



Mini Competition

Mini Competition against an existing Framework Agreement (MC)
on behalf of **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)**

Subject: R121 National Quantum Computing Centre (NQCC) – Main Contractor

Sourcing Reference Number: CON20006

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Section 1 – About UK Shared Business Services

Putting the business into shared services

UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS) brings a commercial attitude to the public sector; helping Contracting Authorities improve efficiency, generate savings and modernise.

It is our vision to become the leading service provider for Contracting Authorities for in the UK public sector, continuously reducing cost and improving quality of business services for Government and the public sector.

Our broad range of expert services is shared by our Contracting Authorities. This allows Contracting Authorities the freedom to focus resources on core activities; innovating and transforming their own organisations.

Core services include Procurement, Finance, Grants Admissions, Human Resources, Payroll, ISS, and Property Asset Management all underpinned by our Service Delivery and Contact Centre teams.

UK SBS is a people rather than task focused business. It's what makes us different to the traditional transactional shared services centre. What is more, being a not-for-profit organisation owned by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), UK SBS' goals are aligned with the public sector and delivering best value for the UK taxpayer.

Growing from a foundation of supporting the Research Councils, 2012/13 saw Business Innovation and Skills (BEIS) transition their procurement to UK SBS and Crown Commercial Service (CCS) agree a Memorandum of Understanding with UK SBS to deliver two major procurement categories (construction and research) across Government.

UK SBS currently manages £700m expenditure for its Contracting Authorities.

Contracting Authorities who have access to our services and Contracts are detailed [here](#).

Privacy Statement

At UK Shared Business Services (UK SBS) we recognise and understand that your privacy is extremely important, and we want you to know exactly what kind of information we collect about you and how we use it.

This privacy notice link below details what you can expect from UK SBS when we collect your personal information.

- We will keep your data safe and private.
- We will not sell your data to anyone.
- We will only share your data with those you give us permission to share with and only for legitimate service delivery reasons.

<https://www.uksbs.co.uk/use/pages/privacy.aspx>

For details on how the Contracting Authority protect and process your personal data please follow the link below:

<https://www.ukri.org/privacy-notice/>

Section 2 – About the Contracting Authority

UK Research and Innovation

Operating across the whole of the UK and with a combined budget of more than £6 billion, UK Research and Innovation represents the largest reform of the research and innovation funding landscape in the last 50 years.

As an independent non-departmental public body UK Research and Innovation brings together the seven Research Councils (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC) plus Innovate UK and a new organisation, Research England.

UK Research and Innovation ensures the UK maintains its world-leading position in research and innovation. This is done by creating the best environment for research and innovation to flourish.

For more information, please visit: www.ukri.org

Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)

STFC is a world-leading multi-disciplinary science organisation. Their research seeks to understand the Universe from the largest astronomical scales to the tiniest constituents of matter, yet creates impact on a very tangible, human scale.

<https://stfc.ukri.org/>

Section 3 - Working with the Contracting Authority.

In this section you will find details of your Procurement contact point and the timescales relating to this opportunity.

Section 3 – Contact details		
3.1	Contracting Authority (CA) Name and address	UK Research and Innovation Polaris House Swindon SN2 1ET
3.2	Buyer name	Rebecca Fish
3.3	Buyer contact details	fmprocurement@uksbs.co.uk
3.4	Estimated value of the Opportunity	<p>Estimated value of PCSA: £500,000.00 ex VAT</p> <p>PCSA period Commencement: 4th January 2021 until 15th August 2021</p> <p>Estimated value of Construction £22,000,000.00 ex VAT</p> <p>Main Contract Programme: 16th August 2021 until 31st December 2022</p> <p>The award of this opportunity will be for only the initial PCSA with the option to proceed to the main works subject of satisfactory delivery of the PCSA Stage.</p>
3.5	Process for the submission of clarifications and Bids	<p>All correspondence shall be submitted within the Messaging Centre of the Delta e-sourcing tool. Guidance Notes to support the use of Delta eSourcing is available here.</p> <p>Please note submission of a Bid to any email address including the Buyer <u>will</u> result in the Bid <u>not</u> being considered.</p>

