

Ref	Question	Answer
1.	Has DSP2 delivered everything it was intended to deliver?	Yes, though we always want to do more. The more we do, the better the environmental outcomes, but overall it has been a success. Some of the applications that we showed during the market engagement event were delivered during the time of the DSP2 contract.
2.	We note Defra's observation that if the service goes down there's a reputational risk; with that in mind, how and where does observability feature?	Observability has been captured more broadly (at this stage) under "Service Management".
3.	Who owns the IP of the existing DSP2 solution?	It is an identical position to that set out in table 2 of the prospectus (i.e. IP ownership of new source code resides in the Crown).
4.	Why are you starting with a "clean sheet" for DSP3? Did you not consider building on what you've already got in DSP2?	As outlined in paragraph 14 of the prospectus, Defra is considering both a) parallel running and b) taking what we've got and building on it ("transition and transform"). Defra would welcome input from prospective tenderers via the market engagement questionnaire (or subsequent "drop in" sessions) on either implementation approach.
5.	Will there be any problems with the new supplier running the existing solution if some of that IP might rest with the incumbent?	As outlined in paragraph 14 of the prospectus, Defra is considering two potential implementation approaches. However, we recognise there are some issues with parallel running because at some point you have to freeze DSP2 at a point in time to make DSP3 achievable in a parallel running scenario. Defra will ensure the details of those assets which are transferable (including licenses) are disclosed as part of the procurement process.
6.	Is there a preference of the team being in the UK closer to Defra or is offshore a possibility?	Whilst there is no hard and fast rule, the software development aspects will be quite hard to do well remotely. I think hosting data offshore would potentially be quite difficult, due to security challenges. There are practical implications, although it's not an absolute no; it's just making sure that we can work as a collaborative team. There is a need for continual improvement and working with different bits of the business around publishing new data, which is made more challenging with remote working.
7.	Does DSP2 already reside on cloud and is that platform Azure?	There is currently a hybrid cloud (private, public) solution for DSP2.
8.	Going back to DSP1 and DSP2 in terms of the toolkit and technology stack that's being used, for DSP3 does it have	This is why we need discussions during the procurement process. I don't think we wish to mandate a technology stack, but in a "transition and transform" type scenario you're going to have to take on a bunch of technology that is using a particular stack.

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	to be the same tools or is it more open source? Is there anything we need to stick with or is it quite open?	More important than the software that's used to deliver the services is the formats that are used to deliver data. DSP2 delivers to users through a number of standard compliant formats and what's really important is the persistence of those formats so users can still access the data in the ways they're accessing it today, potentially adding newer formats. For example, we know that open standards have developed since DSP2 was built, so we might look at the next iteration of those standards. Defra's focus is on what the deliverable is more than what's used to deliver it.
9.	What other kind of key technologies are present in the existing platform that suppliers may have to manage in a transition period?	The sort of things we're using at the moment are Geonetwork (which is open source) for the metadata catalogue and Esri components for the spatial side of things. We have a linked data platform.
10.	Are there any specific data formats that need to be used and persist going forward?	The formats we support will be included as a requirement when we get to the procurement stage (although some are detailed in the prospectus). We'd encourage everyone to go onto the live data services platform ( <a href="http://environment.data.gov.uk">http://environment.data.gov.uk</a> ) and have a 'play around' to understand what the front end looks like and how the data is delivered to users.
11.	Are there any limitations or pain points in DSP2? Is there anything that could be improved going forward?	The pain points are probably on the Defra side of things, in terms of understanding our data (e.g. understanding the way it's been created, how it's being used). Some publishers have fed back that the processes for adding data to the platform need to be improved to enable faster publishing of data.
12.	How complex is the data governance challenge, both in bringing data and sharing it? Is a process involved where sign off is required? Is an audit trail in place at the moment?	<p>We have internal business processes in place. We have to get to grips with our confidential data and people normally think about personal privacy in that context, but a lot of our data is derived and can be derived from third party data if you follow it back up the line, so that process for making sure we have the right to provide it to people is in place. It is a challenge, but one we have a good grasp on.</p> <p>The relevant executive manager in the organisation that's responsible for that data will effectively sign off that data for publishing and sharing.</p>
13.	What is the planned budget or tentative spend for the whole DS3?	We've published a conservative upper estimate of £10 million in the prior information notice (PIN) but that is for the entire contract (including continuous improvement) over the maximum (8.5 years) term.
14.	When we get to financial evaluation, will anything be done to separate transition costs against forward running costs in order to level the playing field?	This will be considered as part of the evaluation approach. However, the DSP3 requirements will be different to DSP2, so there will be work to do by all suppliers (including the incumbent) during implementation to meet the DSP3 requirements. As

