**Reference:** Project\_2599

**Title:**DBT – Bill of Lading Shipping Data – Early Engagement Questionnaire

**Background:**

Department for Business and Trade (DBT) (previously known as Department for International Trade), has a potential requirement for the provision of Bill Of Lading Shipping Data.

The requirement is for Bill of Lading database and/or service for exports from the UK where a container leaves from a UK port and imports to the UK where the container lands at a UK port or the container lands at a foreign port but with a final destination of the UK. The data that is provided under the Contract will be in the context of UK to World trade, and World to UK trade.

The Authority currently has a Contract with ThinkData Works, following an open tender process, to provide this data to DBT, Department for Transport (DfT) and Office for National Statistics (ONS) up to November 2023.

The data set will be procured and managed by DBT. However, the data set will be used in conjunction with other departments. Colleagues from DBT, DfT and ONS will have full access to the service and data once the Contract starts, preferably through DBT’s systems. DBT is also exploring options to share record level data with other Government Departments.

The Secretary of State for DBT is the contracting authority responsible for meeting this anticipated requirement. DBT intends to publish the Contract Notice in May 2023, with a contract start date in November 2023.

It is anticipated the contract shall be for a period of 24 months, including any available contract option(s). The requirement has an estimated total value of £560,000 including VAT and this value includes any available contract option(s).

At this stage, DBT wants to understand the view of the market in terms of its approach to this requirement, key considerations, and costings. Information that it gathers will be used to refine requirements to ensure they are fit for suppliers to deliver against.

It should be noted that DBT makes no commitment to procure these services and may decide to not progress this any further following this engagement with the market. DBT reserves the right to change any information contained within the Early Engagement documentation at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely upon any information provided entirely at their own risk.

**High Level Requirements.**

As a minimum, the dataset will cover at least 45% of UK to World container trade and World to UK container trade as calculated against [DfT’s port freight statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/port-and-domestic-waterborne-freight-statistics-port).

At a high level, DBT expect this data (with completeness close to 100% unless otherwise stated) to include:

* Container events
  + This must include all container events, including port departure time and port arrival time.
  + This must include an identifier to enable the identification of the mostrecent version of a container event (i.e. to allow removal of duplicates).
* Ship identifiers
  + This must include International Maritime Organization (IMO) number.
  + This must include vessel name.
  + It would be desirable for Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) to be included
* Carrier details
  + This must include carrier name.
  + Shipper, forwarder, requester and consignee details.
  + This must include the shipper, forwarder, requester and consignee names where provided (i.e. not expected to be 100%).
* Container details
  + This must include container number.
  + This must include container type description or code.
* Port of load and destination details.
  + This must include the city where the container was loaded.
  + This must include the city where the container was unloaded.
* Place of receipt and place of delivery details.
  + This must include the city where the container was received by the carrier (i.e PLOR)
  + The must include the city where the container was delivered (i.e. PLOD)
* Goods and identifiers
  + This must include the weight of the goods in kilograms or tonnes.

It is expected the data is held, accessed and downloaded through the future Tenderer’s data service (e.g. via an intermediary cloud platform, API or bulk download). It is expected that the future Tenderer will also offer additional services to support the Authority to understand the data better.

**Early Engagement Process & Market Questionnaire:**

As detailed in the notice, DBT is looking to engage with relevant suppliers in the market. Suppliers that are interested in engaging are asked to complete the questionnaire at Annex A of this document and submit by the deadline stated below.

Once the deadline has passed, DBT will review the submissions, and this will aid internal decision making ahead of the Contract Notice. This is not a formal invitation to tender.

**Submission of Response**

Please submit your completed questionnaires by no later than **12:00 GMT on 09/05/2023.**

Please submit your completed questionnaire to: CommercialDDaT@Trade.gov.uk.

**ANNEX A – QUESTIONNAIRE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Question | Response |
| 1 | **Pricing:**   1. Please can you describe your pricing approach to this type of data offering? For example, per user cost/fixed price access? 2. Is our budget realistic and proportionate to the high-level requirements given in the Background section? |  |
| 2 | **Deliverables:**   1. What, (if anything), has the Authority missed or overlooked in setting out the high level requirement? 2. What additional information, parameters or steers could the Authority provide to enable bidders to develop well-targeted proposals, and why? 3. It is expected that the data set provided under this contract will include the type of goods by Harmonized System (HS) code, please can you give an indication of what percentage of your UK- World and World-UK data is complete? Please also indicate if these HS codes are actual values or imputed values. |  |
| 3 | **Data Sharing with OGDs**   1. Can you foresee any potential issues with sharing access to the record-level data with DfT and ONS (as is permitted under the current contract)? 2. Can you foresee any potential issues with exploring options to share record-level data with additional Other Government Departments? |  |
| 4 | **Wider Marketplace Innovation:**   1. Based on the information you have been presented, are there any innovative ideas or suggestions on how to deliver this requirement you would like to share with DBT? 2. Are there any market considerations which you would like to highlight to DBT which should be factored into the procurement? |  |