

Ref	Question	Answer
1.	How are users permitted/licensed to use data?	Data is published under the premise of 'Open by default' where data is available under an Open Government Licence (OGL). There are instances where data cannot be disclosed in this way e.g., third party prior rights. In such cases users: - will have unfettered access but their use will be legally restricted under a conditional licence - register as a user under a re-set category and their use will be legally restricted under a Conditional Licence.
2.	How granular is DEFRA's understanding of the user base of the current DSP service?	The majority of data is provided under an Open government Licence without the need for registration. Therefore for the majority, we do not have granularity of understanding of the user base. However, we do acquire feedback, carry out pro-active surveys and know instances of where and how our data issued.
3.	Will this procurement be conducted under a framework?	This is a standalone procurement and will follow the government Competitive Dialogue procedure.
4.	Please confirm the timeline for the procurement and the contract award date	Please see slide of the deck presented on 3/3/22 and subsequently shared with suppliers. https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/eccc67d4-f9f0-4412-8d5a-1159cf837501
5.	How will the pricing be assessed? Will the 35% weighting be split and allocated to different deliverables, or will it the 35% be allocated to the whole life cost of the contract?	More details will be shared as part of the dialogue phase, but it is likely that the full weighting will be assigned to the Whole Life Cost of DSP3.
6.	The procurement approach suggests that the incumbent may have an advantage in terms of transition costs. Will transition be excluded from the pricing assessment to ensure a level playing field for all participants?	More details will be shared as part of the dialogue phase, but DEFRA will be ensuring that all participants will be competing on an equal footing. It is worth noting that there are new items of scope and architectural requirements in DSP3 and this is not a "like for like" procurement of DSP2, therefore as a result, we do not see the incumbent as having an advantage.
7.	Will TUPE apply to this contract?	TUPE is not in scope for this procurement
8.	Is it anticipated that the DSP3 solution will be entirely cloud based?	It is anticipated DSP3 will be entirely cloud based. If suppliers can demonstrate alternative models deliver greater value they will be considered

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9.	Will DEFRA accept a single vendor approach and the advantages that this brings?	A single vendor approach would definitely be accepted (assuming this follows a standards based approach). The advantages of this could potentially bring a more joined up and integrated design and a simpler customer relationship model.
10.	DEFRA have stipulated that the ambition is that the DSP is to be the authoritative source of DEFRA data – what are the challenges in achieving this and onboarding other areas of DEFRA?	Critical Success Factor 3 stipulates, "Develop the DSP as a single point of access to data within Defra Group". The data published on DSP is considered authoritative but there are challenges in traceability of usage, which is where we need input from Suppliers. Suppliers are invited to set out proposals to promote and build on previous successes.
11.	How far do DEFRA want to go in monitoring how data is used on the DSP3 platform and do you want to control data being used?	We operate an Open Data platform without registration and using the Open government Licence with very limited controls over how data is used. Monitoring should go as far as is practical under the relevant data protection legislation.
12.	Once the contract is in place will there be budget for new capabilities and continuous improvement?	Yes, it is anticipated that enhancements and improvements will be managed through the change process and budget for these comes from sources across the DEFRA group.
13.	How do DEFRA currently measure success of the current service and will this carry through to the new contract?	Success is measured on use, performance and data made available through the DSP. These measures shall be carried through to the new contract - requirements and Performance Measures shall be published.
14.	The pay mechanism suggests that DEFRA are expecting the new supplier to lift and shift the incumbent solution to new technology stack as part of the transition process. Is this the case?	It is envisaged that a new supplier may opt to lift and shift the incumbent solution to a new technology stack to maintain the service whilst developing the replacement DSP3 solution. However if suppliers have an alternative to this approach, DEFRA welcomes innovative approaches as long as they meet or exceed the functionality of the current DSP solution.
15.	Will a detailed architecture be provided/available through the procurement process?	A high-level architecture and Asset Registers will be provided as part of the Selection Phase. More detailed documentation will be supplied to the 4 pre-qualified Suppliers.
16.	With reference to the Selection Questionnaire phase, what will be measured to select shortlisted suppliers?	<p>Please see slide of the deck presented on 3/3/22 and subsequently shared with suppliers.</p> <p>https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/eec67d4-f9f0-4412-8d5a-1159cf837501</p>

