

RCloud Tasking Form – Part B: Statement of Requirement (SoR)

Title of Requirement	Redacted under FOI Exemption
Requisition No.	RQ0000033477
Contract Purchase Agreement.	Redacted under FOI Exemption
Purchase Order Number	Redacted under FOI Exemption
SoR Version	0.3

1.	Statement of Requirements
1.1	Summary and Background Information
	<p>The FWT Programme has been devised to bring together the cross-cutting S&T which will enable pan-Defence Users to understand and develop robust and/or novel approaches to achieving superiority through its People capability. The following are some of its key objectives, relevant to this call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify, develop and test innovative concepts, approaches and technologies to achieve future workforce superiority (including humans in systems in semi-autonomous environments, remote working, societal expectations); • drive forward simulation and synthetic environments for training and education; • generate understanding and test/evaluate how Defence can use novel technologies and methodologies (such as avatars, data analytics, autonomy and artificial intelligence) to harness knowledge and achieve and retain the optimal balance of scarce skills across the Defence Enterprise; • Identify, develop and test novel human systems integration (HMI) and human centred design approaches. <p>Redacted are looking to fund up to a maximum of six (6) PhDs from the Future Workforce & Training (FWT) Programme, across the following areas of interest,</p> <p>1) <u>Future Workforce (2PhD's)</u></p> <p>a) People Analytics</p> <p>The importance of People Analytics in addressing organisational issues, informing decision making and providing people insights has never been more important. However, the volume of data which is potentially available to organisations needs careful identification and management. We are interested in proposals on any of the following topic areas with regard to UK Defence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redacted under FOI Exemption

- Use of data to reward people - approaches to innovatively use people data to reward employees and their applicability to Defence.
- Integration of people data - how technology innovation can best integrate different forms of organisationally derived people data to provide employees with regular feedback.

b) Adaptability

Defence needs to respond to the Future Operating Environment (FOE) by appropriately deploying/employing its personnel. We would like to receive proposals that investigate with regard to UK Defence:

- Operating model - the effectiveness of workforce models which reduce continual overheads by operating a core management function and 'buying in' specialist capabilities for fixed period of time; consider the advantages and disadvantages of this approach.
- Recruit versus train - the merits and challenges of an organisation growing their own niche skills talent (especially a bottom fed model) versus recruiting in talent.
- Accessing niche skills - effectiveness of current methods of identifying and accessing niche skills (from both internal and external talent); what innovative methods could be used to improve this process?

2) Humans In Systems (4 PhD's)

a) Safety – Modernising safety assurance for Generation After Next (GAN) technologies and future Human Machine Interface (HMI)

Despite dramatic advances in digital and networked enabled technologies, the human operator will likely be expected to provide an essential and enduringly reliable safety assurance function in Defence applications for years to come. We are interested in funding doctoral research to investigate the challenges of assuring the human component of safety critical systems within Defence applications. A particular area of interest is in understanding on how to apply learning from the success of current human reliability models, and the use of traditional HMI technologies, to the assurance of effects that will be delivered with technologies that we can already see shaping our future.

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c) Gaming – Exploitation of design conventions and crossover opportunities between commercial gaming and defence

We are interested in investigating the transferability of developments in Graphical User Interfaces (GUI) / HMI from within the gaming industry, into defence. The gaming industry has developed many novel, highly usable GUIs, Redacted under FOI Exemption Redacted under FOI Exemption The research needs to consider the open question as to whether Gaming HMI, and the design of these systems (or specific aspects thereof) could be incorporated in training and other military applications with the aim of reducing the training burden.

