**Expression of Interest**

# **Project Details:**

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| **Project Name** | PS24069 - EURAXESS Project |
| **Framework Name / Number** | CCS RM6126 Research & Insights DPS |
| **Response required by** | 14:00 Friday, 18th October 2024 |
| **Response required to** | Alexander.marks@uksbs.gov.uk |

# **Description of the Project**

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| **Introduction** |
| DSIT are looking to award a multi-year contract to an organisation who will act as the UK’s Bridgehead Organisation (BHO) for the European Commission’s EURAXESS initiative, implementing EURAXESS UK activities. |

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| **Background to the Requirement** |
| Following the UK’s association to Horizon Europe we are looking to align the delivery of EURAXESS UK more closely with our boosting participation strategy and are keen to hear from a wider pool of potential delivery partners about how we can achieve this.  This tender represents an opportunity to place EURAXESS UK on firm footing with a long-term partner with the initial FY2025/26 open to extension into 2027 and 2028.  We hope that this period will see a significant growth in the utility of EURAXESS UK and seek a partner able to deliver an evolving programme at pace at an exciting time. |

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| **Scope** |
| It is anticipated that the scope of EURAXESS UK will remain as described throughout the contract, accounting for seasonal fluctuations associated with academia. Given that EURAXESS UK processes the data of individual job-seekers, post-holders and institutions it is important the contract is executed in a secure way accounting for relevant statutory obligations. |

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| **Requirement & Objectives** |
| The UK is an Associated Country to the Horizon Europe programme, and we want to make the UK’s EURAXESS service more engaging, accessible and beneficial to the UK’s R&D community.  We are open to your proposals on how to achieve this, but in general, we are looking for a BHO who would:   * **Encourage UK participation in Horizon Europe. This is the key goal of the programme and the primary value-for-money driver of the tender. Supplier input on how this could be achieved within budget are welcome;** * **Better support applicants for jobs posted on EURAXESS UK, whether from the UK or abroad, in coordination & collaboration with existing HMG programmes including the GREAT Campaign;** * **Facilitate scientific collaboration, especially international/inter-sectoral collaboration (in particular under Horizon Europe), in line with the aims of EURAXESS and the stated priorities of DSIT.**   The specifics of the FY2025/26 contract are open to change, negotiation and input from suppliers but previous iterations have included the following KPI groupings:  Digital:   * relating to maintaining the effective running, refining and updating of the EURAXESSUK website including the publishing of up-to-date information, news & content as well as complying with relevant obligations including accurate usage reporting to DSIT, compliance with GDPR, etc. * Make the web interface easier to navigate and more engaging, supporting scientific collaboration and career development while emphasising the content communicating the priorities outlined below.   Community:   * relating to successfully hosting and attending events, workshops, webinars & conferences as well as maintaining an effective helpdesk and responding to enquiries through social media. **The FY2025/26 EURAXESS UK agreement will place a greater emphasis on these elements and ensuring they are more effectively situated within the broader HMG offer.**   Promotion:   * relating to promoting EURAXESS UK to potential and actual users effectively via the newsletter, social media and the distribution of marketing materials. * Ensure the site’s content is more tailored to researchers needs and concerns, and less generic and that EURAXESS UK website content is calibrated specifically (in coordination with identified partners – primarily NCPs, the Global Talent Network & GREAT Campaign) to achieve programme aims and improve the overall HMG offer through coordination & collaboration. * Raise EURAXESS UK’s visibility generally, as well as targeting its tailored opportunities at the relevant demographics and effectively promoting its Affiliated Opportunities; * Encourage and help more international researchers to move to and work in the UK and ensuring guidance on the site – operating in line with EURAXESS Service Centre best practice - is set up to help facilitate this. For example, including advice/information to help with relocation matters, like navigating the UK visa/taxation system; * Encourage UK participation in Horizon Europe, in line with our boosting participation approach.   Monitoring & Evaluation, Project Management & Governance:   * Standard reporting and evaluation compliance requirements to ensure DSIT officials can conduct effective programme oversight.   Additionally, we will be looking to implement dynamic monitoring and evaluation in coordination with partners (including NCPs, academic mobility team, cross-Horizon working groups, etc.) to ensure that EURAXESS UK is successfully implemented and continues to refine effectively over the period of the contract. This will require the partner to take a proactive approach to engagement with defined stakeholders and effectively action information gleaned to further DSIT priorities for EURAXESS UK.  We are seeking a contracting partner who will:   * Make the web interface easy to navigate and engaging, supporting scientific collaboration through facilitating access to opportunities and career development while emphasising the content communicating the priorities outlined below; * Ensure the site’s content is tailored (and tailors) to researchers needs and concerns, is,less generic and calibrated more effectively (in coordination with identified partners – primarily NCPs, the Global Talent Network & GREAT Campaign) to achieve programme aims and improve the overall HMT offer through coordination & collaboration; * Raise EURAXESS UK’s visibility & presence, as well as targeting its tailored opportunities at the relevant demographics in coordination with relevant partners & officials and effectively promoting its Affiliated Opportunities;   Encourage and help more international researchers to move to and work in the UK and ensuring guidance & proactive assistance on the site and through direct contact – operating in line with EURAXESS Service Centre best practice - helps facilitate this. This would include, for example, advice/information to help with relocation matters like navigating the UK visa/taxation system. This will require a joined-up approach with willing partners such as the GREAT Campaign & the Global Talent Network |

