Contract for the Exploration of Data for Autonomous and Smart Shipping – Clarification Q & A

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| **Clarification Question 02:**  In the list of objectives for this tender, the need to understand MCA’s role as the regulator in this new data landscape is mentioned.  Do the MCA want to understand their role specifically in maintaining and deploying the data platform, as well as providing their own data for it, or is this a wider question on the MCA’s role in research, policy, and divulgation of technologies related to smart and autonomous shipping? | **MCA Response:**  It’s both aspects, we’re interested in the specific applications and the wider context. We would like the main focus of the work to be on the scoping, creation and exploration of uses of the data product. We see the question about MCA’s role being addressed as a “thought piece” or similar when concluding the project, collating themes and summing up expert opinion. |
| **Clarification Question 03:**  According to our understanding, cooperation and communication with industry representatives is a key factor in achieving objectives 1 and 4, i.e. identifying industry needs concerning data, formats and platforms as well as successfully engaging industry with the MVP.  Is it correct to assume that MCA will assist in initiating contact to a group of industry representatives or are bidders expected to provide and utilize their own networks in the UK market? | **MCA Response:**  We have a contact list for this project that has been developed by the project partners, but we would be looking for the winning bidder to bring with them a substantial contact list to contribute and grow the scope of the work and including both government and non-governmental / industry contacts. |
| **Clarification Question 04:**  What is expectation for how long the MVP will be available for? E.g. is it intended to be a limited test bed that will be further developed? | **MCA Response:**  This is intended to be a limited testbed that may be further developed. We envisage having the MVP available for around 6 months to explore potential industry uses. After that, any continued availability will depend on further funding, agreements between data owners and project outcomes. |
| **Clarification Question 05:**  Do MCA have expectations or preferences around deployment environment(s) for MVP? | **MCA Response:**  We have no preferences or expectations, we’d like to explore all options. |
| **Clarification Question 06:**  Are operational costs for MVP intended to be covered in this tender? | **MCA Response:**  Yes, so any collaborative “good will” that a provider can bring to this project will be important. |