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		such, this does not necessarily mean there will be limited costs for the incumbent during implementation and mitigates any perceived “level playing field” challenges.
15.	How are Defra protecting the data from guests from a cyber perspective? Are you considering a cyber change with the new iteration? Are you driven by compliance and is there a way of legitimising users? What’s the position from a cyber perspective please?	We have an open data model, so the information we’re sharing with third parties is effectively public domain to a large degree. Some information isn’t open data, so we’re in the process of building the security model and finding out about where and how the information is held. ISO27001, Cyber Essentials, and GDPR compliance are requirements for DSP3.
16.	Would there be an unlimited liability clause against the supplier?	It’s not a blanket unlimited liability, since most liabilities are covered by a 150% cap. I would suggest referring to the liability clauses (clause 26) in the <a href="#">model services contract</a> .
17.	Thinking ahead to completing the questionnaire and how we can make best use of the free text fields to give insights without overloading you. Are there any word limits or any thoughts on approach?	It is worth noting that for any free text fields, the character limit is 4,000 (including spaces) – please try and stay within this limit, since this roughly equates to a page of A4. However if you are really keen to share critical information that sits outside this character limit, please send the responses (only for those questions which exceed the 4,000 character limit) via email in a word document directly to <a href="mailto:Neil.Widdop@defra.gov.uk">Neil.Widdop@defra.gov.uk</a> .
18.	I’m from an SME and while we embrace Social Value, we see a lot of stuff coming out with Social Value questions that are very difficult for SMEs to answer or to meet. So it’s a plea really to make sure Social Value questions aren’t bias towards larger organisations.	Agreed. We’d be really keen to hear what you can achieve. Additionally, Social Value is about Sustainability and Defra is the Government lead on Sustainability. The National Data Strategy talks about Sustainable Data Management as well, and I think we need to be exemplars for that in the implementation of this service. There are all sorts of things that are good to do with data that are good for the environment, e.g. reducing data duplication reduces carbon consumed by storing that data.
19.	Have you faced any challenges or unintended consequences due to the number of API call you currently have? Do you expect that growth path to continue and have you made your own projections over the next few years?	There are no unforeseen consequences we can think of. Volumetrics have been included in the presentation and do demonstrate an element of that growth over the last 3 years or so. The DSP3 contract we’re going out for is bigger than last time. Future volumetrics depend on the direction of travel (such as API approach) and other developments that will change and alter what we do.
20.	There was a mention of requirement for 24/7/365 services, is that for provision of data in the applications or service support as well?	At the moment, there is a differentiation on the service support, so there is a higher service level in some areas (e.g. in our flood related services) compared to others.

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21.	Are there parts of the service or any provisions of specific data sets in the day to day running of the services that have enhanced support provisions i.e. if there are any data sets provide to services like resilience direct or other Government services that require additional support?	Yes; there is a named list of those that qualify for enhanced support. That's the approach at the moment but may be modified.
22.	Do you do Continuous Improvement / Continuous Delivery at all?	Yes we use Continuous Improvement / Continuous Delivery in a Dev/Ops framework using Agile practices. We are very much user research led. We have various sprints and the User Research feeds back as the Continuous Improvement part, then if there are any changes necessary then the application teams apply the changes and release the new version under change control – that's the Continuous Delivery part. We also have regular meetings during development to allow testing and building the service management framework in parallel with development.
23.	Are there any specific problem statements prompting to build DSP3 apart from enhancing functionalities of DSP2?	We wouldn't say specific problem statements, however, would suggest you review the prospectus and digest the volumetrics which outline demand of the service. In terms of offering additional functionalities, we want to know how creative you can be. If you look at section 21 of the prospectus, that's what we want covered in the response.
24.	Is DSP2 hosted on premise or cloud? If cloud which one?	See 7. We are considering hosting options and would welcome suggestions.
25.	Can you share with us who the current supplier is?	Landmark (sub-contracting Swirrl and Esri) for DSP2 and Astun for the metadata catalogue.
26.	Is the project funded?	Yes, funded in 20/21 and funding for implementation and operation of DSP3 is being sought through the spending review. It is very likely funding will be secured due to the regulatory compliance the service supports.
27.	What level of security clearance would be required from staff? Anything above BPSS?	BPSS is the only standard envisaged.
28.	When does the current DSP2 contract expire?	There are extension options until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.
29.	Would you be able to share attendees of this session with everyone?	Yes, the attendee list will be shared.
30.	To be clear, ISO 27001 is a must?	The solution must be compliant with ISO 270001 and Cyber Essentials.

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31.	What's the indicative current data volumes (storage demands)?	Please refer to the volumetrics in the market engagement slides.
32.	How long are you able to store data for?	We are required to hold data for 6 years if the data is either personal or special category.
33.	Please could you outline what arrangements are in place with the incumbent suppliers for knowledge transfer and support during the transition period?	This will be something which is being worked through as part of our exit planning.
34.	What's the current database technology and does the current solution have limitation which restricts new datasets, speed of ingestion and availability i.e. indexing etc. and what's the retention period for data sets.	See 9 and 32. Defra will ensure the details of those assets which are transferable (including licenses) are disclosed as part of the procurement process.