	<p>d) Mixed Reality – Accelerating the exploitation of MR within future HMI development</p> <p>There is an increasing trend in the use of augmented, mixed and virtual reality (AR/VR/MR) technologies in construction, manufacturing and architecture industries. Redacted under FOI Exemption</p> <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption. We are interested in funding research that will help defence better exploit these technologies for the design of future HMI in defence.</p> <p>Redacted sets out the expectation that any PhD submission that is selected for funding is expected to start before October 2023.</p>
1.2	<p>Requirement</p>
	<p>Requirement: Fund up to 6x PhD studentships in one or more of the topic areas defined above:</p> <p>In consideration of the above Redacted invites you to submit proposals for funding against the identified topics of interest, and the deliverables specified under Section 1.6 of this tasking form. In submitting a response please be aware of the following criteria that proposals must include and meet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed technical proposal (maximum 6 pages); • A short title and an abstract (200 words max); • A single PowerPoint slide which summarises the scope of the proposed work; • CV/s of supervisor/s in the UK (2 page maximum – it must list relevant experience and publications to the topic of interest); • A completed Personal Particulars Research Workers Form for each student (if already identified) and supervisor/s who will work on the requirements; <p>Redacted sets out to confirm that the nominated research PhD student will be required to complete a Personal Particulars Research Workers Form prior to being given approval by Redacted to start work, and additional expectation include the individual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend an "Induction to Defence" day at one of the Redacted under FOI Exemption • Attend up to 2 days a year supporting Redacted under FOI Exemption • The University will provide soft copies of the PhD Thesis and any publications (e.g., Conference and Journal papers) by the student. <p>Research Oversight and funding</p> <p>A Redacted under FOI Exemption will be assigned as the main point of contact for the duration of the PhD. As part of this role, the TP will visit University twice a year for up to 2 days per visit. The visit dates are to be agreed between the Supervisor and the TP.</p> <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption for a successful Research PhD proposal submitted under this call. If the value of the PhD exceeds Redacted under then any shortfall will need to be funded by the University, and confirmation of this will need to be demonstrated within your submission.</p> <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p> <p>Payment will be made in annual instalments in arrears and on completion and acceptance by the Authority of the required annual deliverables with a minimum of 10% of the overall funding to be retained until completion of the final Contract Deliverable. If the Research PhD extends beyond the 3.5-year period then the University will provide the necessary funding until the completion of the study and approved Thesis.</p> <p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p>

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1.3	Options or follow on work
	<p>a. In addition to the Research and Development Services detailed in Section 1.2 of Task Form Part B, the Contractor hereby grants to the Authority the irrevocable option to undertake additional Research and Development Services in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in R-Cloud V4 and this task form, it being agreed that the Authority has no obligation to exercise such options.</p> <p>b. The Authority shall have the right to exercise the options detailed by no later than 3 years post contract award date. Should the Authority wish to exercise the option, the Authority's Representative (Commercial Services) shall approach the Contractor requesting a quotation for the additional Research and Development Services.</p> <p>c. Should the Authority exercise the option, the Authority's Representative (Commercial Services) and the Contractor shall jointly agree pricing and dates for the completion of Contract Deliverables. Following agreement, the Authority's Representative (Commercial Services) will issue a formal Task Amendment.</p> <p>d. The Authority shall not be obliged to exercise the option(s).</p> <p>Where the Authority does identify a requirement, [Redacted] will request that the supplier provides a detailed proposal when each additional task arises and this will undergo technical and commercial review.</p>
1.4	Contract Management Activities
	<p><u>Bronze Level Contract Management</u></p> <p>Quarterly Progress & Technical Review</p> <p>Annual Technical Report</p> <p>Final Year submission of final thesis</p> <p>Bronze, to be managed locally by the Authority Project Manager.</p>
1.5	Health & Safety, Environmental, Social, Ethical, Regulatory or Legislative aspects of the requirement

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="178 190 1503 250">1. The appointed supplier will be required to comply with all relevant UK legislation<li data-bbox="178 250 1503 362">2. Redacted under FOI Exemption Redacted under FOI Exemption Redacted under FOI Exemption
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1.6	Deliverables & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)				
Ref.	Title	Due by	Format	Expected classification (subject to change)	What information is required for deliverables
D1	Quarterly Progress and Technical Review	T0+3 Months	Presentation (.pptx)	Public	Presentation pack to include: • Update on technical progress
D2	Annual technical report	T0+12 Months	Written report	Public	Brief written report outlining
D3	End of the PhD - Thesis	End of thesis	University thesis	Public	PhD thesis

