

Attachment 5 – Financial Viability Risk Assessment Guidance note

In this attachment and Attachment 5 RM6273 Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool, the following words shall have the following meanings

“EFS”	means economic and financial standing
“FVRA”	means Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool
“Subcontractor”	means Key Subcontractor identified within Attachment 7 - Key subcontractor details. Definition of Key Subcontractor can be found in Joint Schedule 1
“The Guidance Note”	<p>means the Assessing and Monitoring the Economic and Financial Standing of Bidders and Suppliers document</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987132/Assessing_and_monitoring_the_economic_and_financial_standing_of_suppliers_guidance_note_May_2021.pdf</p>
“The Sourcing Playbook”	<p>the document that outlines a series of key policies for making outsourcing decisions and contracting outside suppliers for the delivery of public services.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987353/The_Sourcing_Playbook.pdf</p>

Introduction

CCS has adapted the Cabinet Office's Financial Viability Risk Assessment (FVRA) Tool (version 4.3.1) as the basis to conduct a financial assessment on all Bids. The RM6273 Employee Benefits & Services FVRA Tool is provided at Attachment 5a – Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool and is to be completed and submitted by Bidders.

Bidders and each consortia member must complete and submit Attachment 5a – Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool and not the standard FVRA Tool.

Bidders, and consortia members who pass the assessment to the satisfaction of CCS will achieve a “pass”. If a Bidder or any member of a consortia do not pass the Assessment, to the satisfaction of CCS, they will “fail” and the bid will be deemed non-compliant and will be excluded from the competition. If we exclude a bid from the competition we will tell the Bidder and explain why.

It is advised that before completing the FVRA, Bidders review the May 2021 Guidance Note ‘Assessing and Monitoring the Economic and Financial Standing of Bidders and Suppliers’ (hereafter referred to as ‘The Guidance Note’) which can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987132/Assessing_and_monitoring_the_economic_and_financial_standing_of_suppliers_guidance_note_May_2021.pdf

RM6273 Employee Benefits and Services has been classified as a **Bronze** contract, via the Contract Tiering Tool. You will only be required to complete Attachment 5b - Bronze FVRA Tool if you do not pass the Financial score as set out in part 1.18.1 of Attachment 2a Selection Questionnaire in the eSourcing suite.

Attachment 5a –Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool provides transparency as to how and what CCS will assess and allows Bidders to see their risk classifications as they complete the financial assessment. Bidders ranked Red (High Risk) or Amber (Medium Risk) against relevant thresholds must set out explanations and relevant mitigations on the relevant tabs (3.1 to 3.3) within Attachment 5a – Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool. Further guidance around potential mitigations is also provided in The Guidance Note.

Please see Appendix 2 for instructions on how and where to submit the required information in the eSourcing suite.

Instructions and guidance

Before completing Attachment 5a –Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool, Bidders are advised to review the first tab ‘Bidder Instructions’.

Important

On the tab ‘Bidder Instructions’. Make sure you select the correct company/organisation type for the Lead Bidder from the dropdown provided, (row 39) before completing the Attachment 5a. Please ensure you only complete the tabs relevant to your organisation type.

- 1.1a Lead financial Input - only complete if you are a Private Limited Company Publicly listed company template
- 1.1b Lead financial Input - only complete if you are Not for profit/Voluntary organisation

1. **Bronze** Bidders will be required to complete Attachment 5b – Bronze FVRA Tool only if they **FAIL** the financial risk assessment as specified in Attachment 2a Selection Questionnaire – Part 5 Financial Risk
2. Means of Proof will be in line with PCR2015 regulation 60
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/102/regulation/60/made>
3. Bidders should complete all tabs in line with the instruction found within the Bidder instructions tab of the RM6273 Employee Benefits and Services Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool
4. Each consortium member will be required to complete an Attachment 5a – Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool individually, and provide copies of their published accounts for the last 3 years. Each consortia member will be assessed separately.
5. Where the financial information inputted by the Bidder into Attachment 5a – Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool and compared to the thresholds set by the CCS (see Authority RAG thresholds tab and Annex 1), the following is calculated in the assessment (black) tabs:
 - a green result the Bidder passes the criteria and no further action is required;
 - a red or amber result(s) this will not be an automatic fail. Bidders must, however, use the black tabs to provide commentary against any red or amber results and CCS will take such explanations into consideration in its assessment of the Bidder’s economical financial assessment. As well, CCS may seek further clarifications from the Bidder.
6. If CCS requires clarification or further information, explanations, it will send a message to the Bidder through the e-Sourcing messaging system. Bidders must respond to these requests within timeframes set in the individual messages.
7. FVRA criteria 7 Net Asset Value is the only ratio which doesn’t involve a fraction. To achieve Green – Low risk – the Bidder must be in a positive Net Asset

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Model Version: v1.0

position. If it is in a Net Liabilities position, then they are classed as High Risk.

