

A satellite image of a hurricane, showing a well-defined eye and spiral cloud bands, positioned over the Atlantic Ocean. The surrounding landmasses, including North America and parts of Europe and Africa, are visible in the background.

Invitation to Quote

Invitation to Quote (ITQ) on behalf of UK Space Agency (UKSA)

Subject: The Provision of a Service to Derive Position Navigation & Timing (PNT) System of System Requirements

Sourcing Reference Number: CR21019

Table of Contents

Section	Content
1	<u>About UK Space Agency</u>
2	<u>Privacy Notice</u>
3	<u>Working with the Contracting Authority.</u>
4	<u>Specification</u>
5	<u>Evaluation model</u>
6	<u>Evaluation questionnaire</u>
7	<u>General Information</u>

Section 1 – About UK Space Agency

The UK Space Agency wants the UK to lead the new space age, with the benefits of space reaching everyone. We are developing a comprehensive UK space strategy to set a bold vision for the UK in space and co-ordinate government investment in this growing industry.

The Covid-19 outbreak is an unprecedented challenge facing the UK and the rest of the world, and we recognise that there will be impacts on the space sector. The UK Space Agency is working closely with the space industry, universities and partners across the government to respond to the crisis and to ensure we emerge stronger than ever.

We have **five goals** which will drive our work over the course of the year (2020/21):

1. **Growth** – drive and sustain **UK space sector growth**
2. **Science** - deliver space-based infrastructure that enables **world-class science**
3. **Capabilities** – ensure the UK government has access to capabilities that are integral to our **national safety, security and Critical National Infrastructure**
4. **Global** - increase the **UK's global influence in science, security and trade** through space
5. **UKSA** - Ensure **an effective UK Space Agency** which is a great place to work, supported by strong governance

UK Space Agency key achievements include:

- **The UK space sector is an economic success story** – generating an income of £14.8 billion, employing 42,000 people and supporting a further £300 billion of economic activity through the use of satellite services.
- **The UK Space Agency is encouraging further growth** by seizing the opportunities presented by the new space age, such as the increasing global demand for Earth Observation data, space launch services and the falling cost of satellites and space technologies.
- **Space can help Government achieve its ambitions for the UK's prosperity and knowledge, security and defence, and global influence.** A new National Space Council has been created to provide leadership on space policy and investment across government and is overseeing development of a new space strategy.
- **Brexit does not affect our ongoing role in the European Space Agency.** The UK made ambitious investments in future ESA programmes in November 2019. This will cement our leading role in ESA, help us develop our national capabilities and contribute to exciting new science and exploration missions.
- **The Government's spaceflight programme** – LaunchUK - will kick-start small satellite launch and sub-orbital flight from UK spaceports. The UK Space Agency is supporting projects to deliver the first commercial launches, while Government is also legislating to provide a modern regulatory framework through the Space Industry Act 2018.
- **We are developing world-class facilities** including the National Space Propulsion Facility in Westcott and the National Satellite Test Facility in Harwell (supported by £99m funding), as well as business incubators in more than 20 locations to support British start-ups hoping to grow into successful space companies.
- **We are using the UK space sector's research and innovation strengths** to deliver sustainable economic or societal benefits to developing nations and economies through our International Partnership Programme (IPP) - a £30M per year programme funded by the BEIS Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

Section 2 – Privacy Notice

This notice sets out how the Contracting Authority will use your personal data, and your rights. It is made under Articles 13 and/or 14 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

YOUR DATA

The Contracting Authority will process the following personal data:

Names and contact details of employees involved in preparing and submitting the bid;
Names and contact details of employees proposed to be involved in delivery of the contract;
Names, contact details, age, qualifications and experience of employees whose CVs are submitted as part of the bid.

Purpose

The Contracting Authority are processing your personal data for the purposes of the tender exercise, or in the event of legal challenge to such tender exercise.

Legal basis of processing

The legal basis for processing your personal data is processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller, such as the exercise of a function of the Crown, a Minister of the Crown, or a government department; the exercise of a function conferred on a person by an enactment; the exercise of a function of either House of Parliament; or the administration of justice.

Recipients

Your personal data will be shared by us with other Government Departments or public authorities where necessary as part of the tender exercise. The Contracting Authority may share your data if required to do so by law, for example by court order or to prevent fraud or other crime.

