.

In addition to these requirements, the supplier should be able to provide this on a platform that complies with Government cyber security and is accessible on Government devices in addition to complying to the terms specified by the Open Government Licence v.3.0. This software must be ISO27001 compliant and adhere to NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) Guidelines and the supplier must comply with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

**Early Engagement Process & Market Questionnaire:**

As detailed in the notice, DBT is looking to engage with relevant suppliers in the market. Suppliers that are interested in engaging are asked to complete the questionnaire at Annex A of this document and submit by the deadline stated below.

Once the deadline has passed, DBT will review the submissions, and this will aid internal decision making ahead of the Contract Notice. This is not a formal invitation to tender.

**Submission of Response**

Please submit your completed questionnaires by no later than **17:30 GMT** on **18/05/2023.**

Please submit your completed questionnaire to: CommercialDDaT@Trade.gov.uk.

*ANNEX A – QUESTIONNAIRE*

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| **No.** | **Question** | **Response**  |
| 1. | **Pricing:**1. Please can you describe your pricing approach to this type of data offering? For example, per user cost/fixed price access?
2. Is our budget realistic and proportionate to the high-level requirements given in the Background section?
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| 2. | **Deliverables:** 1. Please can you indicate what proportion of your dataset on bilateral trade flows at a national tariff line level for the last complete four years (i.e. from January 2019) is complete? Does your dataset rely on imputed or estimated data (e.g. from mirror trade data)?
2. What, (if anything), has the Authority missed or overlooked in setting out the high-level requirements?
3. What additional information, parameters or steers could the Authority provide to enable bidders to develop well-targeted proposals, and why?
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| 3. | **Wider Marketplace Innovation:** 1. Based on the information you have been presented, are there any innovative ideas or suggestions on how to deliver this requirement you would like to share with DBT?
2. Are there any market considerations which you would like to highlight to DBT which should be factored into the procurement?
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| 4. | **Data Sharing in publications**1. Can you foresee any potential issues with TRA’s requirement to publish the data excerpts in their internal or external publications?
2. Can you foresee any potential issues with TRA’s requirement to use the data as an evidence base to support policy proposals and decision making in the organisation and across Government departments that collaborate with the TRA in the process of conducting trade remedy cases that decide on implementing new trade remedy measures or revoking the existing measures?
3. Can you foresee any potential issues with TRA’s requirement to deal with and respond to the Freedom of Information (FOI) requests in situations where these requests concern data provided under this contract. How would you work with and support TRA to meet their obligations under the FOI legislation?’
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