



**Pathfinders High Altitude Parachute Training**

**Statement of Requirement**

**SKYDIVE PERRIS**

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## **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.

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 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.

### **Specific Requirements**

This contract requires the provision of services by a DZ Operator or Parachute Training Organisation (PTO).

The contract must provide the ability for regular access to aircraft and associated arrangements for conducting freefall parachuting. This should include, but is not limited to:

- Policy compliant Drop Zone.
- Manifesting system for jumpers.
- Area for flight-line checks.
- DZ operator.
- Pilot who is SQEP.
- Aircraft that are suitable for conducting freefall parachuting.
- Post jump check-in system to account for all jumpers.
- Packing area.
- Qualified packers for full range of parachutes (including Military Javelin).
- Provisions for parachute training using oxygen. Including filling, storage and pilots' O2.
- Briefing/Debriefing room.

This contract must use a company that will provide the arrangements listed above at a location approved by the canopy handling training provider.

### **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.