Section 3 - Timescales		
3.6	Date of Issue of Mini Competition to all Bidders	Tuesday 6 th October 2020
3.7	<p>Site Tour</p> <p>We strongly recommend that you attend a Site Tour in order to gain further clarity of our requirements and the site environment that you will be working in.</p>	<p>Week Commencing Monday 19th October 2020</p> <p>To book onto this site tour please submitted the names of those that wish to attend through the message function on the Delta eSourcing Portal.</p> <p><i>Please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions, Bidders will be limited to 3 people per company. A reply will be sent via the Delta eSourcing Portal in confirmation</i></p>

		<i>where we will also request vehicle registration.</i>
3.8	Latest date/time Mini Competition clarification questions shall be received through Delta eSourcing messaging system	Monday 2 nd November 2020 11:00
3.9	Latest date/time Mini Competition clarification answers should be sent to all Bidders by the Buyer through Delta eSourcing Portal	Monday 9 th November 2020
3.10	Latest date/time Mini Competition Bid shall be submitted through Delta eSourcing	Tuesday 17 th November 2020 11.00
3.11	Date/time Bidders should be available if face to face clarifications are required	W/C Monday 30 th November 2020 (Dates and times TBC if required)
3.12	Anticipated selection and de selection of Bids notification date	Friday 11 th December 2020
3.13	Anticipated Award Date	Monday 14 th December 2020
3.14	Anticipated Contract Start Date	Friday 18 th December 2020
3.15	Anticipated Contract End Date	PSCA End Date – 15 th August 2021 Main Construction End Date – 31 st December 2022
3.16	Bid Validity Period	60 Working Days
3.17	Framework and or Lot the Mini competition will be based on	CCS RM6088 Construction Works and Associated Services – Lot 3.2

Section 4 – Specification

Introduction

UK SBS wishes to establish a contract for the appointment of a Main Contractor who will work collaboratively with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI, Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC). The first stage will comprise a collaborative Pre-Construction Services Agreement, (PCSA), the second stage will be the award of the main construction contract. At this stage only the PCSA will be guaranteed with the Main Construction being subject to satisfactory delivery of the PCSA.

UK SBS is managing this procurement process in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as may be amended from time to time), (the “Regulations”).

This is a Services and Works Contract being procured via the CCS RM6088 Construction Services and Associated Works Framework (Lot 3.2)

It is intended to procure the R121 National Quantum Computing Centre on a two-stage design and build basis. The main construction contract will be an amended NEC Engineering and Construction Contract (NEC4) Option A – Fixed Price with Activity Schedule, which will be the head contract between UKRI STFC and the preferred provider. Bidders are to note that the NEC4 ECC Main Contract Terms provided is not the final version of the Contract. It is the intention to finalise the NEC4 ECC between the Client and the Contractor during the PCSA Stage.

Under Stage 1 of the two-stage design and build basis, the intention will be for the Contractor to work with UKRI and project stakeholders to complete the PCSA stage, this will be executed against the NEC4 – PSC Professional Services Contract. Under Stage 2, this will focus on the execution of the main works.

If the Contractor is not adhering to the terms of the PCSA, not working collaboratively, or provides an unacceptable price at the end of Stage 1, UKRI STFC will be under no obligation to proceed with the Contractor. As such PCSA award should not be considered as a guarantee of the main contract also being awarded.

About NQCC

UK Research and Innovation, through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Science and Technologies Facilities Council (STFC), is leading a programme to establish the National Quantum Computing Centre (NQCC) as part of phase 2 of the National Quantum Technologies Programme (NQTP). The NQCC represents a £93m investment over 5 years and will establish 4 key technology work streams.

- 100+ qubit NISQ demonstrator hardware platform(s)
- Quantum software, algorithm & applications development
- High performance, scalable qubit technology development

- Roadmap and architecture towards fault-tolerant general-purpose quantum computing

Purpose

The primary purpose of the NQCC is to fill a key gap in the research and innovation landscape by providing a capability to address the challenge of scaling quantum computing. It will convene all necessary stakeholders across academia, business and government to achieve this.

The NQCC's initial five years will focus on developing a Noisy Intermediate Scale Quantum (NISQ) machine to demonstrate the technology, give assured and direct access to developers and promote the formation of a strong UK-based quantum computing supply chain, whilst driving efforts towards a fully scalable, fault tolerant, general purpose quantum computer over the longer term, enabling the creation of increasingly powerful quantum computers.