Retention

All submissions in connection with this tender exercise will be retained for a period of (7) years from the date of contract expiry, unless the contract is entered into as a deed in which case it will be kept for a period of (12) years from the date of contract expiry.

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data.

You have the right to request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay.

You have the right to request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement.

You have the right to request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.

You have the right in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data where it is processed for direct marketing purposes.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

Your personal data will not be processed outside the European Union

COMPLAINTS

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
0303 123 1113
casework@ico.org.uk

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

CONTACT DETAILS

The data controller for your personal data is:

UK Space Agency

You can contact the Data Protection Officer at:

UKSA Data Protection Officer, UK Space Agency, Polaris House, North Start Road, Swindon SN2 1SZ. Email: GDPR@ukspaceagency.gov.uk

UK Shared Business Services Ltd Privacy Statement

At UK Shared Business Services (UK SBS) we recognise and understand that your privacy is extremely important, and we want you to know exactly what kind of information we collect about you and how we use it.

This privacy notice link below details what you can expect from UK SBS when we collect your personal information.

- We will keep your data safe and private.
- We will not sell your data to anyone.
- We will only share your data with those you give us permission to share with and only for legitimate service delivery reasons.

<https://www.uksbs.co.uk/use/pages/privacy.aspx>

Section 3 - Working with the Contracting Authority

In this section you will find details of your Procurement contact point and the timescales relating to this opportunity.

Section 3 – Contact details		
3.1.	Contracting Authority Name and address	UK Space Agency Polaris House Swindon SN2 1SZ
3.2.	Buyer name	Jesika Browne
3.3.	Buyer contact details	research@uksbs.co.uk
3.4.	Estimated value of the Opportunity	£30,000.00 - £40,000.00 GBP ex VAT
3.5.	Process for the submission of clarifications and Bids	All correspondence shall be submitted within the Messaging Centre of the e-sourcing. Guidance Notes to support the use of Delta eSourcing is available here. Please note submission of a Bid to any email address including the Buyer <u>will</u> result in the Bid <u>not</u> being considered.

Section 3 - Timescales		
3.6.	Date of Issue of Contract Advert on Contracts Finder	Friday, 15 January 2021 Contracts Finder
3.7.	Latest date / time ITQ clarification questions shall be received through Delta eSourcing messaging system	Friday, 22 January 2021 11.00
3.8.	Latest date / time ITQ clarification answers should be sent to all Bidders by the Buyer through Delta eSourcing Portal	Monday, 25 January 2021
3.9.	Latest date and time ITQ Bid shall be submitted through Delta eSourcing	Friday, 29 January 2021 11.00 am
3.10.	Anticipated notification date of successful and unsuccessful Bids	Friday, 05 February 2021
3.11.	Anticipated Contract Award date	Friday, 05 February 2021
3.12.	Anticipated Contract Start date	Monday, 08 February 2021
3.13.	Anticipated Contract End date	Wednesday, 31 March 2021
3.14.	Bid Validity Period	60 Days

Section 4 – Specification

Introduction

The purpose of the UK Space Agency (UKSA) is to lead the UK's civil space strategy and support the use of space technology and applications to deliver economic growth, scientific excellence and benefits to the citizen.

The creation of the Agency reflected a political desire to maintain and grow a strategic capability to explore and exploit space for the benefit of the UK. This desire has been translated into the Agency's overarching goal to help grow the UK space sector to a £40 billion turnover by 2030. The Agency has four inter-related responsibilities. These are to:

- lead UK civil space policy within Government, providing informed and impartial advice to decision-makers and ensuring the UK's views are influential in the international space policy environment
- build a stronger national space capability encompassing scientific and industrial centres of excellence; national space facilities; and a growing, skilled UK space workforce
- deliver a range of national and international space programmes in cooperation with industry and academia; and
- regulate UK civil space activities to ensure compliance with international treaty responsibilities.

The primary goal of the strategy is to foster the growth of the space sector and maximize the benefit of space activities for science, commerce, government and society.

