

Specification

Future Aviation Security Solutions – Testing facility for explosive detection National Security Science and Research

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1. Introduction

The Department for Transport (DfT) invites proposals for the following goods and services. This contract will be subject to the DfT standard Conditions of Contract for services and goods.

2. Background to the Requirement

The Future Aviation Security Solutions (FASS) programme forms part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). The review was published in 2015 and set out the Government's National Security Strategy for the coming five years, including a commitment to double spending on aviation security to strengthen the response to threats against the aviation industry. Consequently, FASS was established in 2016 with a budget of £25.5m over the five years to invest in innovative solutions for aviation security.

The ability of industry suppliers to test and trial their equipment in live and representative environments is a common barrier across the aviation security industry. In particular, controlled access to commercial off the shelf (COTS) explosives is required to adequately test equipment prior to seeking regulatory approval. This strand of the FASS programme aims to address this barrier by providing a testing facility for mid-range TRL solutions (4-6) to evaluate explosive detection capability.

The FASS programme is seeking a commercial service provider to support the work of the programme in the following area:

Supplying an explosives detection technology/solution testing facility including:

- Management of detection technology testing using commercial off the shelf explosives.
- Plan and implement testing protocols through collaboration with the FASS programme and its partners.
- Undertake testing of detection technology to an agreed standard and provide feedback on testing outcomes by means of a trial report.
- Acquisition, storage, maintenance and disposal of COTS explosive materials during the contracting period.
- Acquisition, storage, maintenance and disposal of basic stream of commerce luggage items for testing of detection technology.

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3. Indicative Procurement Timetable

Description	Date
Request for Proposal Issued	10/06/2019
Clarification Period starts	11/06/2019
Clarification Period closes	28/06/2019 (12:00 Midday)
Bid Submission Date and Time	05/07/2019 (12:00 Midday)
Evaluation Process	05/07/2019 to 18/07/2019
Potential conclusion of standstill period	01/08/2019
Potential Contract Award	01/08/2019
Potential Commencement Date	07/08/2019
Potential Contract Termination Date	28/02/2021 or when full number of days have been fulfilled

4. Scope

A **maximum** budget of £100,000 is available for this contract.

This service is not seeking to replicate European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) accreditation or to provide potential suppliers with formal evaluation or accreditation of their equipment. Rather, it seeks to provide developers with an opportunity to gather data on the current capability of their mid technology readiness level (TRL 4-6) solutions using COTS explosive materials.

This procurement is open to any companies that meet all of the following criteria:

- Have a demonstrable experience in designing, managing and reporting complex trials, preferable in a similar field.
- Either hold and operate, or be partnered with, a facility that is licensed for the purchase, storage and use of COTS explosive materials.
- Not be a prime contractor in any current FASS funded competition.
- Not bid as prime contractor for any FASS competition for the duration of this contract.
- Comply with all UK regulation surrounding the purchase, storage and use of COTS explosives.
- Comply with all UK health and safety regulation relevant to testing detection equipment.

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5. Indicative Implementation and Deliverables timetable

Deliverables		Potential Delivery Date / Milestone	Payment upon Completion (%)
Work Package 1 Testing methodologies	Consultation event with DfT and partners on explosives supply and testing protocols	15/08/2019	
	Initial report – Outline of proposed protocols and explosive acquisition plan	20/08/2019	10 %
	Final report – Full testing protocols outlined	10/09/2019	10 %
Work Package 2 Acquisition of COTS explosive material	Interim report – Explosives report	01/10/2019	10 %
Work Package 3 Operational facility report	Report outlining operational status of the facility, the specific testing day slots, and the protocols for testing different equipment	15/10/2019	10 %
Work Package 4 Trial delivery	Outcomes, issues and mitigation report 1	Due following the completion of 50% of trial days	30 %
	Outcomes, issues and mitigation report 2 (Final Report)	Due following the completion of 100% of trial days	30 %

6. Specifying Goods and / or Services

The full requirement for this service is as follows:

6.1 Supply a range of explosive materials at varying quantities to be used exclusively by Department for Transport funded suppliers.

Quantity: Supply at least 3 types of explosive materials (for example TNT or PETN). The ability to produce additional types or commercial variations within each type would be beneficial. Up to five masses of each type should be provided as follows.

- 1 = 100 g
- 2 = 200 g
- 3 = 500 g
- 4 = 1000 g
- 5 = 2000 g

If the contractor cannot acquire the 5 masses indicated above they should denote the number that can be provided within the range of 100-2000 g.

Quality: Explosives should be subject to appropriate quality controls to ensure they remain fit for use. They should:

- Be used in accordance with the explosive license that is in place for the facility
- Only be handled by suitably qualified and experienced persons (SQEP)
- Be used and stored to ensure they are properly accounted for at all times
- not become contaminated in any way
- not contaminate the equipment under test

If explosive contamination does occur, procedures must be in place to clean up this contamination such that it would not affect the results of subsequent equipment measurements. The contractor must outline how they plan to meet these requirements in their submission.

Timeliness: The full range of explosives must be available from the 15/10/2019 until the termination of the contract.