The NQCC will build on the strength in quantum computing that the UK has established through the first phase of its National Quantum Technologies Programme (NQTP) and will be a key part of the wider UK quantum computing landscape, including the Quantum Technologies Research Hubs; quantum challenges and programmes within the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund; doctoral training; and the activities of industry in this area.

Strategic Intent

- To establish a UK trusted authority on quantum computing
- To create sovereign capability in quantum computing for the UK
- To promote and drive quantum computing within the UK economy
- To catalyse UK supply chain delivery into the emerging quantum computing sector
- To establish a focus for the rapid development of quantum computing in the UK
- To create a facility on the Harwell campus

Objectives

The overall aim of the programme is to place the UK at the forefront of quantum computing and secure this strategically important technology for the UK. There are a number of strategic objectives involved in achieving this aim.

- By 2025, a strategy for partnership and engagement with academia, industry, government and users, will have been established and delivered, which leverages the strengths developed during the first phase of the National Quantum Technologies Programme; and a UK-based supplier and user community will have been fostered, so that developments of this technology are shaped by users' needs and can be exploited to the benefit of the UK
- By 2025, solve key challenges in scaling Quantum Computing systems, through developing demonstrators and prototypes at scale; demonstrated by the production of a Noisy Intermediate Scale Quantum (NISQ) machine that for a range of tasks outperforms state of the art conventional computing. Moving forward through 2025, the NQCC will enable diverse users to benefit from quantum advantage, while driving the transition toward fault tolerant, freely scalable systems.
- Develop software and algorithms for real QC systems that will exploit the potential of this technology for academic, industrial and entrepreneurial users. A portfolio of

credible software and algorithms is produced and applied to real world challenges (e.g. logistics, drug discovery) with first demonstration in 2022 and further solutions built in 2023/24/25.

- Identify the best options to pursue beyond 2025 that takes quantum computing technology past the NISQ computing system towards the realization of both intermediate and fully scalable general-purpose quantum computers, such that by 2025 a credible roadmap towards the latter has been developed.

Appendices

A brief summary of the requirements has been provided above, please ensure you review all additional appendices for full details of this requirement.

All additional appendices can be found within the Stage One: Overview Section on the Delta eSourcing Portal with a supporting Appendix register.

Site Tours

Given the nature of this requirement and the site upon which any successful Contractor would be working, we are highly recommending that any interest supplier takes up the opportunity to join the Virtual Site Tour during the tender timescales.

The date the Virtual Site Tour will be held can be found within Section 3 – Timescales.

If you wish to request a site tour, please ensure that this is done via the messaging function in the eSourcing Portal. Once the proposed date and time has been confirmed with the Client, we will confirm this back to you. Please note bidders will be limited to 2 people (maximum).

During the site tour the host will be unable to answer ANY questions. Should you have further clarification questions from the tour these will need to be taken away and then formally submitted through the Delta eSourcing portal.

Given the current COVID19 pandemic social distancing restrictions will be in place and further guidance on this will be provided on request to attend. In the event of changes to current Government restrictions it may be necessary to cancel this tour if it is felt that there will be a safety risk to individuals.

Contract Duration

The expected contract duration shall be as follows:

Stage 1 - PCSA Period: 4th January 2021 until 15th August 2021

Stage 2 - Main Construction Programme: 16th August 2021 until 31st December 2022

The NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract Option A – Fixed Price with Activity Schedule, will be head contract between UKRI and the preferred provider.

Terms and Conditions

Bidders are to note that any requested modifications to the Contracting Authority Terms and Conditions on the grounds of statutory and legal matters only, shall be raised as a formal clarification during the permitted clarification period.

Section 5 – Evaluation of Bids

The evaluation model below shall be used for this Mini Competition, which will be determined to two decimal places.

Where a question is 'for information only' it will not be scored.

To maintain a high degree of rigour in the evaluation of your bid, a process of moderation will be undertaken to ensure consistency by all evaluators.

