



## Expression of Interest for Apprentice Training Provision, Oxford Advanced Skills at UKAEA Culham Science Centre

### Introduction

The Thames Valley region is considered to be one of the best-performing and most innovative areas in the UK, with outstanding technology and unique “large scale science projects”, based in the Harwell, Culham and Oxford science triangle. The region is a preferred location for entrepreneurial and innovative business and is underpinned by world leading Cryogenic and Space technology that form Science Vale of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. It is a region where advanced engineering businesses are thriving and a hot-spot for cutting-edge technology. As the UK moves out of recession the need for a highly skilled workforce is becoming critical for growth in the regions high tech sector.

A new training facility, located at the Culham Science Centre, will enable Oxfordshire businesses to offer young people apprenticeships of the highest quality and provide training in a work place environment. This will help to resolve a critical skills shortage in high technology areas and result in growth in the UK economy.

UKAEA are looking to collaborate with a partner organisation to establish a centre of excellence for training engineering apprentices at intermediate, advanced and higher levels. The training centre, Oxford Advanced Skills (OAS), will build upon the success of award-winning established training schemes at UKAEA, STFC and other SME's who rely on a supply of highly qualified engineers to meet their business needs within the high-growth engineering sector.

### The training centre aims to:

- Raise the standard of apprenticeships to produce high-end technicians
- Provide employer led training in the context of the workplace
- Offer employers value for money and deliver work-ready technicians to support growth
- Deliver a core engineering syllabus along with specialist employer-led training modules.

UKAEA have an existing building which could be made available to facilitate the initial operation of the OAS apprentice training centre, however there are opportunities for expansion and construction of a new facility on the UKAEA Culham site which is open to proposals. OAS will require a governance structure; outline proposals should be provided with any submission.

UKAEA anticipates a phased approach to the OAS Project, with the first intake in September 2016 utilising an existing building on the Culham site. There are aspirations to train in excess of 125 apprentices per annum, to meet the growth needs of the high-tech sector businesses within the region.

The longer-term vision for OAS is to establish a flagship facility which will be comparable in size to the existing AMRC and MTC training centres.



### **Additional Information**

UKAEA, STFC & other SME's will provide staff with specialist knowledge in high-tech areas to develop specialist training modules in: cryogenics, vacuum, advanced manufacturing techniques space technology and other employer led training modules.

Employers and OAS stakeholders will have training access to high value cutting edge equipment only available at UKAEA and STFC including the Joint European Torus, the world's most successful fusion experiment, and the Diamond Light Source synchrotron.

The employer led modules need to be delivered by highly skilled experienced practitioners and some of the delivery may be undertaken by Culham and STFC staff to utilise the world class knowhow and infrastructure found at UKAEA and STFC. This approach means that apprentices will gain invaluable learning, in real time, in a culture where practitioners understand the need to pass their skills and knowledge down to the next generation.

A site visit to view the building and facilities at UKAEA Culham Science Centre is available during the week of **9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November, please contact Paula Barham to arrange a suitably convenient time.**

UKAEA and STFC sit on the steering group for Oxfordshire UTC, helping to create a 'skills continuum' to support young people through their learning journey. The ambition is to develop an integrated, seamless service that supports young people through school, on into training, further education, employment or business. They will understand the full breadth of career options, including local demand, and the training path to succeed in their career.

Organisations interested in this collaboration are invited to submit an expression of interest outlining how they would meet the criteria within the prequalification document accompanying this advert.

**Deadline for submission: 12pm Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

All communication should be directed to the UKAEA Procurement Representative:

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on behalf of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

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