**Research to explore future UK dependencies on China for key clean energy supply chains:**

**Preliminary Research Questionnaire**

This is a questionnaire on which we would wish to seek your thoughts on the questions we have drafted below. These thoughts will be built into the Early Market Engagement Event for the above-mentioned project on 10th November.

**Our ask:**

The project has a provisional budget of £48,500 (including VAT). We would like you to review the below questions and, in the table, identify if the questions we are proposing are within your area of expertise as an organisation to be able to deliver if asked as part of the tender specification. We would also welcome thoughts on the methods you would consider using to answer that question as well as any other comments you have on it in particular. We also have a few questions after the table to capture your thoughts.

**We would request responses to this questionnaire by 14th November 13:00, but would welcome any responses prior to the event on the 10th in order to review and amend the EME presentation accordingly. Please send responses to:** [**internationalclimateandenergy.procurement@energysecurity.gov.uk**](mailto:internationalclimateandenergy.procurement@energysecurity.gov.uk)

**Summary:**

This project aims to determine the risks and opportunities of the UK’s 2050 dependencies on China’s clean energy supply chains through illustrative scenarios where the UK is more, the same or less reliant on China vs. today. This refers to the trade along the length of these supply chains, from critical minerals, refined materials, components and the final manufactured clean technology. For example, the raw lithium ore to refined lithium carbonate, to cathodes and the final battery used in an electric vehicle. This would help identify which sectors present the largest risks/opportunities for the UK, the implications for the global energy transition.

**Details around the research questions:**

| **Question** | **Is this within your area of expertise?** | **What additional information would you like to see for this question?** | **Any further comments, or views on the sort of methodological approach you might take in answering this question?** |
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| 1. What are the key benefits and risks of direct/indirect dependence on China for each of four clean energy technologies and their supply chains? These technologies are; solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, wind turbines and parts, batteries (EVs and energy storage). How might this change in the future? |  |  |  |
| 2. How do future dependency risks and opportunities vary by:   1. **Each stage along the supply chain?** Are the nature of risks/opportunities different between raw materials, intermediate goods, and finished products? 2. **Technology?** Are the nature of risks/opportunities different across the four technologies identified? 3. **The UK’s direct or indirect exposure?** Does the UK directly importing goods from China impact the nature of the benefits/risks compared to the UK importing goods from a country that has imported the goods from China? |  |  |  |
| 3. How do the benefits/opportunities and risks weigh against each other? What are the key trade-offs (e.g. between resilience vs. cost)? |  |  |  |

**General Question 1:** Given a budget of £48,500, and we’re looking to conclude this research by March 2024, what proportion of the above do you think is realistically deliverable within that budget and timeframe? Please be descriptive on what you think is or is not achievable with regards to the research questions.

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**General Question 2:** What aspects of these questions can you reasonably deliver based upon your existing expertise?

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**General Question 3:** What risks or challenges do you foresee in delivering this work that we can help with?

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**General Question 4:** Any further comments? We’d especially welcome thoughts on appropriate methodological and analytical approaches to realising our overarching research questions.

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**General Question 5:** Would you be willing to be contacted regarding any follow up queries the Authority may have on your responses? If so please provide email contact details.

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**General Question 6:** Finally, is this a project you would be interested in tendering for?

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