

**Request for Information for L118 Light Gun Design Authority**

12/08/2022

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# Notice to Reader and Disclaimer

This Request for Information (RFI) forms part of market engagement and is NOT part of any competitive procedure. Any information you submit will be considered solely for the purposes of building a greater understanding of the marketplace, and industry’s ability to undertake the potential project. Should the decision be made to formally compete the requirement, any information provided must be resubmitted as part of the formal bid process. Information specific to the industry participant provided through this process will not be shared or distributed directly to other participants but will inform the discussions that Ministry of Defence (MOD) will have with Industry and may subsequently be used to inform the terms on which the formal procurement process is conducted.

The information contained in this RFI and any further information (whether written, electronic or oral) supplied by the Secretary of State and/or any of its representatives in respect of this RFI is, and will be, supplied on the condition that neither the Secretary of State, any of its representatives nor any agents, servants, officers or affiliates of the Secretary of State or its representatives whatsoever is liable for any error, omission, or inaccuracy therein nor for any loss or damage sustained by any party arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication. This includes any error or omission or inaccuracy resulting from any negligent act or omission of any of the Secretary of State, its representatives or any other person (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation). No party accepts any responsibility or gives any undertaking to provide further information, including any information required to correct any earlier inaccuracy or error.

Any participation in this industry market engagement and any response to this RFI is entirely at your cost and risk. The MOD is under no obligation to proceed with a formal procurement or in any other way proceed with the L118 Light Gun (LG) Design Authority project and shall not be liable to any participants for any costs arising from participation in this process.

# Background

The MOD is conducting a new market analysis exercise for a future Light Gun project for Artillery Systems. This is a project within the Land Domain.

The L118 LG was designed and developed in the 1960’s by the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment at Fort Halstead and in the 1970s Royal Ordnance Nottingham took on its production.  The initial staff requirement was for a marked increase in firepower, accuracy, mobility, robustness and performance compared to previous towed guns. The requirement also included a reduction in weight to enable the new gun to be truly air portable.  After successful trials it was accepted into service with the British Armed Forces in 1975.  The L118 LG was produced as a towed lightweight artillery weapon designed for artillery close support and anti-tank roles.



Figure 1: Illustration of L118 LG

To August 2022 the base design of the ordnance has not changed; whilst system changes include differences to the paint system, component supplier, braking components, material specification and technical publications.  Currently, the ‘Artillery Systems Towed’ delivery team has responsibility for implementing changes but competing priorities and lack of capacity in Defence Equipment and Supply (DE&S) create risk to availability of the platform. A previous Request for Information (RFI) was issued for this procurement in Q2 of 2021. The project was then paused. A contract establishing the L118 LG Design Authority for the 126 field variant L118 LGs with an additional 20 ceremonial guns (quantities subject to change), would enable timely updates to components, processes and publications whilst providing assurance that capability can be retained in-service until 2030 (date subject to change).



Figure 2: Illustration of Ceremonial Gun

# L118 LG DA Vision

MOD require a Design Authority (DA) for the L118 LG capability (field and ceremonial variants); to ensure its availability, reliability, and maintainability until Out of Service Date (OSD) of 2030.

The DA contract including subsequent PDS taskings, shall have core and non-core activities:

**Core activity to include but not limited to**

The Design Authority for L118 LG (field and ceremonial variants) supplying[[1]](#footnote-2):

* Configuration management including all associated tasks (maintain baselines, status records, drawings, engineering change proposals etc)
* Produce and maintain design documentation (drawings, verification data and specifications).
* Propose modifications.
* Provide Certificates of Design.

**Non-Core activity to include but not limited to (costed separate to core)**

* Manage relationships and interfaces with stakeholders.[[2]](#footnote-3)
* Conduct Failure Modes, Effects and Criticality Analysis (FMECA).
* Monitor reliability and maintainability performance (Data Reporting Analysis and Corrective Action System (DRACAS).
* Management and maintenance of L118 LG reference system.
* Quality assurance.
* Maintaining the safety case, safety monitoring and associated notices.
* Manage obsolescence and associated activities, including production of Manufacturing Data Packs.
* PDS tasking shall also be included to allow efficiency and capability changes and ad-hoc tasks.
* Technical publication updates.
* Supply spares and components through liaison with MOD supply chain, MOD repair agent and Original Equipment Manufacturer regarding spares and repairs.