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17.	Is there scope to utilise DEFRA's existing service desk capabilities for DSP3?	Potentially, Defra's service desk capabilities could be utilised with suppliers required to meet DSP specific needs set out in the requirements, however this will be subject to dialogue as the current service desk serves a different user base.
18.	Will the Market Engagement Briefing recording be accessible afterwards?	Yes, this has already been shared with suppliers who attended the Supplier Engagement briefing.
19.	5 - 8 years is a long time in technology and it is likely that your requirements will change during this period. Why have you chosen such a long contract length?	The initial contract term is 5 years which includes implementation and transition to DSP3. We anticipate that this could take up to 12 months and therefore this leaves a 4 year initial operating period. This is a flagship service and constant periods of transition between suppliers following shorter contract periods would not provide stability or the quality of service DEFRA are looking for.
20.	On the "technology agnostic" approach, is there a preference to use open source solutions. As an example, for databases, PostgreSQL would be preferred over a proprietary software solution (example Oracle)?	This is the choice of the supplier. It is more important that there is a centralised, integrated design whereby data can be easily re-used for visualisation and other uses with minimal effort.
21.	Can you clarify or provide more information on the current deployment? On-premise, hybrid?	The current deployment is a hybrid mixture of public cloud and private cloud technologies.
22.	Is there a preference to migrate existing solution to public cloud or build native and migrate data over?	This is the choice of the supplier. DEFRA are receptive to transformation concepts that focus on an integrated and centralised solution, that encourages data re-use.
23.	Will you allow a TUPE provision against the current provider?	See answer to Qu.7.
24.	In the Security theme of vision statement. It would be good to understand whether DEFRA would like to protect "Intellectual Property Rights" and "Copyrights of Data" - in the supply chain.	See answer to Qu.1 and Qu.11.
25.	You have specified ISO 27001. Will it be acceptable for the supplier to have this in place at point of contracting or does it need to be in place at point of bidding?	Suppliers will need to provide evidence of meeting the security standards (namely ISO27001 and Cyber Essentials Plus) specified in Sch 2.4 of the contract prior to processing any Authority Data under the contract.
26.	Ref. Social Value and the 10% weighting, if this is measured in terms of addressing economic inequalities	Social value will be measured in the context of the resulting contract only, not a general assessment of a supplier's contribution to social value.

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	(creating new jobs & businesses; supply chain resilience etc), climate change, well being etc, the potential for large multi-nationals to have a greater impact on those, than an SME are significant, but you have indicated you want to make it "SME-friendly". Will those assessments be proportionate to the size of the business - or potentially limited in scope to the social value derived from this contract specifically, rather than being a more general assessment of the organisations contribution to social value as a whole?	
27.	How does DSP3 link in to other 'master data' within Defra - the new data lake as part of the data science function, Magic Map data, Earth Observation and others?	DSP3 is purely stand alone and doesn't integrate with internal master data. The solution is provided by the supplier as a complete external entity.
28.	Please could we have some clarity on the tech statement earlier: "a portable, scalable and reliable cloud-agnostic platform". Specifically what you mean by portable and an example of a scenario benefitting from/needing this?	The contract is for a long period of time. With changes and advances in technology and methods, it is important that the design is able to cope. The importance of portable is that the solution should be designed in a way that focusses on functional provision and is not dependent on restricted by specific technologies. Scalable design is vital as the use of the system is growing rapidly. It is important that existing URLs for dataset/api access are maintained
29.	As the agile methodology will expose user needs (which will change during the project), how can this be written and fixed in advance of the project in a proposal?	Defra have defined existing user needs as part of its DSP3 requirements gathering exercise. The Supplier will then implement the baseline user needs as defined, and then continue to improve the service throughout the contract term, based on their user research.
30.	How do 'releases' work with continuous improvement concepts under agile?	Defra would expect Suppliers to introduce iterative improvements to the service throughout the contract, regardless of the methodology chosen.
31.	Is there provided clarity on the scope of the Product Liability insurance, e.g. does it include the nature of a 'data product'? Data is made available from the platform, that data could enable harm due to inaccuracy, but the derived or made available data is DEFRA's or the suppliers, as it is DEFRA's data?	Insurance requirements will be defined in Schedule 2.5 of the draft contract. These will be subject to dialogue with the 4 shortlisted suppliers.

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32.	Do DEFRA 'own' the DSP2 Database and if so will this be provided at contract award.	Defra has relevant rights to share the underlying databases in DSP2. Details of these databases will be released as part of Asset Registers and Exit Plans.
33.	For some of the economic and financial standing tests etc, is the assumption that for a consortia that these would be for the lead supplier?	Where a supplier is acting as the lead supplier with a number of sub-contractors, Part 3 (remaining qualification and technical questions) of the SQ is completed by the lead supplier. Where the supplier(s) wish to participate as an unincorporated Joint Venture (JV) or Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), then each party to the JV/SPV would be required to complete the SQ.
34.	When will you publish the list of supplier attendees from today?	Yes, this has already been shared with suppliers who attended the Supplier Engagement briefing.
35.	Is replacing the existing metadata catalogue included the scope of the ITT?	Yes.