



Crown  
Commercial  
Service

**CCS Framework  
RM6098 Technology Products & Associated  
Services 2  
(TePAS)  
LOT 1**

**Expression of Interest (EOI)**

**For  
*Procurement of a replacement Data Storage array  
and associated technical support***

**Reference: 715727479**

## Organisation

Organisation: Ministry of Defence – Submarine Delivery Agency

Address: MOD Abbey Wood

Contact Email: Ashleigh.Fets100@mod.gov.uk

We would like to notify you of an upcoming requirement. This Expression of Interest (EOI) is to assess the capability of suppliers and relates to ***Procurement of a replacement of an existing Data Storage array that will soon reach End of Life. The existing system resides within a UK MOD Classified boundary.***

Please note the following general conditions:

- Nothing shall constitute a commitment to ordering or award unless we publish an Invitation to Tender that results in the award of a Call-Off Contract.
- The contents of the EOI requirements will not change. If requirements change an EOI will be reissued to all suppliers.
- Any and all costs associated with the production of such a response to this EOI must be borne by the supplier.
- Information contained within this document is confidential and must not be revealed to any third party without prior written consent from the MoD.
- Shortlisting of potential suppliers will take place as a consequence of any responses or interactions relating to this engagement.
- We expect that all responses to this EOI will be provided by suppliers in good faith, to the best of their ability, and in light of the information available to them at the time of their response
- This EOI serves to gauge market interest and capability only. As such, provision of a nil-return by potential suppliers will not result in exclusion from Invitation To Tender.

## Overview of requirement

The Nuclear Submarine Enterprise (NSE) network is made up of infrastructure that is required for the design/build and operation of the UK CASD. There is a requirement to securely store SUKEO and Confidential Atomic classification data in the NSE environment. This is achieved by using enterprise storage arrays. The current

storage hardware is end of life and will no longer be supported from 30th November 2026. The existing infrastructure is made up of NetApp 8200 filers. This requirement is for the replacement hardware, operating systems, training and migration support activities required to realise the new capability. The new hardware shall be procured in the current financial year (2025) and all training, installation and associated support will be required to be completed prior to end of November 2026 to ensure full operability and smooth transition. Ongoing technical support and new-user training will be required until contract closure or product end of life, whichever is sooner.

## Definitions

Expression or Acronym	Definition
SQEP	Suitably Qualified and Experienced Person
CP&F	Contract Purchasing and Finance (MOD Payment system)
CASD	Continuous At-Sea Deterrent
SUKEO	Secret UK Eyes Only

## The requirement

### Replacement of Existing Enterprise storage array solution

1. The purpose of the storage solution is to hold aggregated data that is frequently accessed at speed, have the ability to offload “Aged Data” to an archive as part of a daily routine and also maintain a rapidly recoverable backup facility within the solution.
2. The storage solution provider shall offer both a Hybrid Storage Array as well as an All-Flash Array Solution in order to evaluate best value for money offer. The system shall have the ability to be scaled up in capacity by the addition of additional disks/arrays without the need for provisioned down time.
3. The enterprise storage platform shall be required to be configured to create a series of volumes from the raw disks and shall be presented to the network for use by the VMware hosts, windows servers, and the end users.

4. The storage solution shall have the ability to present the same virtual disk in both CIFS and NFS formats – supporting both Windows and Linux platforms.
5. The storage solution shall support bulk storage, consisting of virtual disks are provisioned using raw iSCSI shares. These will then mount on the host server and be formatted using the host file system.
6. The storage solution shall present an operating/management interface that is intuitive and support data management activities conducted on a regular basis as well as presenting performance metrics and statistics reports. It shall have the ability to send logging information to a centralised log facility and interface with simple management applications that monitor the overall system health.
7. Training shall be provided by the supplier to the MOD IT resources that will be operating and managing the storage. This shall be achieved by a mixture of in person (at MOD Abbey Wood), online and virtual methods (MS teams)

Training will need to cover:

- a. Installation & configuration
  - b. Operational monitoring & troubleshooting (break/fix)
  - c. Hardware replacement
  - d. Firmware updates
8. Part of the procurement and commissioning will ensure that the MOD is able to migrate from existing systems seamlessly whilst maintaining a high level of system availability. This requires a large amount of planning and specific system knowledge. The supplier shall have the ability to support with SQEP (Specialist) that can be read on to the system to support commissioning, data migration and on-the-job training activities, as a predefined set of working days that will be called off and tracked on a monthly basis. These activities will have to be conducted ONSITE MOD as there is no ability to remotely support the system from external systems. Where onsite support is required from the supplier, the requirement shall be that resources need to have a minimum of SC clearance to be able to access MOD site(s) and the data rooms where the infrastructure resides. Onsite support will be provided as eyes only, with MOD IT support staff carrying out all tasks on the infrastructure under the guidance of the supplier support team.