After evaluation and if required moderation the scores will be finalised by performing a calculation to identify (at question level) the mean average of all evaluators (Example – a question is scored by three evaluators and judged as scoring 5, 5 and 6. These scores will be added together and divided by the number of evaluators to produce the final score of 5.33 ($5+5+6=16 \div 3 = 5.33$))

Pass / Fail Criteria		
Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject
Commercial	SEL2.10	Cyber Essentials
Commercial	SEL2.12	General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Act and Data Protection Act 2018
Commercial	FOI1.1	Freedom of Information Exemptions
Commercial	AW1.1	Form of Bid
Commercial	AW1.3	Certificate of Bona Fide Bid
Commercial	AW4.1	Compliance to the PCSA Contract
Commercial	AW4.2	Statutory and Legal amendments to Terms
Commercial	PROJ1.1	Compliance to the Main ECC Terms

Commercial	PROJ1.1.2	Statutory and Legal amendments to Terms
Commercial	SEL5.2.2	Supply chain payment
Commercial	SEL5.2.3	Procedures for resolving disputed invoices
Commercial	SEL5.2.5	Requirements of the code or standards
Commercial	SEL5.2.6	Requirements under PCR 2015 (as amended)
Commercial	SEL5.2.7	Percentages of invoices paid
Price	AW5.4	E Invoicing
Quality	AW6.1	Compliance to the Specification
Quality	AW6.2	Variable bids
-	-	Invitation to Quote – received on time within e-sourcing tool
In the event of a Bidder failing to meet the requirements of a Mandatory pass / fail criteria, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to disqualify the Bidder and not consider evaluation of any of the Award stage scoring methodology or Mandatory pass / fail criteria.		

Scoring Criteria

Evaluation Justification Statement

In consideration of this particular requirement the Contracting Authority has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this Mini Competition. The Contracting Authority considers these weightings to be in line with the framework.

Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject	Maximum Marks
Price	AW5.2	Price	25.00%
Quality	AW6.3	Design Management	15.00%
Quality	AW6.4	Continuity of Staff and Team Structure	15.00%
Quality	AW6.5	Programme Management	10.00%
Quality	AW6.6	Social Value	10.00%
Quality	AW6.7	Whole Life Costing	10.00%
Quality	AW6.8	Procurement Strategy	15.00%

Evaluation of Criteria

Non-Price (Quality) elements

Each question will be judged on a score from 0 to 100, which shall be subjected to a multiplier to reflect the percentage of the evaluation criteria allocated to that question.

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 20% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 20%.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 12% by using the following calculation:

Score = {weighting percentage} x {bidder's score} = 20% x 60 = 12

The same logic will be applied to groups of questions which equate to a single evaluation criterion.

The 0-100 score shall be based on (unless otherwise stated within the question):

0	The Question is not answered, or the response is completely unacceptable.
10	Extremely poor response – they have completely missed the point of the question.
20	Very poor response and not wholly acceptable. Requires major revision to the response to make it acceptable. Only partially answers the requirement, with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed.
40	Poor response only partially satisfying the selection question requirements with deficiencies apparent. Some useful evidence provided but response falls well short of expectations. Low probability of being a capable supplier.
60	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire.
80	Good response which describes their capabilities in detail which provides high levels of assurance consistent with a quality provider. The response includes a full description of techniques and measurements currently employed.
100	Response is exceptional and clearly demonstrates they are capable of meeting the requirement. No significant weaknesses noted. The response is compelling in its description of techniques and measurements currently employed, providing full assurance consistent with a quality provider.

All specific questions will be marked based on the above mechanism. Please be aware that there may be multiple evaluators. If so, their individual scores will be averaged to determine your final score as follows:

Example

Evaluator 1 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 2 scored your bid as 40

Evaluator 3 scored your bid as 80

Evaluator 4 scored your bid as 60

Your final score will be calculated as follows $(60+40+80+60) \div 4 = 60$

Price elements will be judged on the following criteria.

The lowest price for a response which meets the pass criteria shall score 100. All other bids shall be scored on a pro rata basis in relation to the lowest price. The score is then subject to a multiplier to reflect the percentage value of the price criterion.

For example - Bid 1 £100,000 scores 100,

Bid 2 £120,000 differential of £20,000 remove 20% from price scores 80

Bid 3 £150,000 differential £50,000 remove 50% from price scores 50.