# **Procurement Plan / Dates and Budget**

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| The below budget is subject to annual budgetary approval. The timelines are subject to change.  The expression of interest response is required by 14:00 Friday 18th October 2024. Late responses may not be considered.  **Project budget**  **Project budget**: Expected t0 be approximately £80,000.00 exuding VAT during the initial 12-month period.  The contract will then be reviewed and subject to performance & budget approvals will have the option to be extended by two further 12-month periods creating a maximum contract term of 3 years (1+1+1)  Pricing for years 2 & 3 will either be requested at the time of tender submission or will be linked to the prevailing rate of CPI – subject to no changes on the deliverables or scope of the project.  **Indicative timelines**  **Indicative expression of interest advertising timescale**:  October 2024 followed by a response review, if required an additional Expression of interest may be published during December 2024  **Indicative tender advertisement timescale:**  Late December 2024  **Indicative tender award date:** December 2024    **Contract/Service Start Date:** Tuesday, 1st April 2025  The services will be required to be provided from Tuesday,1st April 2025, please add you expected ‘enablement period’ of a date of which you would need to begin the contract to ensure services are supplier form the advised date. |

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# **Validation Questions**

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| To ensure that this procurement maximises appropriate bidder responses we have the following questions that we would like to pose to interested suppliers:   1. **Supplier capability and interest**: Please can you confirm if this contract is something you, as a supplier, are capable, have the capacity, and are interested, to undertake? 2. **Specification:** Based on the specification provided, can you please advise if you believe the approach to be both feasible and suitable. Are there any aspects of the specification that you think are not feasible or require modification? If alternative methodologies are advised, could these please be advised at the current expression of interest stage. 3. **Project budget:** Based on the project budget advertised, can you please confirm and advise if all, or which, aspects of the specification can be met with the current budget. 4. **Any further comments:** Open to suppliers to add further comments if they wish. 5. **Contract Start Date:** Open to suppliers to add further comments if they wish 6. **Intention to bid:** Based on the project detail provided and your responses above, is it your intention, as a supplier, to respond to the Further Competition document (invitation to tender) once issued. |

# **Response from Supplier:**

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| *Based on the project detail provided, is it your intention to respond to the Further Competition documentation once issued?*  **Yes / No**  *Response to validation Questions*   1. **Supplier capability and interest**: 2. **Indicative procurement timescales:** 3. **Specification:** 4. **Project budget:** 5. **Any further comments:** 6. **Intention to bid:**   *Any further comments* |

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