



Ministry
of Defence

**Request for Information (RFI) - Naval
Design Partnering – Successor (NDP – S)**

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SECTION A - RFI

1. Notice to Reader and Disclaimer

1.1 This RFI forms a part of the market analysis and is NOT part of any competitive Procedure or formal launch of a requirement. 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 Naval Design Partnering – Successor (NDP – S) requirement. Should the decision be made to formally compete this requirement, any information provided must be re-submitted 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 internal discussions that the 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.

1.2 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, including 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.

1.3 Any participation or response to this RFI is entirely at your own cost and risk. The Ministry of Defence is under no obligation to proceed with a formal procurement or in any other way proceed with the NDP – S programme and shall not be liable to any participants for any costs arising from participation in this engagement.

1.4 You should note that any copyright in the information provided by the Authority as part of the market engagement process, any further documents issued by the Authority or its representatives in relation it, rests with the Crown. All other

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intellectual property rights in such documentation shall remain the property of the Secretary of State and no recipient shall obtain any right, title or interest therein.

1.5 Such documentation may not be reproduced, copied, or stored in any medium, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the Secretary of State, other than as strictly required for the preparation of responses to this RFI.

2. Purpose of RFI and NDP – S Background

2.1 The Authority is conducting a second round of industry engagement for the upcoming re-let of the current NDP Framework Contract, herein referred to as the NDP – S Framework. The current NDP Framework was let in 2018 and is due to expire on 31 March 2024.

2.2 The core role of the current NDP is to conduct pre-concept, concept and through life capability insertion studies for the Royal Navy, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Amphibious forces for tasks funded by Navy Command. The NDP also conducts non-core tasking for other customers with approved business cases and funding. The Authority intends to engage with all tiers of the supply to inform the basis of the replacement contract with the intention of competing for this requirement later this year.

2.3 The Strategic Objectives of the NDP – S Framework are listed in the NDP – S Project Mandate as follows:

- a) To act as the pipeline for the incubation of maritime capabilities from pre-concept through to in-service.
- b) To maintain continuity of service with respect to Core and Non-Core Tasks, aligned to the priorities of the Navy Develop Directorate from FY 24/ 25 and beyond.
- c) Promote knowledge sharing between the Authority and Industry and embed know-how into the NDP team.
- d) To actively pursue, nurture and grow the volume of Non-Core tasking passing through the NDP-S framework.
- e) Liaise and coordinate with other project teams within DE&S and across government in line with the established rule set to provide a clear route for non-core tasking related to Navy Develop Directorate priorities.

2.4 The aim of this RFI at Section A, and the returns from Industry via the Microsoft Forms Questionnaire Link below, will be used to:

- a) Gain feedback from Industry on the Authority's brief to industry dated 13th June 2023.
- b) To understand from industry's perspective, areas which the Authority should focus on with regards to maturing the NDP – S requirement.

The Authority will review the information provided by Industry's responses to this RFI to inform next steps.

3. RFI Completion Guidance

3.1 This RFI requires Industry to use the following link to complete a short questionnaire. <https://forms.office.com/e/C9XCSpnd4B>. Alternatively, the following QR code can be used to access the questionnaire:



3.2 The Authority request that a response to the short questionnaire is completed by **07 July 2023 at 1700**. The responses will assist in the preparation of future industry engagement which will be arranged in August, further details below at Section B.

3.3 Submission of a RFI response or participation in anyway at this stage is not a pre-requisite to participation in any subsequent formal procurement process that the Authority may choose to undertake. The Authority intends to use any relevant information in any subsequent formal procurement process that it may conduct in respect of the NDP - S Programme. Participants must note the following when considering completing a response to this RFI:

- a) Full completion of the RFI questionnaire is encouraged by industrial participants as it will be valuable with regards to informing the Authority's NDP – S Strategy as well as coordination of Industry Engagement Workshops;
- b) All responses must be completed by submission of the questionnaire using the link or QR code above at 3.1 by the **07 July 2023 at 1700**.
- c) Responses should not exceed the security classification of OFFICIAL¹.

