

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**THE PARTS CREATION FRAMEWORK**



The Ministry of Defence’s (MoD) DE&S Delivery Teams have a large number of parts demanded by Front Line Commands (FLC) for which a supply solution cannot be found for a number of reasons including obsolescence and unforeseen global events. Defence Support Major Programmes within Strategic Command has identified that a more agile and flexible approach to the commercial marketplace is required to mitigate and respond quickly to such challenges. The Parts Creation Framework (PCF) shall be an enabling framework and associated eco-system providing an alternative and timely route for the supply of parts utilising Advance Manufacturing techniques across the entirety of the MoD.

This is a new requirement to leverage the innovative manufacturing capabilities of present and future Industrial Partners, and to initiate this the MoD shall be carrying out engagement with Industry. In collaboration with the Manufacturing Technology Centre, an Industry Engagement session shall take place on 14th November 2023. The MoD would welcome insight into market possibilities, and we have attached a draft Statement of Requirement to this RFI for feedback at the Industry Engagement event. We would like to gain a better understanding of the Market, its Suppliers, the feasibility of different commercial models, the application of the Social Value Model and to gather intelligence from potential suppliers which may influence and inform the development of the future requirement and associated commercial activity. The speakers will address these topics during the event and there will be a Q&A session where present and future MoD suppliers can share viewpoints and ideas. This Industry Engagement session is also an opportunity for networking between potential suppliers to the framework.

Companies and Organisations who can contribute to this Early Market Engagement exercise and wish to attend the engagement day, either in-person or virtually, are required to join [Team Defence Information](https://www.teamdefence.info/) for free and register for this event. Team Defence Information are managing all the registrations for the event, and you will need to provide the following details:

Name of Company/Organisation

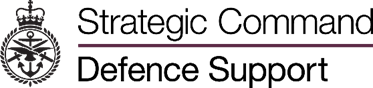
Point of Contact and contact details

Mandate/purpose of Company/Organisation

Reason for Interest

The deadline for responses for the Early Market Engagement exercise is 31st October 2023, to attend in person, but online attendance will remain open. If the venue reaches capacity, we will close registration early. The Early Market Engagement exercise will also be advertised through the Manufacturing Technology Centre and Team Defence Information. There will be a Q&A session on the day with the opportunity to submit questions via Slido. All joining instruction information will be sent after registration.

A draft of the Statement of Requirement can be found below, this is a draft and will be subject to change prior to any future potential competition. This is a RFI and the MoD will not be responsible for any costs in responding to this RFI or attending the Industry Engagement Event. All communications are subject to contract.



**Engineering Support Transformation**

**Part Creation Framework**

**DRAFT Statement of Requirement**

**Reference: 709204452**

DRAFT

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# PURPOSE

The Ministry of Defence works to protect the security, independence and interests of our country at home and abroad. We work with our allies and partners whenever possible. Our aim is to ensure that the armed forces have the training, equipment and support necessary for their work, and that we keep within our budget.

The purpose of this Statement of Requirement is aimed at enhancing our collaboration in Defence Supply Chain with the objectives of fostering a strong and efficient supplier network. This must be a collaborative endeavour across the Defence Support Enterprise between UK MoD and Industrial Partners, supporting military capabilities and operational readiness by building on current structures ensuring platform and equipment availability.

# STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Defence Support Strategy (DSS)[[1]](#footnote-2) Vision is that, within 15 years, Defence Support continually secures [Support Advantage](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1071763/ABW-20-161_Defence_Support_Strategy_-_Editorial_2022_V7.pdf), enabling Defence to outpace, outwit and out-fight its enemies. This will be achieved through a paradigm shift in platform and equipment availability, operational readiness and combat effectiveness of armed forces. It is a familiar fact that the principal barriers to exploitation at scale are commercial and organisational as opposed to technological. This commercial framework is established to increase the value adding use of advanced manufacturing techniques across the MoD Enterprise through a reconciliation of MoD user demand with an eco-system of suppliers. The Framework will be able to provide re-engineered and/or re-manufactured items at pace with the considerations of economic value and long-term sustainability benefits in a manner of which will also build UK social value, manufacturing capability and capacity and in support of [Sustainability Support Strategy](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1115563/Sustainable_Support_Strategy_2022.pdf).

# BACKGROUND TO THE REQUIREMENT

[[2]](#footnote-3)Equipment Support, a significant subset under Engineering Support, is the activity to keep the required quantity of operational equipment available to the Forces. This is achieved by the through-life provision, management and execution of maintenance, repair, replacement and control of components crucial to the equipment’s material state and performance.

