



## MOD Request for Information

**Document Ref:** BOREALIS RFI

**Version No:** v1.0

**Version Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### Disclaimer and Notice to Reader

This RFI is issued as part of a market engagement phase and is **NOT** part of any competitive procedure.

The Information provided in this RFI is indicative and intended only for discussion as part of the Project BOREALIS market engagement and does not constitute a commitment to undertake any procurement exercise in the future.

No information contained in the RFI, or any communication made between DE&S and any supplier in connection with this, shall be relied upon as constituting a contract, agreement or representation that any contract shall be offered in accordance with this RFI.

Information specific to a Supplier, provided through this process, will not be shared or distributed directly to other RFI participants but may inform further discussions that MOD will have with industry during this market engagement phase and may subsequently be used to inform the terms on which the formal procurement process is conducted.

Any participation in this market engagement phase and any response to this RFI is entirely at your cost and risk. The MOD is under no obligation to proceed with a formal procurement or in any other way proceed with the Project BOREALIS and shall not be liable for any costs arising from participation in this process.

### **Section 1: Contract Title:**

Title attributed to the Contract by the Contracting Authority

Country

Town

Title of notice

### **Section 2: Contracting Authority**

Name of Institution

MOD Organisation

**IBOC**

Integrated Project Team (IPT)

Other Integrated Project Team (IPT): **DE&S Space DT**

Official Name: DE&S Space DT

Address Line 1: Spruce 1C

Address Line 2: MOD Abbey Wood

Town: Bristol

Postcode: BS34 8JH

Country: United Kingdom

Contact Person: DE&S Space DT

For the attention of: DE&S Space DT

Email: DESSpace-DT@mod.gov.uk

**Section 3: Object of the Request for Information:**

Contracting Authority's file Reference number: 708266450

**Short description of requirement:**

Introduction:

The UK Ministry of Defence (UK MOD) held a Project BOREALIS Industry Day in Bristol on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023, which was advertised via a Prior Information Notice (PIN), on the MOD Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP), Contracts Finder, Find a Tender Service (FTS) and UK Space Command (UKSC) Social Media Channels on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023. Representatives from Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S), UKSC and the UK Space Agency (UKSA) provided detail on the BOREALIS capability roadmap, requirements, security, outline commercial strategy, and Agile delivery methodology; with an open question and answer session. The slide deck presented at the Industry Day, Delegate List and Q&A pack is included in this RFI as supplementary information.

This RFI is being issued as a follow up to the Industry Day.

Project Background:

The MOD, UKSC and UKSA joint Project BOREALIS has been initiated to develop the core systems for a civil-military National Space Operations Centre (NSpOC). The required software will generate Space

Domain Awareness and Space Command and Control, combining and coordinating civilian and military capabilities to enable all Space Operations.

The BOREALIS system will process and collate information, across multiple classifications, up to Top Secret (TS), in order to monitor the space domain, conduct space operations and support timely decision making in collaboration with allies and partners. It will integrate multiple current and future systems and sensors as well as other data sources. It will incorporate the functionality of the current in-service system AURORA which will feed into BOREALIS and will need to be developed and supported alongside the creation of the new system and functionality.

Rapid, flexible, iterative development of capability to meet the evolving demands of operators in a rapidly changing domain will be central to successful delivery. The project will therefore run using the Agile methodology; regular sprints will be held to detail the current priorities.

The initial phase contract estimated duration will be 5 years (including options, 1 + 1) and will utilise approximately £40-50M (ex VAT) of the £135M (ex VAT) detailed in the Defence Space Strategy for Space Command and Control, subject to change and authority spend approvals (Dates and Figures provided for indicative purposes and subject to change and does not include any contributions from UKSA as this time).

**Time-limit (Date & Time) - by 1700hrs BST on:**

**15/09/2023**

Information requested:

This RFI is seeking feedback from industry on the proposed commercial models, approach to take and limitations on Intellectual Property (IP) and Technical ability in order for the Authority to understand the most suitable procurement approach and the type of systems/products available to fulfil the BOREALIS requirement.

The returns from this RFI will be used to gain an understanding of:

- The most suitable commercial approach by seeking recommendations, LFE, strengths and risks of the following commercial models:
  - o Prime (with subcontractors)
  - o Consortium (Prime + Partners)
  - o Multi-Supplier Environment.
- IP limitations - including but not limited to, policies, third party applications, and any limitations in outputs, ownership or ability to share, IP Policies, Integration of applications and Tools with other commercial and military developed applications and tools.
- System requirements or limitations on integration of systems.
- COTS or Bespoke solutions offerings available on the market and availability of AI/ML solutions.
- Indication on Price and/or provision of a company catalogue.
- Indication on Agile teams, roles and size of SCRUM/Dev team.

A full list of questions is provided in Annex A – RFI Questionnaire (attached separately).

Industry's responses to this RFI will be used to inform a number of elements in the BOREALIS procurement strategy, such as the Commercial Model, requirement writing and setting, budget and

the IP strategy. Should the Authority wish to seek clarification or ask questions in relation to a RFI response, companies will be contacted on an individual, case by case basis.

The procurement timescales for supplier engagement are below.

- RFI – Aug/Sep 23
- Contract Notice/PQQ - Oct 23
- ITN - Jan 24
- Contract Award (CA) – no later than Dec 24.

Please note, these dates are indicative and subject to change.

**RFI responses are requested by no later than 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023.**

### **RFI Completion Guidance**

This RFI comprises the following documents:

- BOREALIS RFI – August 2023 (this document)
- BOREALIS RFI Annex A – Supplier Questions

The following supplementary information is also provided as part of this RFI, for Information:

- BOREALIS Industry Day slide pack
- BOREALIS Industry Day Delegates List
- BOREALIS Industry Day Q&A
- Draft Space User Requirements\_ASTERIA

Participants in the RFI should read all of these documents before submitting a response to this RFI.

Participants should note the following when providing a response to this RFI:

- a) Participants may complete this RFI as a single entity and/or as a group of entities working together
- b) Feedback from completing the RFI questionnaire will help inform the Project BOREALIS procurement and commercial strategy. We therefore request you respond to as much of the questionnaire as you feel is applicable. Should you consider a particular question is not applicable to your organisation, please state “not applicable”
- a) Please submit your response through completion of the Supplier Questions provided in Annex A, in accordance with the Instructions and return this RFI by 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023. All responses must be uploaded to the DSP.
- b) Any clarification questions regarding this RFI should be sent via the DSP messaging function. the deadline for clarification questions regarding the return of this RFI is by 17:00hrs BST 31st Aug 2023.

- c) Responses should not exceed the security classification of OFFICIAL.<sup>1</sup>

Should you experience any issues in registering or responding via the DSP, please use the following email address [DESSpace-DT@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DESSpace-DT@mod.gov.uk).

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<sup>1</sup> The UK Government Security Classification guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>