



Pathfinders High Altitude Parachute Training

Statement of Requirement

(VERSION 1.0 Dated 21 May 2024)

Introduction

Purpose

The Pathfinder Platoon (PF), 16 AA BCT, are the tip of the spear for the Global Response Force (GRF) for UK Defence. The purpose of this contract is to enable them to conduct freefall training using a commercial service to enhance competency. This external access to freefall will allow for maximisation of limited training opportunities.

Background

The Pathfinder Platoon are a critical enabler to the AA BCT and precede any mass Para drop or Joint Forcible Entry by the Global Response Force (GRF) for Defence.

This contract looks to provide access to aircraft, instructors, and all associated requirements for freefall parachuting. When combined with the completed purchase of the Commercially Procured Javelin System (CPJS) will allow for competency training on a more regular basis than is currently provided by the RAF.

As the governing body for freefall parachuting in the UK British Skydiving maintain an Operations Manual which sets down the safety, training and procedural standards required to conduct this activity. This Operations Manual is regularly updated in line with best practice and investigation findings by the BS Safety and Training Council (STC) which consists of the most experienced parachutists in UK Freefall. The RAF has created a Parachute Operations Manual (POM) which looks to mirror this and governs parachuting conducted under 1 Gp assurances. The commercial parachuting option described in this document will be carried out under the British Skydiving operations manual guidance.

Objectives

The outcomes required are:

- Access to a commercial option for conducting Freefall parachuting.
- To qualify all non-parachutists as British Skydiving (BS) A license holders through Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) training in preparation for attendance on the High Altitude Parachuting Course (HAPC).
- To qualify A license holders in BS progression skills. This will mainly focus on Canopy Training (CT) and Canopy Relative Work (CRW) Canopy Formation (CF) qualifications, however training in all air skills will benefit parachutist's competency. This will be carried out under the supervision of qualified coaches and instructors.
- To progress license holders through the license system which allows them more freedom to conduct training as their experience increases.
- The ability to contract qualified coaches to provide specific training.
- To qualify parachutists as coaches in the BS progression skills, thereby allowing PF to provide training described above through its own instructors.
- Qualify members of PF in packing freefall parachutes, especially the CPJS already procured for the Pathfinders.
- To mirror other Armies in their ability to conduct regular freefall training for competency.
- The option to rent Military Javelin (MJ), Oxygen (O2) systems and ancillary kit in order to conduct military profile descents.
- The option to conduct Tandem Master training for suitably experienced members of PF

- The option to conduct Oxygen Qualification training for those who have not yet been qualified using the RAF system.
- The option to contract aircraft and provide arrangements for jumping DZs external to the Parachute Training Organisation (PTO).
- The option to contract aircraft and provide arrangements for jumping at night.

All in order to develop competency across the range of freefall skills expected of a HAP qualified Pathfinder.

Procurement and Business objectives include:

- Create a contract that allows for repeated and ad-hoc access to aircraft and associated arrangements for parachuting.
- Reducing duplication and inefficiency by providing the outcomes through a single source where possible.
- Enabling future procurements to match this single source buy through necessity.

Specific Requirements

The contract should provide the following, but is not limited to:

- Military Parachute systems.
- Rucks and ancillaries for conducting equipment jumps.
- Dummy weapons for conducting equipment jumps.
- O2 Systems.
- Tandem Master training
- Oxygen Qualification training
- Personnel to support the above including provision for O2, OJM and DZO qualified personnel where necessary.

This contract must use a company that will provide the equipment listed above. It must also provide suitably qualified instructors who can conduct and qualify Pathfinders SP in Tandem Master/Oxygen qualification trg.

Outputs/Deliverables/Acceptance

A contract that provides all of the above requirements to meet the outlined objectives will be sufficient to build and maintain competency within the Pathfinders.

Payment

Method of payment shall be through the Authority's Contracting, Purchasing & Finance (CP&F) portal. The expectation is that the supplier will utilise the Exostar portal to communicate with the Authority's system.

Contract management arrangements

This contract should be reviewed by [REDACTED] and other key stakeholders to ensure it is fit for purpose and value for money. Any changes should be approved by [REDACTED].

Contract should allow a degree of flexibility. Intent is for a maximum of [REDACTED] to attend each course. Supplier to be made aware that this number could change due to priority taskings. [REDACTED] will ensure supplier is given sufficient notice should this number change.