*[[3]](#footnote-4)“Availability of Defence inventory is compromised, often due to part obsolescence, long lead times or closure of production lines, leading to poor platform and equipment availability”*.

To alleviate the Problem Statement, Part Creation Framework is established as an alternative with more agile and flexible approach to the commercial marketplace, associated with customer-supplier eco-system. The Framework aims to leverage the benefits of Additive Manufacturing and Advance Manufacturing to scale across the end-to-end value chain where pertinent, providing an alternative route for the supply of parts otherwise unobtainable at an acceptable pace, price or volume after the conventional contracts and commercial route to markets are exhausted. For future iterations of the Framework, the vision is to enable other government entities to make use of the Framework for wider UK Gov. exploitation and benefit.

# REQUIREMENT AND DELIVERABLES

The Framework seeks to optimise our supply chain and enhance overall efficiency in our collaboration. The following sections details the key requirements for this framework.

1. User demands will focus on the items that are currently required but without reasonable or feasible source of supply – e.g., non-codified, obsolete and obsolescent with spares and capability demands, including unreasonably expensive and/or required high levels of minimum order quantity (MOQ).
2. The Framework Contractors, known as Industrial Partners, shall provide data-packs of the required part into an MoD owned file store/data repository. It will be the Industrials Partners responsibility to ensure they can access the nominated file store/data repository which will be made clear during the mini competition / call off process. The type/specification of file will be agreed upon at the time of the mini-competition / call-off.
3. Attendance of Industrial Partners is encouraged at convergence conferences that will be held at a minimum of twice per year to converge the supply base and key users to advertise and discuss progress and benefits of the framework - with the information from MTC database to help access a broad industrial base.
4. Intellectual Property Rights are to be reviewed by Defence Intellectual Property Rights (DIPR) on a case-by-case basis per individual tasking against the Framework. DEFCON 703[[4]](#footnote-5) shall apply to all data packs produced under this Framework.
5. The Framework emphasises the importance of all parties providing accurate and detailed specifications where possible, including product descriptions, technical requirements, quality standards and any relevant certification or compliance measures. Exact requirements will be included as part of any future mini-competition.
6. Industrial partners shall demonstrate a commitment to quality, industry standards and best practices by adhering to all applicable MoD DEFCONs, Defence Supply Chain policy, laws, regulations and ethical standards related to their products, service and business operations. Compliance with the environmental sustainability, labour rights and responsible sourcing practices are also expected. The industrial partners are expected to provide relevant certifications, accreditations, inspection reports, quality control plans, and/or other means demonstrate their commitments to these standards if required.
7. It is expected that the industrial partners to provide sufficient Suitably Qualified and Experienced Personnel (SQEP) throughout the duration of the Contract to consistently deliver a quality service.
8. Industrial partners are expected to provide details of pricing structures, including unit costs, volume-based discounts and any additional charges or fees.
9. Industrial partners are expected to provide the realistic lead times, commitment to the delivery schedules and proactively communicate any potential delays or disruptions. The Framework emphasises the need for effective logistics and shipping capabilities to ensure on-time delivery.
10. Open and effective communications are expected from this collaboration from both MoD users and the industrial partners. Industrial Partners are expected to promptly respond to enquiries or concerns and provide updates on order status, availability of stock or any relevant changes to their operations. The collaborative problem-solving and a proactive approach to addressing issues are also highly valued.

# CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

1. Individual customers will initiate call-off competitions via the PCF as required through a front-door process which will be managed by DefSp EST within the first in-service phase.
2. Individual contracts initiated through the PCF will be managed by the requester who initiated the mini-competition/call-off ITT.
3. Technical specifications for individual contracts will be set be the requester on a case-by-case basis.
4. Assessing the mini-competition/call-off tenders will be the sole responsibility of the requester.
5. Management of payment to suppliers will be the sole responsibility of the requester.

# SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

1. All parts ordered via the PCF will be Official Sensitive or below.

1. Defence Support Strategy, Strategic Command Defence Support, 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Defence Support Strategy, Strategic Command Defence Support April 2022, Edition 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. CDLS Problem Statement for Project TAMPA [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [DEFCON 703 – Intellectual Property Rights – Vesting in the Authority](https://www.kid.mod.uk/maincontent/business/commercial/downloads/defcons/pdf/703_0621.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)