3.4 The Authority will hold further engagement with industry following this RFI in the form of Industry Engagement 1-2-1's with potential primes as well as Industry Engagement Workshops, details below at Section B.

¹ The UK Government Security Classification guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>

SECTION B – Further Industry Engagement

4. NDP – S Industry Engagement 1-2-1's and Industry Engagement Workshops

4.1 The aims of this RFI at Section B, and any expressions of interest from Industry as detailed below, will be used to:

- a) Offer an opportunity for further engagement with the Authority and for the Authority to gain a better understanding of the capability pertaining to the desirable technical SQEP available on the market;
- b) Give industry perspective as to what may inform future requirements and;
- c) Give industry an indication as to what may form Core Tasks for the first year of the NDP – S contract to give industry heightened visibility for planning purposes.

4.2 The Industry Engagement 1-2-1's will be an opportunity for the MOD to engage directly with any potential Primes, face to face at Abbey Wood, Bristol and these will take place at the dates and times provided below:

02 August	03 August	04 August
10.00 – 11.00	10.00 – 11.00	10.00 – 11.00
11.30 – 12.30	11.30 – 12.30	11.30 – 12.30
13.00 – 14.00	13.00 – 14.00	13.00 – 14.00
14.30 – 15.30	14.30 – 15.30	14.30 – 15.30

4.3 If you would like to attend an Industry Engagement 1-2-1 session, please express your interest by emailing **deshipsacq-ifc-ndp@mod.gov.uk** with your first preferred date and time slot by **07 July 2023 at 1700**. It would be beneficial to also provide a second preferred date and time slot that you can be available for to assist the MOD for planning purposes. Whilst there is no guarantee, the MOD will try its best to accommodate each first preferred date and time slot.

4.4 Based on initial feedback from the Industry Brief, 13 June 2023, the Authority intends to hold Industry Engagement Workshops slightly later than previously advised. These sessions now commencing from September 2023. Exact dates TBC. These workshops will be facilitated by the NDP Team Leader, supported by IFC Commercial and Technical lead with representation from the Navy Develop Directorate. The opportunity to attend each Industry Engagement Workshop is open to all tiers of the supply chain as may inform those who are considering applying to become NDP – S Framework Members. This opportunity is also open to those interested in bidding for Prime NDP – S Contract.

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4.5 The format will be for Workshop groups to collaborate with regards to corresponding Technical Challenge (TC) and to brainstorm and discuss the following non exhaustive list:

- a) The nature of each TC
- b) Constraints, Opportunities and guiding principles to address the TC
- c) New technologies to consider
- d) Industry Capability and Capacity and dependencies on the Authority
- e) Potential future tasking for NDP-S

There won't be a formal output to the workshops other than feedback and information that the Authority notes on the day.

4.6 The TCs will form the focus of this Industry Engagement. The TCs are currently in DRAFT, but will probably be chosen from and take the form of:

TC1: Using a System of Systems approach in the pre and concept phase to develop Support Solution options with an availability focus.

TC2: Achieving platform endurance and sustainability in future energy systems.

TC3: Creating, owning, and maintaining open architectures for maritime capabilities.

TC4: The challenges of the Authority owing the integration risk and challenges of separately procured capability SOSA elements.

TC5: With the current orderbooks of UK Shipyards and competition in the market for personnel, how does DE&S assess the industrial viability, benefits, and disadvantages of different procurement options?

TC6: Management arrangements required to undertake a multi-national illustrative design phase for a warship when Float and Move are procured separately to Fight.

4.7 If you would like to attend Industry Engagement Workshops, please express your interest by emailing **desshipsacq-ifc-ndp@mod.gov.uk** by **07 July 2023, 1700**. The Authority has discretion over who will be invited to attend these Workshops however we will be looking to accommodate as many representatives from all tiers across the supply chain as practicably possible. For those who express an interest in attending the Industry Engagement Workshops who have been selected by the Authority to attend will in due course be provided with more detail regarding available dates and what the Workshop shall entail and prior to the Workshop session. If you are not invited or able to attend a Workshop you are not precluded from participating in any potential further competition.

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Thank you for your interest in this RFI, we look forward to receiving your questionnaire responses and expressions of interest.