THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

PURCHASE OF AN OPEN GEOMETRY MICRO-RAMAN

OPEN COMPETITION

DEADLINE FOR TENDER SUBMISSIONS – 5pm (UK time) 19 NOVEMBER 2020

CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

The National Archives has received a number of questions in relation to this procurement. Those questions, and their associated responses, can be found below.

Q1: *[question paraphrased to protect commercial confidentiality] The supplier proposed a system which very closely matches our requirements.*
A1: It would appear that your proposed solution might not meet our requirements. However the contracting department would be interested in seeing a tender submission from you in order to evaluate the pros and cons of the system more fully and judge it against any other submissions we receive. Whether you choose to submit or not is entirely at your discretion.

Q1: *From the tender it seems that requirement is to move the raman microscope above huge samples that could potentially be greater than 1m x1m or even 2m x 2m, or even bigger. Is this correct? What is the maximum size of document that is going to be analysed by the raman microscope?*
A2: We would like to operate non-invasively and directly on documents of average A4/A3 size, so the Raman microscope should be mounted on a gantry or an arm, keeping the surface underneath clear to place the document horizontally. We are aware that, for instance to do mapping, there will be limitations in scanning size, and this is acceptable; in these cases, we can move the document underneath to map different areas. We are aware that, no matter how flexible the Raman system will be, it is unrealistic to expect that we will be able to reach all areas of very large documents (e.g. posters or maps). However, we require a Raman system that is open geometry, meaning that the set-up is not enclosed or the system is not mounted on a conventional microscope stage, which would force us to take samples. Please ensure you tell us the capabilities/limitations of your proposed solution within your Tender Response.