

**RFI0039**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**Navy DEVELOP Request for Information for Industry White Papers on** **Modular/Containerised ASW Concepts**

**RFI Title:** RFI0039 Modular/Containerised ASW Concepts

**Issue Date:** 30 April 2024

**Reference:** RFI0039

**Version:** 1.0

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# Introduction

This RFI is not a bidding opportunity but a means by which industry can provide information. Any resulting procurement activity will be conducted competitively.

**Please note:**

**This RFI is an information gathering exercise, no further discussions with industry are planned at this stage however any future procurement activity will be advertised in line with public procurement regulations on the Defence Sourcing Portal and Contracts Finder.**

1. Background

**The Royal Navy is seeking to gain information from Industry as to Remote or Autonomous Anti-Submarine Warfare SENSING capabilities that could be hosted within a Modular/Containerised 20ft ISO (or series of ISO containers) for deployment from a Common Medium sized Uncrewed Surface Vessel (C-MUSV ~40M vessel). Note this is NOT an RFI for the vessel/platform itself.**

**Responses (White Papers) of no more than 5 pages are requested explaining the sensor or sensors and ancillary equipment which could be deployed (remotely or autonomously). Specifically, the RN is seeking to understand acoustic ASW solutions that are ‘Frigate-lite’ in capability parameters, it should be noted that unlike ASW Frigates, the host USV may not be acoustically quietened or clad. Alternative Non-Acoustic sensing options are also of interest but would need to represent a detection capability equal to current active/passive detection ranges or would need to be hosted complimentary to an acoustic solution.**

**Where possible an indication of Technology Readiness Level, Detection Ranges (against indicative SSK/SSN like threats), likely Integration requirements with the host platform, C2 requirements (ashore or afloat to conduct ‘Process Exploitation and Dissemination’ of the data) and very ROM costs would be useful as well as indicative timeline to deliver a potential demonstrator.**

1. RFI intended outcomes

This RFI aims to achieve 4 outcomes:

1. Align the MOD requirement with industry capability and processes for procurement of the required solution.
2. Develop a procurement strategy that will deliver best value for money for Defence.
3. Implement an enduring solution that allows the Authority to plan its activity against an assured continuity of service, whilst also supporting ad-hoc, unprogrammed surges in demand.
4. To inform a Procurement Strategy that enables the implementation of an enduring solution.
5. RFI Procedure

Responses to this RFI will be reviewed by subject matter experts from different functional areas within Navy Command Headquarters.

If upon review of your submission any clarifications or additional information is required, you will be contacted using the details provided in your RFI response.

Any details provided in response to this RFI will be used for information purposes only and will not be used to determine the potential Suppliers who will be invited to bid, should the Authority proceed to tender.

The results and analysis of this RFI shall not constitute any form of pre-qualification exercise.

Any formal procurement process will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Procurement Law.

Nothing in this RFI, or any other engagements with Industry prior to a formal procurement process, shall be construed as a representation as to the Authority’s ultimate decision in relation to the future requirement.

1. How to submit responses to this RFI

Respondents should provide responses in accordance with the format provided in **Annex A** quoting the RFI reference on all documentation and emails**.**

Please do not submit additional documents such as company overviews, the purpose of the RFI is to collect information related to the technical solution, any additional documents will not be included in the review process.

Any responses received after the deadline will be passed to the subject matter experts for information, however they may not be included in the RFI review meetings which are to be held immediately following the deadline.

Once completed, please return electronically to the e-mail address(es) shown below in **section 9,** no later than **12:00, Friday 14 June 2024.**

Responses will be acknowledged electronically by return e-mail.

1. Confidentiality & Proprietary Information

No information included in your response, or in discussions connected to it, will be disclosed to any other third party.

Proprietary information, where included, should be kept to minimum and must be clearly marked.

**For the purposes of this RFI, any documentation submitted should be classification OFFICIAL**.

1. Costs of preparing your RFI response

Any costs relating to the preparation and submission of a response to this RFI are the sole responsibility of the respondent.

## 8. Insurance

1. Contact

Quoting the RFI reference, please submit

1. any requests for clarification
2. all responses to this RFI and
3. any questions regarding Classification of document(s) intended for submission, to:

NAVYCOMRCL-RFI@mod.gov.uk

1. Annex A

**RFI0039 Navy DEVELOP Request for Information for Industry White Papers on Modular/Containerised ASW Concepts Dated 30 Apr 2024**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answer** |
| Company Name |   |
| Company Address |   |
| Is the company a Small - Medium Enterprise (less than 250 employees)? |  |
|    |
| Name of Company representative completing the RFI |   |
| Contact details (e-mail and telephone number) |   |
| Company web site address |   |
|    |
| Main products/services/line of business |   |
| Main market sector |   |
| Number of years in this market sector |   |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTIONS**  |
| 1. What solution do you proposed which is currently available? If currently available, where possible, could you detail your current customers and provide points of contact?
 |
|  |
| 1. What solution could be available in 12-18 months’ time with sufficient investment in RD&E? Where would further R&D need to be targeted?
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| --- |
| 1. What integration requirements would be required of the host platform (USV)?
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|  |
| 1. What PED requirements (storage and processing onboard and/or ashore) do you envision?
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| --- |
| 1. What VROM costs and timelines to a Technical Demonstrator do you anticipate?
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|  |
| **Innovative solutions are most welcome, even if they do not meet all of the requirements above, we would welcome the opportunity to consider the positives and negatives.** |