Key facts and figures:

- The UK Space Agency is working with industry to secure 10 percent of the global space market by 2030.
- The UK space sector is growing, worth £14.8 billion (2016/17) to the economy and employing 42,000 people across the country.
- The sector's average annual growth over the last 2 years (**3.3%**) outpaces growth in the general UK economy (2.0%).
- It contributes £5.7 billion worth of GVA to UK GDP (equivalent to 0.29% of total GDP).
- The sector generates £5.5 billion worth of income through exports.
- R&D expenditure sits at £566m (having grown by 16% per annum since 2014/15).
- Space and satellite services support wider UK industries that contribute just over £300 billion to GDP (15.3%)
- The UK is a leader in small satellite technology, telecommunications, robotics and Earth observation, while British universities are some of the best in the world for space science.
- The sector is growing fast, with an estimated additional 30,000 new staff required by 2030. We must use space to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The Commercial team was established in late 2019 to provide strategic commercial support to UKSA Programmes and Major Projects. The scope of activity includes development of business cases and commercial strategies, supporting grant and procurement competitions and contract negotiation. UK Shared Business Services (UK SBS) provide UKSA with procurement sourcing services.

Our portfolio is made up of predominantly grant funded projects, but we also conduct procurement competition bound by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and public procurement policy and execute Memorandum of Understanding agreements for bilateral collaboration with other crown bodies.

The UKSA commercial team own and operate the Corporate Grant Policy and are responsible for ensuring the required tools and documents are available to aid grant and project managers in conducting grant calls and undertaking due diligence.

1. Introduction

This requirement is to derive the first level system of system requirements from the PNT user requirements developed as part of the Cabinet Office PNT strategy development, led through the UK Space Agency.

The nascent UK PNT Strategy identifies that to achieve a level of resilience for PNT services in the UK, and meet the needs of duality, diversity and redundancy, a system of systems approach needs to be taken to ensure that multiple technologies are able to work under a consistent framework, making up parts of a whole.

Derivation of system of system requirements (Key system requirements and detailed system requirements) is necessary to enable delivery programmes to apply individual service definition filters for their needs.

Delivery of the requirements is needed before the end of March 2021

2. Aims & Objectives

The aims of this activity are to:

1. Derive a set of key PNT system (of system) requirements
2. Derive a set of detailed system (of systems) requirements (exact level detail tbd between parties)
3. Derive system (of system) performance measures and methods to assess the effectiveness of different technology mixes (PNT combinations) within a system of systems

3. Objectives

Objective 1 Convert User Requirements to Key System Requirements

Inputs:

- Any existing work on this topic to date
- User requirements spreadsheet
- Draft strategy document

Outputs:

1. Key system requirements (in spreadsheet form)
2. Initial system performance measures for an overall SoS for PNT

Objective 2: Convert User Requirements to Detailed System of Systems Requirements

Inputs:

- Output of Objective 1

Outputs:

3. Detailed system requirements (in spreadsheet form)
4. Document detailing the derivation process and summarising the requirements for a senior audience/incorporation into the PNT Strategy

Objective 3: Derive system performance measures and methods

Inputs:

- Outputs of objectives 1 and 2
- Draft PNT Strategy document
- Existing knowledge and PNT Strategy work in this area

Outputs:

5. A set of measures and/or metrics for measurement of the ability of a user to access PNT services within a system of systems.
6. A method for assessing success in providing the ability to access resilient PNT which includes methods to assess different options of PNT combinations
7. A document explaining the processes of assessment and a “user guide” for the process.

4. Background to the Requirement

The PNT strategy development is being led by the UK Cabinet Office through a team housed within UK Space Agency. The PNT strategy is out for review at the time of writing this SoW but is not due to be submitted formally until March, to the National Security Advisor.

This activity, when aligned with others, will inform the final strategy and its outputs provided as part of that activity.

5. Scope

The scope of this activity is limited to a PNT system of systems (i.e. does not include interfaces to other system of systems) and to PNT technologies and combinations.

6. Requirement

- Outputs as described in the objectives
- Contractor is expected to work closely with the Cabinet Office PNT strategy team, in particular the technical lead and any technical/industrial support being provided to them.
- Contractor to hold weekly progress meetings (virtual) with the Cabinet Office PNT strategy team
- All deliverables to be in MS Office 365 format

- Access to relevant information and documents held by the authority will be provided

7. Timetable

Objective 1: t0 + 4 weeks

Objective 2: t0 + 6 weeks or sooner

Objective 3: (item 1) t0 + 4 weeks (items 2 & 3) t0 + 6 weeks or sooner

Terms and Conditions

Bidders are to note that any requested modifications to the Contracting Authority Terms and Conditions on the grounds of statutory and legal matters only, shall be raised as a formal clarification during the permitted clarification period.