8. All Bidders must provide copies of:

- their published accounts for the last 3 years
- parent company published accounts for the last 3 years
- ultimate parent published accounts for the last 3 years along with their completed Attachment 5a –Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool. In line with The Guidance Note any qualified accounts will receive additional scrutiny.

9. Bidders' financial accounts and supporting information should be in English and in UK Sterling. If the original documents are not in English, please provide copies of the originals and a certified translation into English. If the sums in the accounts are not expressed in UK Sterling then copies of the original accounts, shall be provided together with a UK Sterling rate equivalent copy utilising the pound buys exchange rate applicable on the date of auditor issue of the financial statement.

10. Each Bidder must set out the following information:

- any key events or movements in its/their financial position that have a bearing on the financial standing of the bidder that have occurred since the most recent published accounts;
- any information relating to factors that have a bearing on the financial standing of the Bidder that require a more detailed explanation than is given in the information provided in Attachment 5a –Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool;
- a statement, where relevant, that addresses any misreporting of factual information or information that has been publicly available in the last year which, in the Bidder's opinion, requires additional explanation.

If applicable this information must be uploaded as an attachment to your bid, see Appendix 2.

Prior to award of Framework Contracts

11. In line with clause 2.4.15 of The Guidance Note, prior to award of the Framework Agreement, Bidders will be individually asked to

- Make CCS aware of any adverse changes to their Economic and Financial Standing that might adversely impact their ability to deliver required Framework outputs.
- CCS may require the Bidder to resubmit Attachment 5a –Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool using latest available Management Account (or equivalent) data, such that the impact on FVRA threshold ratios can be understood.

The resubmitted Attachment 5a –Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool will then be appraised by CCS in line with the guidance above. Bidders may be excluded from the competition if satisfactory mitigations cannot be provided for Red or Amber threshold results.

12. Where, immediately prior to award of the Framework Agreement, the last accounting information provided by Bidders is over 12 calendar months old, the Bidder may be asked to resubmit Attachment 5a –Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool using either:

- Latest published accounts, where the accounts date falls within the last 12 months; or
- Management account (or equivalent) data, where the relevant year end period falls within the last 12 months.

The provisions above will then apply, and Bidders may be excluded from the competition if unable to provide satisfactory explanations and mitigations for Red or Amber threshold results.

Appendix 1 – FVRA risk thresholds:

Risk thresholds for RM6273 Employee Benefits and Services (in line with tab 2 of Attachment 5a –Financial Viability Risk Assessment Tool)

(**Guidance** – Ratios to be confirmed by category and commercial finance)

		RM6273			
		R	A	G	
1	Turnover Ratio	1.5 x	-	2 x	
2	Operating Margin	2%	-	4%	
3a	Free Cash flow to Net Debt Ratio	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3b	Net Debt to EBITDA Ratio	3.5	-	2.5	
4	Net Debt and Net Pension Deficit to EBITDA Ratio	3.5	-	2.5	
5	Net Interest Paid Cover	3 x	-	4.5 x	
6	Acid Ratio	0.8	-	1	
7	Net Asset Value	<0		>0	
8	Group Exposure Ratio	50%	-	25%	

Notes:

- a) Outsourcing Playbook thresholds have been applied as above
- b) 3a will not be assessed

Appendix 2 – How and where to submit the required information

What	File name	Zip folder name	Question to upload zip folder (qualification envelope)
Lead Bidder Attachment 5a	FVRA_ your organisation name	Upload as a zip folder EFS_ your organisation name	Part 5 Financial Risk
Accounts(3 years) for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Bidder • Parent • Ultimate parent 	Insert account period_ organisation name		
Lead Bidder response to paragraph 12 (if applicable)	12_ your organisation name		
Consortia member Attachment 5a	FVRA_consortia member name	Upload all consortia member information in one zip folder CMEFS_ your organisation name	Part 5 Financial Risk
Accounts(3 years) for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortia member • Consortia Parent • Consortia Ultimate parent 	Insert account period_organisation name		
Consortia member response to paragraph 12 (if applicable)	12_ consortia member name		

Any additional completed Attachment 5a required i.e. where your bid includes both charitable and Private Company Sub-Suppliers or Parent and/or Ultimate Parent company	Ad1FVRA_ your organisation name1 Ad2FVRA_ your organisation name1 and so on	AdFVRA_ your organisation name	Part 5 Financial Risk
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Consortia member Attachment 5a	FVRA_consortia member name	Upload all consortia member information in one zip folder CMEFS_ your organisation name	Part 5 Financial Risk
Accounts(3 years) for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortia member • Consortia Parent • Consortia Ultimate parent 	Insert account period_organisation name		
Consortia member response to paragraph 12 (if applicable)	12_ consortia member name		
Any additional completed Attachment 5a required i.e. where your bid includes both charitable and Private Company Sub-Suppliers or Parent and/or Ultimate Parent company	Ad1FVRA_ your organisation name1 Ad2FVRA_ your organisation name1 and so on	AdFVRA_ your organisation name	Part 5 Financial Risk

