



Strategic Command
Defence Digital

Service Management for PICASSO (SM4P)

Information Note – 22nd March 2024



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Version

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References

Reference	Title	Classification	Version	Dated
1	Defence Procurement: useful information	N/A	2	05/03/24
2	DSP Opportunity Page	N/A	N/A	29/02/24
3	Contracts Finder Opportunity Page	N/A	N/A	29/02/24



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PLEASE READ

**ANY POTENTIAL TENDERER IN RELATION TO THIS
OPPORTUNITY MUST:**

- **BE ABLE TO ACCESS SECRET INFORMATION
AT INVITATION TO TENDER (ITN) RELEASE AND
HOLD AT A MINIMUM-SECURITY CHECK (SC);
AND**
- **BE ON THE RELEVANT TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (TAA) AT CONTRACT
AWARD TO WORK WITH THE REQUIRED THIRD
PARTIES TO MOD.**



Section 1 – Purpose of this Information Notice

Related Public Procurement Notices

1. The Prior Information Notice (PIN) related to the opportunity referred to in this Information Notice can be found [here](#), and the associated Contracts Finder Notice [here](#), including details of the upcoming Industry Day on Friday 19th April 2024.

Objectives

2. The objectives of this Information Notice are to help the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to:
- Assist in executing the procurement in relation to the Service Management for PICASSO (SM4P) Services Opportunity;
 - Notify potential tenderers of the MOD policy with regard to Facility Security Clearance (FSC), formerly known as 'List X', UK Defence and Security Exports including Technical Assistance Agreements (TAAs); and
 - Respond to any requests from potential tenderers for obtaining FSC status in relation to this procurement.

FSC and Export Control Requirements

3. The successful tenderer must be able to access SECRET information at ITN release and hold at a minimum SC clearance.
4. The successful tenderer must hold FSC status at Contract Award to be able to access SECRET information on their own infrastructure as part of the delivery of the Contract.
5. Prior to the **Services 'Go-Live' date** i.e. following the end of the transition period, the successful tenderer **must** be on the relevant TAA as part of the export control process. This is essential for the tenderer to be able to access relevant material bound by the TAA.



6. Further information regarding FSC and export controls can be found [here](#).

Bid Returns

7. Any bid returned by tenderers to the Authority must **ONLY** be at **OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE**.

Participation

8. Participation of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) is encouraged.

Raising Queries

9. If you wish to further discuss obtaining FSC status, please contact the MOD representative named within DSP.

Conditions

10. This Information Notice does not constitute the initialisation or otherwise form part of any official procurement procedure. The MOD may, at its discretion and at any time, choose not to proceed with this procurement, but maintains the right to use any information supplied for the purposes of future procurements.

11. The issue of this Information Notice is not a commitment by the Authority to place a contract because of this Information Notice or at a later stage.

12. The procurement of any goods or services described in this Information Notice may not necessarily take place as described or at all.

13. All responses to this Information Notice will be held and remain the property of the MOD once received.

14. The MOD shall have the right to use or have used any information, supplied as part of this activity, for United Kingdom Governmental purposes. The aforesaid rights shall be free of payment. The MOD shall not release the identity of the tenderer of information received.



15. The MOD will only disclose information on a confidential basis where the respondent permits this. As such, MOD shall request consent of respondents for any further disclosure to third parties, specifically detailing the third parties, the purpose of the disclosure and any relevant conflict of interest management arrangements.

16. The MOD reserves the right at its sole discretion to:

- seek clarification in respect of any responses received; and
- cancel this activity at any time or to re-invite participation on the same or any alternative basis, for any reason.

17. Any expenditure, work or effort undertaken by the respondent to participate in this activity, is a matter solely for their commercial judgement. The MOD shall not be liable for any costs, expenditure, work or effort incurred by the respondent in proceeding with or participating in any activity associated with this Information Notice, including if the activity is cancelled or amended by the MOD. The respondent shall bear all costs associated with participation in relation to this Information Notice or to conduct any follow up engagements.

18. Participation is entirely without prejudice to any future procurement. Failure to participate will not preclude potential vendors from responding to any invitation to tender/negotiate or such other procurement procedure as may be applicable to the programme.

19. This Agreement and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.



Section 2 – Background

PICASSO & Incumbent Contractual Arrangements

20. The PICASSO programme within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) develops and sustains the United Kingdom's (UK) national Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Information Communication Technology (ICT) capabilities which includes access to ally and partner collected imagery and associated geospatial data; provision of platform-agnostic exploitation systems for sovereign GEOINT collection and the production of maps, air charts and other foundation geospatial information.

21. The PICASSO family of capabilities is sustained through a variety of IT Service Management (ITSM) arrangements which are not currently aligned, nor easily scalable. There is opportunity to consolidate ITSM arrangements across the PICASSO programme to provide a more efficient service:

- that is more responsive to changes in operational need and technical opportunity;
- that aligns with and enables the use of Defence Digital Operational Service Management (OSM) where appropriate;
- that is more cost-effective; and
- that is contractually easier to manage.

22. The incumbent contract delivering existing ITSM services is due to expire in October 2025 and the MOD will be going to market for a new contract to ensure ongoing service continuity from this date.

23. This opportunity follows the initial Future-ITSM (F-ITSM) early market engagement event in March 2023.



Additional Background Information

24. PICASSO directly enables the production of GEOINT that is critical to Government decision-making and to commanders and military forces' ability to understand, plan, navigate and target. PICASSO currently consists of c70 systems and services, plus associated in-flight change projects, grouped in major themes as sub-programmes reflecting that, while the projects are connected through GEOINT, each delivers different capability for Defence.

25. The scope of this procurement forms part of the future of the PICASSO Programme, which is part of UK Strategic Command Information and Cyber Portfolio, which aims to maintain and develop the UK National Centre for Geospatial Intelligence (NCGI) GEOINT capability for processing and delivery of GEOINT to national, strategic and tactical decision makers. It provides NCGI with the capability to deliver GEOINT, Geospatial Information (GEOINF) and services to Defence, including deployed forces, Partners Across Government (PAGs) and international partners in order to support the achievement of national North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) doctrine and Five Eye (5E) objectives.

26. The PICASSO family of capabilities is underpinned by a range of bespoke systems and architectures, spanning every security classification. Storage is at multiple petabyte scale, while many live services are provided through a mix of Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS), Government off-the-shelf (GOTS), Military of-the-shelf (MOTS) and bespoke applications.

Description of the Procurement

27. The MOD will be procuring this new ITSM Contract under the Competitive Negotiated Procedure under Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations (DSPCR).

28. Tenderers should note:

- Following DPQQ submission and evaluation, the MOD will down-select a number of tenderers (minimum three) to go forward to Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) stage;



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- The associated PIN indicates the intent to start contracting from March 2025 which represents the commencement of any transition period; and
- The contract will be for three (3) years with up to an option of up to a further twelve (12)
- months, to a maximum of four (4) years.



Annex A – Definitions

ITSM

ITSM (IT Service Management) is the planning, delivery and support of IT services via people, processes and technology.

PICASSO

PICASSO is the MOD programme that delivers and sustains Defence's GEOINT. PICASSO provides geospatial intelligence, information and services to Defence (including deployed forces) and to Partners Across Government and international partners in support of national Military tasks.