Section 5 – Evaluation model

The evaluation model below shall be used for this ITQ, which will be determined to two decimal places.

Where a question is 'for information only' it will not be scored.

The evaluation and if required team may comprise staff from UKSA and any specific external stakeholders the Contracting Authority deems required. After evaluation and if required moderation scores will be finalised by performing a calculation to identify (at question level) the mean average of all evaluators (Example – a question is scored by three evaluators and judged as scoring 5, 5 and 6. These scores will be added together and divided by the number of evaluators to produce the final score of 5.33 ($5+5+6=16\div3=5.33$))

Pass / Fail criteria		
Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject
Commercial	SEL1.2	Employment breaches/ Equality
Commercial	SEL1.3	Compliance to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act
Commercial	SEL2.10	Cyber Essentials
Commercial	FOI1.1	Freedom of Information
Commercial	AW1.1	Form of Bid
Commercial	AW1.3	Certificate of Bona Fide Bid
Commercial	AW3.1	Validation check
Commercial	AW4.1	Compliance to the Contract Terms
Commercial	AW4.2	Changes to the Contract Terms
Price	AW5.1	Maximum Budget
Quality	AW6.1	Compliance to the Specification
Quality	AW6.2	Variable Bids
-	-	Invitation to Quote – received on time within e-sourcing tool
In the event of a Bidder failing to meet the requirements of a Mandatory pass / fail criteria, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to disqualify the Bidder and not consider evaluation of any of the Award stage scoring methodology or Mandatory pass / fail criteria.		

Scoring criteria			
Evaluation Justification Statement			
In consideration of this particular requirement the Contracting Authority has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this ITQ. The Contracting Authority considers these weightings to be in line with existing best practice for a requirement of this type.			
Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject	Maximum Marks
Price	AW5.2	Price	40.00%

Quality	AW6.3	Capability	20.00%
Quality	AW6.4	Methodology	20.00%
Quality	AW6.5	Assessment	20.00%

Evaluation of criteria

Non-Price elements

Each question will be judged on a score from 0 to 100, which shall be subjected to a multiplier to reflect the percentage of the evaluation criteria allocated to that question.

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 20% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 20%.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 12% by using the following calculation:

$$\text{Score} = \{\text{weighting percentage}\} \times \{\text{bidder's score}\} = 20\% \times 60 = 12$$

The same logic will be applied to groups of questions which equate to a single evaluation criterion.

The 0-100 score shall be based on (unless otherwise stated within the question):

0	The Question is not answered, or the response is completely unacceptable.
10	Extremely poor response – they have completely missed the point of the question.
20	Very poor response and not wholly acceptable. Requires major revision to the response to make it acceptable. Only partially answers the requirement, with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed.
40	Poor response only partially satisfying the question requirements with deficiencies apparent. Some useful evidence provided but response falls well short of expectations. Low probability of being a capable supplier.
60	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire.
80	Good response which describes their capabilities in detail which provides high levels of assurance consistent with a quality provider. The response includes a full description of techniques and measurements currently employed.
100	Response is exceptional and clearly demonstrates they are capable of meeting the requirement. No significant weaknesses noted. The response is compelling in its description of techniques and measurements currently employed, providing full assurance consistent with a quality provider.

All questions will be scored based on the above mechanism. Please be aware that there may be multiple evaluators. If so, their individual scores will be averaged (mean) to determine your final score as follows:

Example

Evaluator 1 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 2 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 3 scored your bid as 40

Evaluator 4 scored your bid as 40

Your final score will $(60+60+40+40) \div 4 = 50$

Price elements will be judged on the following criteria.

The lowest price for a response which meets the pass criteria shall score 100.
All other bids shall be scored on a pro rata basis in relation to the lowest price. The score is then subject to a multiplier to reflect the percentage value of the price criterion.

For example - Bid 1 £100,000 scores 100.