Bid 4 £175,000 differential £75,000 remove 75% from price scores 25.

Bid 5 £200,000 differential £100,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.

Bid 6 £300,000 differential £200,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.

Where the scoring criterion is worth 50% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 50

In the example if a supplier scores 80 from the available 100 points this will equate to 40% by using the following calculation: $\text{Score/Total Points multiplied by 50}$ $(80/100 \times 50 = 40)$

The lowest score possible is 0 even if the price submitted is more than 100% greater than the lowest price.

Section 6 – Evaluation questionnaire

Bidders should note that the evaluation questionnaire is located within the **e-sourcing questionnaire**.

Guidance on completion of the questionnaire is available at
<http://www.uksbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/supplier.aspx>

PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY

Section 7 – General Information

What makes a good bid – some simple do's 😊

DO:

- 7.1 Do comply with Procurement document instructions. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification.
- 7.2 Do provide the Bid on time, and in the required format. Remember that the date/time given for a response is the last date that it can be accepted; we are legally bound to disqualify late submissions. Responses received after the date indicated in the Section 3 of the Mini Competition shall not be considered by the Contracting Authority, unless the Bidder can justify that the reason for the delay, is solely attributable to the Contracting Authority
- 7.3 Do ensure you have read all the training materials to utilise e-sourcing tool prior to responding to this Bid. If you send your Bid by email or post it will be rejected. Unless formally requested to do so by UK SBS e.g. Delta eSourcing system failure
- 7.4 Do use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint Excel 97-03 or compatible formats, or PDF unless agreed in writing by the Buyer. If you use another file format without our written permission, we may reject your Bid.
- 7.5 Do ensure you utilise the Delta eSourcing messaging system to raise any clarifications to our Mini Competition. You should note that we will release the answer to the question to all Bidders and where we suspect the question contains confidential information, we may modify the content of the question to protect the anonymity of the Bidder or their proposed solution
- 7.6 Do answer the question, it is not enough simply to cross-reference to a 'policy', web page or another part of your Bid, the evaluation team have limited time to assess bids and if they can't find the answer, they can't score it.
- 7.7 Do consider who the Contracting Authority is and what they want
A generic answer does not necessarily meet every Contracting Authority's needs.
- 7.8 Do reference your documents correctly, specifically where supporting documentation is requested e.g. referencing the question/s they apply to.
- 7.9 Do provide clear and concise and ideally generic contact details; telephone numbers, e-mail details.
- 7.10 Do complete all questions in the questionnaire or we may reject your Bid.
- 7.11 Do ensure that the Response and any documents accompanying it are in the English Language, the Contracting Authority reserve the right to disqualify any full or part responses that are not in English
- 7.12 Do check and recheck your Bid before dispatch.

What makes a good bid – some simple do not's Ⓜ

DO NOT

- 7.12 Do not cut and paste from a previous document and forget to change the previous details such as the previous buyer's name.
- 7.13 Do not attach 'glossy' brochures that have not been requested, they will not be read unless we have asked for them. Only send what has been requested and only send supplementary information if we have offered the opportunity so to do.
- 7.14 Do not share the Procurement documents, they are confidential and should not be shared with anyone without the Buyers written permission.
- 7.15 Do not seek to influence the procurement process by requesting meetings or contacting UK SBS or the Contracting Authority to discuss your Bid. If your Bid requires clarification the Buyer will contact you. All information secured outside of formal Buyer communications shall have no Legal standing or worth and should not be relied upon.
- 7.16 Do not contact any UK SBS staff or the Contracting Authority without the Buyers written permission, or we may reject your Bid.
- 7.17 Do not collude to fix or adjust the price or withdraw your Bid with another Party as we will reject your Bid.
- 7.18 Do not offer UK SBS or the Contracting Authority staff any inducement or we will reject your Bid.
- 7.19 Do not seek changes to the Bid after responses have been submitted and the deadline for Bids to be submitted has passed.
- 7.20 Do not cross reference answers to external websites or other parts of your Bid, the cross references and website links will not be considered.
- 7.21 Do not exceed word counts, the additional words will not be considered.
- 7.22 Do not make your Bid conditional on acceptance of your own Terms of Contract, as your Bid will be rejected, unless the Framework explicitly permits this.
- 7.23 Do not unless explicitly requested by the Contracting Authority either in the procurement documents or via a formal clarification from the Contracting Authority send your response by any way other than via e-sourcing tool. Responses received by any other method than requested will not be considered for the opportunity

