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TCA 3/7/1160 - CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL ADVICE TO THE MARITIME & COASTGUARD AGENCY – UK 2ND GENERATION SEARCH AND RESCUE AVIATION PROCUREMENT CONTRACT – Clarification Q & A

	<b>Clarification Question:</b>	<b>MCA Response:</b>
<b>01</b>	Is the tender open for EU bidders, or only for UK bidders?	The tender is open to all bidders
<b>02</b>	When I receive an E-mail with the notification that there is an update in the tender documents, I see no difference with the previous documents. Is there a 'track changes' possibility for the concerning updated documents?	A change note is issued and the title of any updated documents is amended to differentiate from the original document.
<b>03</b>	How is the procurement team composed from the MCA side during the whole project? This is important to know in relation to the resource plan, the cost breakdown and the effort	The Programme is split into Commercial, Financial, Project and Technical workstreams. The Technical Advisors will report into the Technical workstream in accordance with the work packages detailed in the ITT.
<b>04</b>	Chapter 3.1 Phases of activity: we note in the timetable that phase 0 and phase 1 have already been started and/or completed. Can you tell me the current status of these phases?	They are currently in progress.
<b>05</b>	Chapter 3.1 Phases of activity, phase 8: Is there already an introduction plan on the deployment readiness + operation of the new capacity? This is important to know in relation to the resource plan and the cost breakdown;	Transition and Acceptance plans will form part of the bidder responses to the ITT for SAR2G contract and how they will do this against the strategy and guidance on what these plans need to contain. This information will be provided by the MCA as part of the ITT document set. It is expected that the Supplier will inform the MCA when it is ready to have a site accepted and this will be measured against their plans and contractual compliance.
<b>06</b>	How many requests do you expect for Work package 1 per phase and how many requests and/ or meetings do you expect for Work package 8?	Work Package 1: The type of work associated to this work package are to support UKSAR2G ITT development but fall outside those detailed in Work Package (WP) 2 to 7. It is expected that this work could form up to 5 tasks consisting of 3-man days each in duration over the contract term.

		Work Package 8: The type of work associated to this work package are to support UKSAR2G but fall outside the activities detailed in WP 1 to 7. It is expected that this work could form up to 7 tasks consisting of 3-man days each in duration over the contract term
07	How many bidders (minimum and maximum) can proceed to each phase?	We have not set a limit on the number of compliant bids that will go through to the evaluation stage
08	Is there a down-selection phase?	All compliant bids will be evaluated, and it is our intention to award the contract to the highest scoring bid
09	Are we correct in understanding that you will select a single supplier for the contract?	That is correct
10	Can we claim for travel to London?	As per the tender documents, no travel or subsistence costs shall be met for meetings held at any locations within the Greater London area or for journeys within the M25. (The Greater London area is defined as the area covered by the Greater London Authority.)
11	Para 15.3 states that the agreement is for 84 months and will commence in Sept 2020, which indicates a finish date of Sep 2027, whereas para 3.1 indicates a completion date of Dec 2026. Please can you confirm which is correct?	The correct date is December 2026
12	The WP comments states that reports need to be returned within 10 days of task commencement, is this a strict deadline or to be agreed at task initiation as implied at para 5.3 of the requirements document?	10 days is the preferred completion time for the tasks, however, a pragmatic approach will be taken on a case by case basis and the completion date being agreed along with the scope of the task.
13	Could you confirm that you only require costing advice at Phases 3 to 6 as stated, and that you will not require / are not expect costing advice during the earlier phases.	WP5 will be required in the early stages and hence valid for "Time Period – from "Bid Development" to "Final Bid Evaluation" phase of the contract."
14	Could you confirm the expected availability of the Transition and Acceptance documents?	Draft transition and acceptance plans will be available upon commencement of the contract
15	Your documentation states that no T&S for meetings within the M25, is this also for the non-London based organisations?	It is unlikely that the supplier will be asked to attend meetings outside the M25 other than MCA's office in Southampton; however, reasonable travel and subsistence costs shall be considered or such meetings. Requests for Travel and Subsistence must be agreed in advance with an Area Lead before any expenditure is incurred.

16	How many documents you expect the contractor to review within the scope of WP4? Could you indicate rough order of magnitude estimates for number of pages of each document? This has implications on the cost of this WP.	We expect around 7 documents to be reviewed. The largest of these will be the single statement of user need annex to the contact for, currently 3 lots, at a ROM of 80 pages per lot. A ROM for the other documents is no more than 20 pages per document.
17	How many major service elements you expect the contractor to assess as part of WP5? This has implications on the cost of this WP.	This is difficult to quantify at present. A reasonable assumption would be 10 elements per lot
18	Scope of WP7 distinguishes between Acceptance Activity (duration 4 days) and Acceptance Event (duration 5 days)- could you please clarify differences between the two?	4 days for the visit and one day to produce the report back at normal working office.
19	Could you confirm there will be only one Site for the contractor to perform the acceptance activity/event at?	The acceptance will, potentially, be at each base proposed by the bidders. Should the acceptance activity go well at the first base visited for each lot (currently 3), the other bases will have a light touch acceptance activity which will be performed over 1 day with half a day activity to produce the report. The winners of this contract will perform acceptance jointly with the MCA Aviation technical team. As an assumption, currently the MCA have 10 SAR bases and 1 aerial surveillance base, but delivery locations for the SAR2G contract will be proposed by the bidder.
20	Given the uncertainty about the overall scope of most of the work packages, the likely number of ITT responses received, number of documents to be reviewed (and their length) and a statement from clause 5.3 ("The timescale, cost and outputs ... will be agreed before they commence") it is difficult to provide a cost estimate that would fully reflect all these uncertainties and yet be competitive. Could you please clarify how will MCA factor into its financial evaluation of offers the fact that some bidders may have priced greater number of documents/longer documents/more meetings/events?	The MCA believe that there is sufficient detail contained in the answers given against questions 1 – 6, together with the assumptions given in the clarification document (serial 06) that all costs can be captured in a consistent manner.
21	Can you confirm the tender return date and time?	Your tender must be submitted no later than 11:00 on 06 August 2020.