

About the Office for National Statistics (ONS)

ONS is the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and is the National Statistical Institute for the UK. Formally, it is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-Ministerial Department established by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. It is responsible for collecting and publishing statistics related to the economy, population, and society at national, regional and local levels. ONS plays a leading role in national and international good practice in the production of official statistics.

About Data Growth and Operations (DGO)

DGO is the directorate within ONS that is responsible for the provision and management of high-quality data to enable the production of official statistics. Run by ONS's Chief Data Officer, the directorate operates both as a provider of data, acquiring and processing data from external sources to be made available to ONS analysts and statisticians; and as a manager of ONS's data estate, with responsibility for ONS's data strategy and enterprise data management plan.

About the Integrated Data Service (IDS)

IDS is a cross-government Programme, for which ONS is the lead delivery partner, which is building a cloud-based trusted research environment (TRE) for the rapid and secure provision of data to analysts across government which will enable the delivery of faster and more reliable analysis to support better policy making. The Programme is building both the platform to enable the technical processing and delivery of datasets as well as the governance and policy models which will enable low friction data access.

Introduction

As part of the delivery of the IDS, ONS is looking to identify and engage with industry partners who can help provide rapid response data expertise to help solve specific data challenges by providing teams to deliver short term, defined outcome projects, such as (for example only):

- A metadata capture and collection tool, to enable easier delivery of metadata from data suppliers.
- A process to programmatically evaluate and profile data on ingestion, to contribute to the expansion of metadata assets and to a common data model.
- A visualization of the IDS common data model to allow it to be presented through a data catalogue interface to allow users to make connections between data sets across domain boundaries.

- A data contract system which enables the automated checking of data request and provision.

ONS envisages that each of these projects will be tightly bounded and scoped and delivered through short term (1-3 month) engagements, with clearly defined outputs and success indicators. For this reason, it's essential that suppliers have expertise and demonstrable team strength in the following disciplines (among others)

- Data Architecture
- Data Engineering
- Platform / Infrastructure engineering (with a specific focus on Google Cloud Platform expertise)
- Data management and governance
- Data ethics and security

Other data related skillsets may be required, depending on the individual projects. Partners should also be able to demonstrate knowledge of and experience in the following:

- Agile methodologies and delivery
- GOV.UK delivery rules, including the GDS/CDDO Service Standards and assessment, and the Technology Code of Practice (TCoP)
- Public sector data sharing
- Enterprise data management, including:
 - Metadata management
 - Data cataloguing
 - Data governance
 - Data standards

Additional requirements may include but will not be limited to:

- Standards drafting and management
- Cross-government engagement
- Product evaluation and recommendation
- Training and upskilling of ONS staff

Types of support may include:

- Supply of individual expertise (through contractors or service workers)
- Supply of architecture / consultancy support for initial product design.
- Supply of delivery teams for discovery / alpha / beta project phases.
- Collaboration on quality assurance of data engineering / architecture processes and suggested improvements.
- Provision of synthetic data to test services and processes.

The types of organisations that should consider contacting us are:

- Data consultancies
- Generalist IT / digital consultancies with data expertise and experience

Contract Information

It is expected the initial contract durations will be for a 2–6-month periods, with each work package ranging in budget from £25k to £500k.

If the initial program of work proves successful there is the potential for ongoing funding and subsequent future contract(s); with further potential for partnering, implementation and funding by other Government departments.

What Can a Partnership with ONS Offer?

An opportunity to work with a world-class statistics organisation, to create better and more timely statistics to be used by all for the benefit of the public good; with future potential to work with other Government departments.

Future Tenders Registration

Any future tenders will be conducted through ONS's 'DPS Data SaSiE'. If you would like to sign up for this in readiness, please register your organisation on ONS's e-tendering portal

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/ons/asp/Home> and then apply for the specific project at:

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/ons/asp/ProjectManage/426> by selecting 'opt in'. This will take you through to the associated documentation for your organisation to apply..

Additional Information

This Exercise is NOT a pre-qualification or selection exercise and is NOT part of any pre-qualification or selection process that may apply to any future potential procurement. It is intended to act as an awareness and information gathering exercise offering an opportunity for suppliers to advise the extent to which they potentially can provide some or all the services that ONS may require, in order to help ONS with its future intentions.