Some additional guidance notes

- 7.23 All enquiries with respect to access to the e-sourcing tool and problems with functionality within the tool must be submitted to Delta esourcing, Telephone 0845 270 7050
- 7.24 Bidders will be specifically advised where attachments are permissible to support a question response within the e-sourcing tool. Where they are not permissible any attachments submitted will not be considered as part of the evaluation process.
- 7.25 Question numbering is not sequential and all questions which require submission are included in the Section 6 Evaluation Questionnaire.
- 7.26 Any Contract offered may not guarantee any volume of work or any exclusivity of supply.
- 7.27 We do not guarantee to award any Contract as a result of this procurement
- 7.28 All documents issued or received in relation to this procurement shall be the property of the Contracting Authority / UKSBS.
- 7.29 We can amend any part of the procurement documents at any time prior to the latest date / time Bids shall be submitted through Delta eSourcing
- 7.30 If you are a Consortium you must provide details of the Consortiums structure.
- 7.31 Bidders will be expected to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, or your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.32 Bidders should note the Government's transparency agenda requires your Bid and any Contract entered into to be published on a designated, publicly searchable web site. By submitting a response to this Mini Competition Bidders are agreeing that their Bid and Contract may be made public
- 7.33 Your bid will be valid for 60 days or your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.34 Bidders may only amend the contract terms during the clarification period only, if you can demonstrate there is a legal or statutory reason why you cannot accept them. If you request changes to the contract terms without such grounds and the Contracting Authority fail to accept your legal or statutory reason is reasonably justified, we may reject your Bid.
- 7.35 We will let you know the outcome of your Bid evaluation and where requested will provide a written debrief of the relative strengths and weaknesses of your Bid.
- 7.36 If you fail mandatory pass / fail criteria we will reject your Bid.
- 7.37 Bidders are required to use IE8, IE9, Chrome or Firefox in order to access the functionality of the Delta e-sourcing tool.
- 7.38 Bidders should note that if they are successful with their proposal the Contracting Authority reserves the right to ask additional compliancy checks prior to the award of

any Contract. In the event of a Bidder failing to meet one of the compliancy checks the Contracting Authority may decline to proceed with the award of the Call Off Contract to the successful Bidder.

- 7.39 All timescales are set using a 24-hour clock and are based on British Summer Time or Greenwich Mean Time, depending on which applies at the point when Date and Time Bids shall be submitted through Delta eSourcing Portal
- 7.40 All Central Government Departments and their Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies are subject to control and reporting within Government. In particular, they report to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury for all expenditure. Further, the Cabinet Office has a cross-Government role delivering overall Government policy on public procurement - including ensuring value for money and related aspects of good procurement practice.

For these purposes, the Contracting Authority may disclose within Government any of the Bidders documentation/information (including any that the Bidder considers to be confidential and/or commercially sensitive such as specific bid information) submitted by the Bidder to the Contracting Authority during this Procurement. The information will not be disclosed outside Government. Bidders taking part in this Mini Competition consent to these terms as part of the competition process.

- 7.41 The Government is introducing its new Government Security Classifications (GSC) classification scheme on the 2nd April 2014 to replace the current Government Protective Marking System (GPMS). A key aspect of this is the reduction in the number of security classifications used. All Bidders are encouraged to make themselves aware of the changes and identify any potential impacts in their Bid, as the protective marking and applicable protection of any material passed to, or generated by, you during the procurement process or pursuant to any Contract awarded to you as a result of this tender process will be subject to the new GSC. The link below to the Gov.uk website provides information on the new GSC:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to amend any security related term or condition of the draft contract accompanying this Mini Competition to reflect any changes introduced by the GSC. In particular where this Mini Competition is accompanied by any instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as a result of any changes stemming from the new GSC, whether in respect of the applicable protective marking scheme, specific protective markings given, the aspects to which any protective marking applies or otherwise. This may relate to the instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as they apply to the procurement as they apply to the procurement process and/or any contracts awarded to you as a result of the procurement process.