**Prior Information Notice Template**

**Department for International Trade,**

**Old Admiralty Building,**

**Whitehall,**

**London**

**SW1A 2BL**

*The Department for International Trade (“DIT”) has a potential requirement for the provision of researching how digital trade policy and digital trade provisions in future free trade agreements can play a role promoting HMG’s clean growth and climate change objectives*.

*The Secretary of State for DIT is the contracting authority responsible for meeting this anticipated requirement. DIT intends to publish the Contract Notice November 2021.*

We will be inviting interested suppliers to a single supplier call held on 16th November 2021 at 13:00 until 14:00. If you are interested in bidding for this opportunity and would like to attend the call, please email Commercialresearchandconsultancy@trade.gov.uk by **15th November 2021 at 12 noon.** You can ask questions about the requirement on the call, however if you would prefer to ask anonymously, you can email any questions you may have to the above inbox by the above stated time, and we will endeavor to answer these on the call without any name attached to them.

*The full specification shall be provided with the contract documents but it is expected to incorporate the following, in addition to deliverables and governance:*

Research questions based on two themes:

*Theme 1: Impact of digital trade and data on the environment*

* How does digital trade currently promote sustainability (GHG emissions and net zero goals)? How does this vary, if at all, across different sectors of the economy?
* What are the environmental costs of digitally delivered services trade (i.e. mode 1)? How does this compare with other modes of supply?
* What are the environmental costs associated with data centres and how does this vary by country or by e.g. electricity supply?
* How has substitution away from international travel and towards digital communication (e.g. any shift from mode 4 to mode 1 services) during the global pandemic affected emissions?
* What are the environmental costs of digitally ordered trade (i.e. e-commerce)?
* To what extent does the environmental impact of the UK’s digital trade vary by trading partner? *We would like to discuss with the supplier the geographical regions to consider, but likely areas of interest are Asia-Pacific, North America and India.*
* How can emerging technology support environmental goals?

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*Theme 2: Environmental impact of digital provisions in bilateral and multilateral agreements*

* How do existing provisions on digital and data in agreements like CPTPP, DEPA or DEA affect GHG emissions and the environment? *Note, the specific agreements mentioned are illustrative; we would like to discuss the most suitable agreements to examine with the supplier.*
* Have provisions to reduce or limit data localisation reduced emissions? If so, how have they achieved this?
* What is the environmental impact of digital trade facilitation measures (e.g. e-trust, paperless trading)?
* In what ways can open government data support innovation and progress in tackling environmental issues, including moving towards net zero emissions?
* Where are the opportunities for international cooperation on digital trade and sustainability?
* What else could be done in FTA digital trade/e-commerce chapters (or other provisions on digital and data) to promote positive environmental outcomes, including other environmental impacts beyond GHG emissions?
* For example, how could the digital trade chapter (or other parts of an agreement) address the issue of electronic waste?
* For example, how could the digital trade chapter (or other parts of an agreement) support the corporate disclosure of environmental data?

Methodology

The successful tenderer must perform a literature review on the environmental impact of digital trade and the implication for digital and data provisions in FTAs. The Literature review must consider:

* *existing data/analysis on GHG emissions from different types of digital trade (digitally delivered and digitally ordered);*
* *existing data/analysis on GHG emissions for service sectors (e.g. using WIOD, ONS, OECD input-output data)*
* *existing evidence on environmental impact of digital provisions in FTAs.*

*It is anticipated the contract shall be for a period of 6 months, including any available contract option(s). The requirement has an estimated total value of £90,000 (inc-VAT) and this value includes any available contract option(s*).