Bid 2 £120,000 differential of £20,000 or 20% remove 20% from price scores 80

Bid 3 £150,000 differential £50,000 remove 50% from price scores 50.

Bid 4 £175,000 differential £75,000 remove 75% from price scores 25.

Bid 5 £200,000 differential £100,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.

Bid 6 £300,000 differential £200,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.

Where the scoring criterion is worth 50% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 50.

In the example if a supplier scores 80 from the available 100 points this will equate to 40% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points multiplied by 50 ($80/100 \times 50 = 40$)

The lowest score possible is 0 even if the price submitted is more than 100% greater than the lowest price.

Section 6 – Evaluation questionnaire

Bidders should note that the evaluation questionnaire is located within the **e-sourcing questionnaire**.

Guidance on how to register and use the e-sourcing portal is available at <http://www.uksbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/supplier.aspx>

PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY

Section 7 – General Information

What makes a good bid – some simple do's 😊

DO:

- 7.1 Do comply with Procurement document instructions. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification.
- 7.2 Do provide the Bid on time, and in the required format. Remember that the date/time given for a response is the last date that it can be accepted; we are legally bound to disqualify late submissions. Responses received after the date indicated in the ITQ shall not be considered by the Contracting Authority, unless the Bidder can justify that the reason for the delay, is solely attributable to the Contracting Authority
- 7.3 Do ensure you have read all the training materials to utilise e-sourcing tool prior to responding to this Bid. If you send your Bid by email or post it will be rejected.
- 7.4 Do use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint Excel 97-03 or compatible formats, or PDF unless agreed in writing by the Contracting Authority. If you use another file format without our written permission, we may reject your Bid.
- 7.5 Do ensure you utilise the Delta eSourcing messaging system to raise any clarifications to our ITQ. You should note that we will release the answer to the question to all Bidders and where we suspect the question contains confidential information, we may modify the content of the question to protect the anonymity of the Bidder or their proposed solution
- 7.6 Do answer the question, it is not enough simply to cross-reference to a 'policy', web page or another part of your Bid, the evaluation team have limited time to assess bids and if they can't find the answer, they can't score it.
- 7.7 Do consider who the Contracting Authority is and what they want – a generic answer does not necessarily meet every Contracting Authority's needs.
- 7.8 Do reference your documents correctly, specifically where supporting documentation is requested e.g. referencing the question/s they apply to.
- 7.9 Do provide clear, concise and ideally generic contact details; telephone numbers, e-mails and fax details.
- 7.10 Do complete all questions in the questionnaire or we may reject your Bid.
- 7.11 Do ensure that the Response and any documents accompanying it are in the English Language, the Contracting Authority reserve the right to disqualify any full or part responses that are not in English.
- 7.12 Do check and recheck your Bid before dispatch.

What makes a good bid – some simple do not's Ⓜ

DO NOT

- 7.13 Do not cut and paste from a previous document and forget to change the previous details such as the previous Contracting Authorities name.
- 7.14 Do not attach 'glossy' brochures that have not been requested, they will not be read unless we have asked for them. Only send what has been requested and only send supplementary information if we have offered the opportunity so to do.
- 7.15 Do not share the Procurement documents, they are confidential and should not be shared with anyone without UKSA's written permission.
- 7.16 Do not seek to influence the procurement process by requesting meetings or contacting the Contracting Authority to discuss your Bid. If your Bid requires clarification the Contracting Authority will contact you. All information secured outside of formal Buyer communications shall have no Legal standing or worth and should not be relied upon.
- 7.17 Do not contact the Contracting Authority staff without the Contracting Authorities written permission or we may reject your Bid.
- 7.18 Do not collude to fix or adjust the price or withdraw your Bid with another Party as we will reject your Bid.
- 7.19 Do not offer the Contracting Authority staff any inducement or we will reject your Bid.
- 7.20 Do not seek changes to the Bid after responses have been submitted and the deadline for Bids to be submitted has passed.
- 7.21 Do not cross reference answers to external websites or other parts of your Bid, the cross references and website links will not be considered.
- 7.22 Do not exceed word counts, the additional words will not be considered.
- 7.23 Do not make your Bid conditional on acceptance of your own Terms of Contract, as your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.24 Do not unless explicitly requested by the Contracting Authority either in the procurement documents or via a formal clarification from the Contracting Authority send your response by any way other than via e-sourcing tool. Responses received by any other method than requested will not be considered for the opportunity.