9. The hardware shall remain the property of the Crown once commissioned therefore a through life support offering shall be provided, as no infrastructure will be returnable to the manufacturer once commissioned. This through life support shall cover Help desk, fault finding, software and firmware updates and replacement parts through the projected lifecycle of the system.
10. The supplier shall offer in-life upgrades of hardware components to ensure that the solution can be supported for a minimum of 5 years with an expectation that this should be operational and supported for up to 10 years.
11. The supplier shall provide the MOD with regular firmware, security and software upgrades, in a manner they can be deployed whilst ensuring the operational integrity of the system is maintained.
12. There is no requirement for the provision of billable account management services for this offering.

## Technical capabilities, merit and or assistance

Experience within Defence IT and Infrastructure is preferable but not required. SQEP will be required to provide on-going support for the duration of the contract and throughout the lifetime of the hardware. Personnel must be SC cleared, available and suitably experienced to answer queries virtually, via telephone and attend site to assess and resolve any problems that may arise.

## Location / geographical region

Delivery and Installation is to take place at:

Submarine Delivery Agency

MOD Abbey Wood

BS34 8JH

Bristol

UK

Training and Support is to take place through a combination of on-site and virtual methods and will require MOD-compliant programmes such as MS Teams. Any supplier staff visiting MOD site will require a minimum of SC level security clearance.

## Key milestones and deliverables

Milestones are indicative only at this stage, and are subject to change.

Milestone/Deliverable	Description	Timeframe or Delivery Date
1	Procurement	No later than March 2026
2	Installation at the MOD A1 North & South Data Centres	June 2026
3	Testing & operational acceptance	July 2026
4	Data Migration	August/September 2026
5	Operational go live	October 2026

## Volumes

Asset	Requirement (SKU/ Performance specification e.g. HDD/SSD, CPU, RAM, Configuration etc.)	Quantity
Storage Array	1.5PB (Data Centre South) 3x 500TB aggregated storage 1x 500TB backup and archive	4
Storage Array	500TB (Data Centre North) 1x 500TB aggregated storage	1

## Pricing and Payment

The maximum budget for this procurement is £750,000.00 (inc VAT). Due to budget constraints, tenders over this amount will not be eligible.

Payments will be made via CP&F. All invoices will be required to be raised via Exostar. By returning your tender, you are confirming that you already have, or will be set up with accounts to facilitate payment via these methods.

## Security and confidentiality requirements

### Security and vetting requirements:

SC (Security Clearance)

All information related to or generated by this Contract is to be treated in the appropriate manner in accordance with Government Security Classifications. The

classification of the material to be handled shall not exceed OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE.

## Social value

This procurement is in scope of the Cabinet Office Social Value Model. The Model Award Criteria and Sub-Criteria will be used to evaluate your tender response. Further details regarding the Social Value Model can be found at Procurement Policy Note 06/20 – taking account of social value in the award of central government contracts - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)).

## Questions and Clarifications

- Suppliers may raise questions or seek clarification regarding any aspect of this EOI document at any time prior to the Response Deadline. Questions must be submitted via Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP) no later than 17:00 on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- To ensure that all suppliers have equal access to information regarding this EOI, responses to questions raised by suppliers will be published in a questions and answers document, which will be available via DSP.
- Responses to questions will not identify the originator of the question.
- If a supplier wishes to ask a question or seek clarification without the question and answer being published in this way, then the supplier 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 supplier 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.

## Response Timescales

Please provide your EOI containing confirmation that you can meet all deliverables as set out above by the below dates. EOI return will be accepted via Contracts Finder, Defence Sourcing Portal messaging function, or email.

<b>EOI publication date:</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>
<b>EOI return date:</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (17:00)</b>
<b>Tender opening date:</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>
<b>Tender return date:</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (17:00)</b>