6.2 Store all COTS explosive material associated with this contract at the contractor's premises whilst not in use.

Quality: Storage of COTS explosive materials must undergo appropriate quality control procedures to ensure materials remain fit for use. These should be outlined in the contractor's submission.

6.3 Ensure adequate procedures are in place for disposal of COTS explosive material used during the contract period.

6.4 Supply a range of basic stream of commerce luggage which can be used for concealing explosive material if required. These will be owned by DfT and stored at the commercial partner's premises for the duration of the contract. The DfT and its funded suppliers will have exclusive use of these goods.

Quality: These should include a range of general luggage cases and items. Internal items should include clothing, footwear and unaltered electrical items.

6.5 In consultation with DfT and its vendors, the contractor will provide testing protocols to meet the outcomes of any testing of FASS funded suppliers. Outcomes will be specified by DfT.

Quality: Following the award of this contract DfT will provide the contractor with testing protocol boundaries within which the testing protocols must be developed. The contractor should be aware that non-conventional technologies may be funded for testing and ad-hoc amendments to testing protocols may be required.

6.6 Provide facilities for testing of equipment for FASS funded suppliers.

Quality: This testing facility must hold the appropriate licenses for the use and storage of the COTS explosive materials supplied.

6.7 Provide a set number preparation and testing days within the available budget. Included within these days is full trial management, including set up of equipment under test, running of the trial, recording of trial progress and results.

Quantity: FASS is looking for the testing facility provider to provide as many testing days as possible within the budget set out by this competitive procurement. We will evaluate this in your response.

6.8 Provide trial reporting for each trial undertaken highlighting trial set up, results and outcomes.

The contractor is responsible for the production of a test report which must be supplied to the FASS programme or its representative (FPR).

Any data obtained as part of this testing process remains the property of the FASS funded company (FFC) and the FPR. The contractor must ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that this data is held securely at the government classification of OFFICIAL.

The contractor must not share the tests results beyond the FPR.

6.9 Provision of health and safety requirements to FASS funded suppliers who will utilise the facility.

The contractor must provide FPR with details of any required health and safety requirements from the FFC that must be in place prior to any testing being conducted.

The contractor must provide FPR with the appropriate risk assessments and associated document prior to conducting testing with a FFC.

6.10 Provide interim reporting as outlined in the Implementation and Deliverables section of the competitive procurement document.

Provide interim and final reporting as outlined in the section above. Reports will be reviewed by a FASS team member or associated partner before milestone payments will be made.

7. Skills and Apprenticeships

N/A

8. Quality Assurance Requirements

Any COTS explosives acquired by the contractor may be subject to quality assurance by the Authority or its partners.

9. Service Conditions and Environmental Factors

N/A

10. Management and Contract Administration

Sub-contracting to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

DfT is committed to removing barriers to SME participation in its contracts, and would like to also actively encourage its larger suppliers to make their sub-contacts accessible to smaller companies and implement SME-friendly policies in their supply-chains (see our [website](#) for further information).

To help us measure the volume of business we do with SMEs, our Form of Tender document asks about the size of your own organisation and those in your supply chain.

If you tell us you are likely to sub-contract to SMEs, and are awarded this contract, we will send you a short questionnaire asking for further information. This data will help us contribute towards Government targets on the use of SMEs. We may also publish success stories and examples of good practice on our website.

11. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)

The Authority requires the contractor to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement on award of this contract preventing the disclosure of potentially sensitive information including details of testing protocols, testing outcomes, and solution developer intellectual property (IP).

12. Data Protection

The contractor will not be required to process any Personal Data on behalf of the DfT.

13. Training / Skills / Knowledge Transfer

N/A

14. Documentation

A number of reports will be required throughout the duration of the contract. These include:

- An initial report giving a draft outline of the testing protocols to be produced and a detailed project delivery plan. Requirements for testing protocols will be defined by DfT and may be subject to alteration based on the solutions selected for testing.
- A final testing protocols report detailing the proposed testing protocols and a plan for testing of non-conforming equipment.
- An interim report detailing the COTS explosives acquired.
- A report detailing the fully operational ability of the facility, specifying the test days available and the methodologies that will be used in testing.
- A trial delivery report due when 50 % of trial days are complete. This report will give an overview of the trials undertaken including their key outcomes.
- A final trial delivery report due when 100 % of trial days are complete. This will act as the final report for the contract and will highlight the outcomes, benefits and future mitigations of the whole project.
- In addition to the core reports above, individual trial reports will be required following the completion of each trial.

15. Arrangement for End of Contract

Following the end of the contract any COTS explosive materials acquired for use in this contract will remain the property of the contractor. The contractor must ensure adequate facilities for the destruction or continued storage of such items.

Stream of commerce items, which will be owned by the DfT, will either be safely destroyed by the contractor or moved by the contractor to another government approved facility. This decision will be at the discretion of the Authority.

The Contractor shall fully cooperate with the Authority to ensure a fair and transparent re-tendering process for this contract. This may require the Contractor to demonstrate separation between teams occupied on the existing Contract and those involved in tendering for the replacement contract to prevent actual (or perceived) conflicts of interest arising.

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16. Evaluation Criteria

See Appendix B Response Guidance.

17. Points of Contact

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All queries/ questions should be sent to the procurement contact