# Quality Management

Prospective contractors are required to hold Quality Management System certification to ISO9001:2015 or suitable alternative, with the appropriate scope to deliver contract requirements, issued by a Nationally Accredited Certification Body. You will be required to provide a copy of the certificate(s) as directed by any Dynamic Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (DPQQ) or Invitation to Tender (ITT) associated with this Notice, and in any event, the winning supplier will be required to provide it for review prior to contract award. The contractual condition for quality will be Allied Quality Assurance Publication (AQAP) 2110.

# Request for Information

The MOD requests the following information from Industry in response to this RFI:

1. A brief description of your company and any relevant technical capability information to demonstrate why, and how, you plan to complete this work.
2. A Rough Cost Breakdown for the Core and Non-Core activity in support of the L118 LG.[[3]](#footnote-4)
3. Any other information you feel is relevant to this RFI.

# Timeline

The timeline for the RFI response is 1200 hours GMT, Friday 9th September 2022.

Invitation to tender is anticipated as Quarter 4 2022 – Quarter 2 2023.

# Market Engagement

The purpose for this RFI is to:

* Identify a Market for L118 LG Design Authority;
* Develop MOD understanding of technical solutions, and
* Develop MOD understanding of costs for L118 LG PDS solutions.

Suppliers communications shall be via Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP). Responses received external to the DSP may be ignored.

# Responses

### 8.1 Responding to this RFI

* Respondents wishing to respond to this RFI are requested to do so via the messaging function in the DSP.
* Responses should be attached documents in PDF and/or Excel spreadsheet format only. Responses are not to exceed four A4 pages / 4 Sheets
* Any responses received after the deadline will not be reviewed. However, this will not exclude you from further Early Market Engagement or future involvement in the project.

### 8.2 Clarification Questions

MOD aims to respond to any clarification questions received through the messaging function in DSP or to the Multiuser address if this is not possible. Unless explicitly labelled as containing supplier commercially sensitive information, clarification questions and responses will be shared with all participating suppliers.

All clarification questions regarding this RFI should be sent via the DSP or to the multiuser address below. Closing date for Clarifications will be Friday 26th August 2022 at 1700 hrs GMT. The Team will not guarantee a response to any clarification question submitted after this date.

### 8.3 Response Timelines

Suppliers are requested to respond to this by 1200 hrs GMT, 9th September 2022. Achieving this response date will support the MOD’s scheduled RFI response review and support decisions by the customer on the validity of this project moving forward.

# Contact

This project is being delivered as part of the Artillery Systems Towed portfolio. The contact email for any general queries is:

DESLEARTY-TOWEDMulti-User@mod.gov.uk

Supplier shall include ‘RFI L118 LG PDS’ in email title.

# Commercial

###  10.1 MOD Commercial Notice – Subject to Contract

* This RFI is subject to contract.
* The L118 PDS project is at an early stage of development and MOD wishes to engage with Industry to gain a better understanding of the market capability.
* The existence of this RFI does not imply that UK MOD will make a purchase relating to the requirements within the indicated timescale, later, or at all.
* Information received from Industry will be treated as being in the public domain unless specifically noted at the time and in writing as ‘confidential’, in which case the confidentiality will be protected by UK MOD.

### 10.2 Supplier Commercially Sensitive/Confidential Information

Suppliers are requested to clearly and explicitly annotate all commercially sensitive/confidential information provided so that the Authority can manage the provided information correctly and meet supplier expectations.

Suppliers wishing to respond to this RFI with sensitive/confidential information are requested to submit a Clarification through DSP so that the Authority may determine how we will receive the response document.

# Glossary

|  |  |
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| DE&S | Defence Equipment and Supply |
| DRACAS | Data Reporting Analysis and Corrective Action System |
| DSP | Defence Sourcing Portal |
| FMECA | Failure Modes, Effects and Criticality Analysis  |
| ECP | Engineering Change Proposal |
| LINAPS | Laser Inertial Navigation Automatic Pointing System |
| LG | Light Gun |
| MOD | Ministry of Defence |
| OSD | Out of Service Date |
| PDS | Post Design Services |
| RFI | Request for Information |

1. Reference Def Stan 05-057 Configuration Management of Defence Materiel [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Example: The Laser Inertial Navigation Automatic Pointing System (LINAPS) is excluded from scope however DA shall manage interfaces with relevant parts of L118 LG. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The Authority recognises that without further detail these will be rough costs, and any response to this RFI will not hold you or your company to any of the costs provided in any future tender/competition. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)