

UK Aircrew Clothing Upgrade Programme (ACUP) Request For Information (RFI)

**Description of the Requirement**:

This request will assess confidence in the market’s capabilities to support this requirement and is issued prior to the commencement of a formal contract award procedure and confirm the capabilities to obtain information from the potential aviation clothing marketplace to inform the procurement strategy. Any information provided will be held in confidence.

Utilising wherever possible, new technologies and materials, the market will be asked to provide solutions for updating the current provision of gloves, boots, socks and Aircrew thermal Layer – ‘COVERALL, AIRCREW INNER KNITTED Mk1’ for aircrew in cockpit, rear crew, including specific Air Gunner and Search And Rescue (SAR) roles. A post design service will form part of the contract supporting the deliverables by the provision of advice and a design engineering service.

The term “aircrew” covers military personnel undertaking a wide range of roles across a diversity of platforms. For the purpose of this RFI, we have identified the following classifications of platforms and roles. At the basic level, aircraft are either fixed wing (fast jet / multi-engine) or rotary wing with personnel as either front or rear crew. While responsibilities may overlap in places, aircrew duties tend to be quite different. Front crews are generally concerned with the flying operation and application of the platform whereas, rear crews are often involved in more varied activities (such as the handling of freight, winching, refuelling, weapon operation, sensor operation, information processing/analysis, survivor handling/treatment, etc). The challenge is to provide a comfortable microclimate when routinely exposed to the aircraft environment and to provide a tolerable microclimate when exposed to environments outside the aircraft.

Each requirement is for minimum 5 years. Predicted aircrew numbers are 7,000 persons with an up-front year 1 purchase (tbc) and approximate 5% attrition resupply each year.

**Lot / Package 1**: **Foot Protection: Fast Jet, Multi-Engine and Rotary Front and Rear Aircrew. Anticipated Value £3.8M**

Boots Temperate Environments.

Boots Hot Weather Environments.

Boots Cold Weather Environments.

Socks as above.

**Lot / Package 2**: **Hand Protection: Fast Jet, Multi-Engine and Rotary Front and Rear Aircrew. Anticipated Value £2.3M**

Gloves Temperate Environments.

Gloves Hot Weather Environments.

Gloves Cold Weather Environments.

Gloves SAR Operator (e.g. winch operation, immersion).

Gloves Air Gunner (e.g. weapon operation).

**Lot / Package 3**: Aircrew thermal Layer – ‘COVERALL, AIRCREW INNER KNITTED Mk1’

**Anticipated Value £0.268M**

Temperate Environments.

Cold Weather Environments.

**Considerations and limitations are**: Winning bids will be subject to Military Aviation Authority (MAA) Certification and air platform testing.

**Air Commodites Delivery Team invite industry to respond to the following questions**:

Please confirm your Company’s ability to deliver the full purchase and through life support requirement in-house. If tendering as a Prime contractor, please confirm which lot items or services you foresee being delivered or subcontracted.

Alternatively, if your organisation is willing to act as a subcontractor to provide an element of the requirement, through a prime, please inform the authority of the following lots / elements that your organisation can provide.

Finally, if you are unable to support all clothing provision, please identify which of the aircrew clothing lots you feel that your company is best placed to deliver and support through the life of the contract.

Please provide no more than 500 words in response to each question. Please provide your response in an electronic format via DSP by 18/04/22.

Please refrain from supplying marketing or generic company information not relevant to the information sought in this RFI.

**Time Limit**: 18/04/22

**Advertising Regime**: Defence Sourcing Portal (DSP)N

**Project Milestones:**

The following milestones are provided for information purposes only and are included without commitment or predjudice by the Authority.

PQQ Release Milestone: Monday 3rd October 2022

ITN Release Milestone: Monday 10th April 2023

**CPV**

18114000 – Coveralls

18132200 – Flight Suits

18141000 – Work Gloves

18143000 – Protective Gear

18224000 - Clothing made of coated or impregnated textile fabrics

18317000 – Socks

18832100 - Flying footwear

19251100 - Pile fabrics

37411300 - Arctic clothing and equipment

Please return expressions via the DSP by  **18th April 2022**. Responses received after this date may not be considered.Replies by other means will not be considered.

Any queries must be directed to276106f5.mod.gov.uk@uk.teams.ms .and submitted not later than the [above date](http://cui6-uk.diif.r.mil.uk/r/969/09-MCS-UEW-LTD/34-MCS_1043-LTD/06Industry_Engagement/20160406-MEWSIC_IDP_Guidance_Notes_Master-O.docx). If queries are received after this date it may not be possible to provide a response.

**Note**: Any resulting procurement will be conducted in accordance with DSPCR 2011, and the information provided will be held in confidence.