2	Evaluation Criteria												
2.1	Method Explanation												
	<p>Redacted under FOI Exemption</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Stage 1 – Compliance</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Criteria</th><th>Pass (Compliant) / Fail (Non-Compliant)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>The Contractors proposal does not exceed the Authority's funding limit of [REDACTED] per proposal.</td><td>Pass / Fail</td></tr> <tr> <td>Proposal prices do not exceed the R-Cloud rates submitted upon Application and Acceptance</td><td>Pass / Fail</td></tr> <tr> <td>The Supplier has submitted a completed R-Cloud Tasking Form Part C as part of the submission including a completed Annex A Statement Relating to Good Standing and Annex B, Notification of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Restrictions or a confirmed NIL Return.</td><td>Pass / Fail</td></tr> <tr> <td>The proposal submitted as a Firm Price and is affordable against the [REDACTED]</td><td>Pass / Fail</td></tr> <tr> <td>The Proposal is valid for a minimum of 90 days</td><td>Pass / Fail</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Only those Tenderers who pass all the above compliance criteria will be taken forward to Stage 2. Failure to achieve full compliance will exclude your tender from the Stage 2 evaluation process.</p> <p>Stage 2 – Technical Evaluation (Scoring)</p> <p>Tender Scoring Mechanism: Best technically affordable tender</p> <p>The evaluation shall be conducted under the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) principles, with the application of an Absolute Method, defined as the Best technically affordable tender.</p>	Criteria	Pass (Compliant) / Fail (Non-Compliant)	The Contractors proposal does not exceed the Authority's funding limit of [REDACTED] per proposal.	Pass / Fail	Proposal prices do not exceed the R-Cloud rates submitted upon Application and Acceptance	Pass / Fail	The Supplier has submitted a completed R-Cloud Tasking Form Part C as part of the submission including a completed Annex A Statement Relating to Good Standing and Annex B, Notification of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Restrictions or a confirmed NIL Return.	Pass / Fail	The proposal submitted as a Firm Price and is affordable against the [REDACTED]	Pass / Fail	The Proposal is valid for a minimum of 90 days	Pass / Fail
Criteria	Pass (Compliant) / Fail (Non-Compliant)												
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The Supplier has submitted a completed R-Cloud Tasking Form Part C as part of the submission including a completed Annex A Statement Relating to Good Standing and Annex B, Notification of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Restrictions or a confirmed NIL Return.	Pass / Fail												
The proposal submitted as a Firm Price and is affordable against the [REDACTED]	Pass / Fail												
The Proposal is valid for a minimum of 90 days	Pass / Fail												

The contract shall be awarded to the tender with the highest, non-cost score that is within budget.

Any tenders received that are in excess of the proposed budget above will be automatically deemed non-compliant and will be excluded from the tender evaluation process.

Best technically affordable tender example

In this example, the assumed budget

Tender	Cost (£kNPV)	Non-cost score	Technically compliant	Rank
A	20	62	Yes	2
B	24	85	Yes	1
C	29	100	Yes	Non-compliant

Tender C is over budget and is therefore deemed to be non-compliant. Tenders A and B are both compliant but tender B has the highest non-cost score and is awarded the contract.

2.2 Technical Evaluation Criteria

ID	Criteria	Score	Weighting
1	Scientific Quality and Innovation		
1.1	The Proposal has demonstrated evidence of how the PhD is applicable to Defence within the context of Future Workforce and Training programme.	0-10	X3
1.2	The proposal further evidences any novel methods and or techniques that will be utilised in undertaking the work.	0-10	X3
2	Proposed Approach and Relevance of the PhD		
2.1	The Proposal demonstrates a clear method for undertaking and delivering the work, and the activities identified are relevant to achieving the objectives of the programme	0-10	X2

3	Supplier PhD Management • Balance of skills of the project team • Time and commitment proposed.		
3.1	The Proposal demonstrates that the Requirement will be delivered and Supervised by suitably qualified and experience personnel (SQEP).	0-10	X1
3.2	The proposal includes a populated Risk Register for the performance and delivery of the PhD. The proposal has included clear mitigation of how these risks will be managed.	0-10	X1

Any bid scoring a 0 or 1 in any of the assessment criteria will not be considered for funding. Any bid scoring less than 50 in total will not be considered for funding.

Technical Evaluation Criteria	
Score	Definition
10	Exceeds the Authority's requirement
7	Fully meets the Authority's requirement
5	Adequately meets the Authority's requirement
3	Falls short of the Authority's requirements in a minor respect
1	Falls short of the Authority's requirements in a major respect, or tenderer did not adequately explain their response or did not provide adequate evidence of claimed capability.
0	Tenderer did not respond to the question or tenderer's response indicated that their capabilities wholly failed to meet the Authority's requirements.

2.3	Commercial Evaluation Criteria
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The commercial evaluation shall be based on the following Pass / Fail questions (which form part of the Stage 1 Compliance Assessment above):

1. Has the bidder submitted one (1) full proposal (Technical and Commercial) including all price detail, and has the bidder submitted one (1) Full Technical proposal which excludes all commercial price information?
2. Has the bidder submitted the proposal as a Firm price?
3. Are Labour rates and price as per the rates uploaded to RCloud?
4. Has the bidder submitted one (1) completed copy of RCloud Form Part C – Task Response Form including completed SRGS at Annex A and DEFFORM 711 at Annex B?
5. Has the bidder completed Research Worker forms as necessary?

A fail on any of the above questions will result in your proposal being excluded from further evaluation and consideration.