Some additional guidance notes

- 7.25 All enquiries with respect to access to the e-sourcing tool and problems with functionality within the tool must be submitted to Delta eSourcing, Telephone 0845 270 7050
- 7.26 Bidders will be specifically advised where attachments are permissible to support a question response within the e-sourcing tool. Where they are not permissible any attachments submitted will not be considered as part of the evaluation process.
- 7.27 Question numbering is not sequential and all questions which require submission are included in the Section 6 Evaluation Questionnaire.
- 7.28 Any Contract offered may not guarantee any volume of work or any exclusivity of supply.
- 7.29 We do not guarantee to award any Contract as a result of this procurement
- 7.30 All documents issued or received in relation to this procurement shall be the property of the Contracting Authority.
- 7.31 We can amend any part of the procurement documents at any time prior to the latest date / time Bids shall be submitted through the Delta eSourcing Portal.
- 7.32 If you are a Consortium you must provide details of the Consortiums structure.
- 7.33 Bidders will be expected to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, or your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.34 Bidders should note the Government's transparency agenda requires your Bid and any Contract entered into to be published on a designated, publicly searchable web site. By submitting a response to this ITQ Bidders are agreeing that their Bid and Contract may be made public
- 7.35 Your bid will be valid for 60 days or your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.36 Bidders may only amend the contract terms during the clarification period only, only if you can demonstrate there is a legal or statutory reason why you cannot accept them. If you request changes to the Contract terms without such grounds and the Contracting Authority fail to accept your legal or statutory reason is reasonably justified, we may reject your Bid.
- 7.37 We will let you know the outcome of your Bid evaluation and where requested will provide a written debrief of the relative strengths and weaknesses of your Bid.
- 7.38 If you fail mandatory pass / fail criteria we will reject your Bid.
- 7.39 Bidders are required to use IE8, IE9, Chrome or Firefox in order to access the functionality of the Delta eSourcing Portal.
- 7.40 Bidders should note that if they are successful with their proposal the Contracting Authority reserves the right to ask additional compliancy checks prior to the award of

any Contract. In the event of a Bidder failing to meet one of the compliancy checks the Contracting Authority may decline to proceed with the award of the Contract to the successful Bidder.

- 7.41 All timescales are set using a 24-hour clock and are based on British Summer Time or Greenwich Mean Time, depending on which applies at the point when Date and Time Bids shall be submitted through the Delta eSourcing Portal.
- 7.42 All Central Government Departments and their Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies are subject to control and reporting within Government. In particular, they report to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury for all expenditure. Further, the Cabinet Office has a cross-Government role delivering overall Government policy on public procurement - including ensuring value for money and related aspects of good procurement practice.

For these purposes, the Contracting Authority may disclose within Government any of the Bidders documentation/information (including any that the Bidder considers to be confidential and/or commercially sensitive such as specific bid information) submitted by the Bidder to the Contracting Authority during this Procurement. The information will not be disclosed outside Government. Bidders taking part in this ITQ consent to these terms as part of the competition process.

- 7.43 The Government introduced its new Government Security Classifications (GSC) classification scheme on the 2nd April 2014 to replace the current Government Protective Marking System (GPMS). A key aspect of this is the reduction in the number of security classifications used. All Bidders are encouraged to make themselves aware of the changes and identify any potential impacts in their Bid, as the protective marking and applicable protection of any material passed to, or generated by, you during the procurement process or pursuant to any Contract awarded to you as a result of this tender process will be subject to the new GSC. The link below to the Gov.uk website provides information on the new GSC:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to amend any security related term or condition of the draft contract accompanying this ITQ to reflect any changes introduced by the GSC. In particular where this ITQ is accompanied by any instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as a result of any changes stemming from the new GSC, whether in respect of the applicable protective marking scheme, specific protective markings given, the aspects to which any protective marking applies or otherwise. This may relate to the instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as they apply to the procurement as they apply to the procurement process and/or any contracts awarded to you as a result of the procurement process.

USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS

- [Contracts Finder](#)
- [Equalities Act introduction](#)
- [Bribery Act introduction](#)
- [Freedom of information Act](#)