

**RFI0024**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**FLOORPLATE REAL-ESTATE/INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT UNCREWED OPERATIONS**

**RFI Title:** FLOORPLATE REAL-ESTATE/INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT UNCREWED OPERATIONS

**Issue Date:** 18 July 23

**Reference:** RFI0024

**Version:** 1.2

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# Introduction

This RFI is not a bidding opportunity but a means by which industry can provide information. Any resulting procurement activity will be conducted competitively.

**Please note:**

**This RFI is an information gathering exercise, no further discussions with industry are planned at this stage however any future procurement activity will be advertised in line with public procurement regulations on the Defence Sourcing Portal and Contracts Finder.**

1. Background

The Royal Navy has ambitions to use Uncrewed systems (and Systems of Systems Autonomous platforms) to add Mass and Persistence in support of current crewed missions in the detection and tracking of threat submarines in areas of operational relevance to the United Kingdom.

Given the need to control a variety of Uncrewed Capabilities (UxVs to include UAV/UUV/USV and static anchored autonomous nodes) covering a given geographical area, what infrastructure should the RN be prudently anticipating with respect to a future Command and Control floor plate (as a working premise this is anticipated to be front end C2 i.e. control of Navigation and ‘life support’ activities and not necessarily the ‘back seat’ acoustic processing capabilities – as this latter requirement would need an assessment of the likely ‘edge processing’ capability of an proposed ‘solutions’). Should Industry believe it is able to support an assessment of the ‘acoustic’ wet end processing, any observations on this impact on the watch floor would also be welcome.

Assumptions to be made in provision of response:

* RN will assume a similar level of redundancy as for Industry (people/servers/power/comms);
* A spread of Autonomy level is assumed between autonomy solutions, (the RN is assuming a spread of autonomous solutions operating together) so a range of autonomy levels would be welcome in the response;
* Geographical consideration for a single ‘area’ likely to be covered by UxVs maybe assumed as 100nm by 100nm continuously (or surveillance of 1500nm squared per hour);
* Geographical area must be considered worldwide (in support of typical RN global presence objectives).
1. RFI intended outcomes

This RFI aims to achieve 5 outcomes:

1. Provide data to allow future proofing/requirement generation of a current RN C2 complex which will be procured in the future.
2. Align the MOD requirement with industry capability and processes for procurement of such a required solution.
3. Develop a procurement strategy that will deliver best value for money for Defence.
4. To inform a Procurement Strategy that enables the implementation of an enduring solution.
5. RFI Procedure

Responses to this RFI will be reviewed by subject matter experts from different functional areas within Navy Command Headquarters.

If upon review of your submission any clarifications or additional information is required, you will be contacted using the details provided in your RFI response.

Any details provided in response to this RFI will be used for information purposes only and will not be used to determine the potential Suppliers who will be invited to bid, should the Authority proceed to tender.

The results and analysis of this RFI shall not constitute any form of pre-qualification exercise.

Any formal procurement process will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Procurement Law.

Nothing in this RFI, or any other engagements with Industry prior to a formal procurement process, shall be construed as a representation as to the Authority’s ultimate decision in relation to the future requirement.

1. How to submit responses to this RFI

Respondents should provide responses in accordance with the format provided in **Annex A** quoting the RFI reference on all documentation and emails**.**

Please do not submit additional documents such as company overviews, the purpose of the RFI is to collect information related to the technical solution, any additional documents will not be included in the review process.

Any responses received after the deadline will be passed to the subject matter experts for information, however they may not be included in the RFI review meetings which are to be held immediately following the deadline.

Once completed, please return electronically to the e-mail address(es) shown below in **section 9,** no later than **12:00, Friday August 4th.**

Responses will be acknowledged electronically by return e-mail.

1. Confidentiality & Proprietary Information

No information included in your response, or in discussions connected to it, will be disclosed to any other third party.

Proprietary information, where included, should be kept to minimum and must be clearly marked.

**For the purposes of this RFI, any documentation submitted should be classification OFFICIAL**.

1. Costs of preparing your RFI response

Any costs relating to the preparation and submission of a response to this RFI are the sole responsibility of the respondent.

## 8. Insurance

8.1 Not used.

Contact

Quoting the RFI reference, please submit

1. any requests for clarification
2. all responses to this RFI and
3. any questions regarding Classification of document(s) intended for submission, to:

NAVYCOMRCL-RFI@mod.gov.uk

1. Annex A

**RFI0024**

**FLOORPLATE REAL-ESTATE/INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT UNCREWED OPERATIONS**

**July 2023**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answer** |
| Company Name |   |
| Company Address |   |
| Is the company a Small - Medium Enterprise (less than 250 employees)? |  |
|    |
| Name of Company representative completing the RFI |   |
| Contact details (e-mail and telephone number) |   |
| Company web site address |   |
|    |
| Main products/services/line of business |   |
| Main market sector |   |
| Number of years in this market sector |   |
| **QUESTIONS**  |
| Number of human ‘operators’ to support UxVs being controlled in an enduring 24 hours operations, 7 days per week (left and right hand edge on the level of autonomy would be welcome) including supervisory and management roles? |  |
| Number of displays an operator would need to have (or size of ‘operator’ desk space to accommodate likely HMIs)? |  |
| Number and size of server rack spaces required to accommodate a standard operator plus any requirement to ‘archive’ data and ensure redundancy? |  |
| Amount of Comms or other enabling infrastructure (ariel/SATCOM dish space)? |  |
| Ancillary support to human operators (i.e. victualling capability/rest rooms/power generation/mission planning spaces/supervisors work space and routine management offices) to include reversionary and/or handover facilities between operators during scheduled shift patterns? |  |
| Any other information you think RN would find useful when implementing a future strategy? |  |
| **Innovative solutions are most welcome, even if they do not meet all of the requirements above, we would welcome the opportunity to consider the positives and negatives.** |