# Request for Information

# Provision and Support of Self-Contained Air Diving Equipment (SCADE)

## Potential Opportunity

1. The Salvage and Marine Operations (SALMO) Team, part of Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) within the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), wish to inform potential suppliers of an intended procurement for the provision and support of Self-Contained Air Diving Equipment (SCADE)
2. This RFI has been published as a follow on from Initial RFI 710289451 which was published on 10th Jan 2023, and closed on 29th Feb 2023. This RFI has been published in order to expand on the original high-level statement on need, and to provide more detail/content on the potential requirement.
3. The RFI has also be expanded to extend the area of questions in which the Authority wishes to learn about market. The original question set published under RFI 710289451 now includes additional questions, regarding what the market may be able to offer in terms of training for SCADE equipment.
4. This RFI Notice has been published, as an initial enquiry only, to obtain information from potential suppliers and/ or independent experts to develop a robust requirement and procurement/ commercial strategy.
5. This RFI is not a commitment to launch a formal procurement procedure or to ask potential suppliers to express an interest in the requirement.

## High Level Statement of need

1. A replacement capability is required by Naval Military Diving (NMD), Army Military Diving (AMD), MAB Military Diving (MABMD) and the Defence Diving School (DDS) to deliver Defence diving outputs post the OSD of the existing capability in 2024.
2. This requirement is for use in the World’s oceans, harbours and inland waterways in all climatic conditions. This project will deliver circa six hundred modular self-contained Compressed Natural Breathing Air diving systems to service Defence’s military diving demands, including training.
3. The ruggedized systems will be lightweight, compliant to UK safety standards, rapidly configurable and be minimal in form and function. They will accommodate the characteristics of human capabilities and when operated underwater the diver’s fluid dynamic profile will be as low as practicably possible. Allowing the diver, the ability to loiter on task, the system design will also offer both a permanent and contingent surface supply capability, as well as interoperability with in-water alternate air supply connections and charging.
4. The capability will include a support package,
5. To ensure relevance across their in-service lifespan, the systems will allow for coherent through-life upgrades, and they will be compatible with current diver through water communication systems (OTS MilCom 6000D) and the future procurement of commercially available telemetry monitoring and tracking systems and human interfaces. User maintenance equipment is required, as well as the means to protect each system or sub-system in transit.
* Buoyancy controlled jacket, (BCJ)
* Regulator Assembly,
* FF mask and HF mask variants,
* Air Cylinders
* Gauge Assemblies,
* Tool and Test kits
* Transportation cases

## RFI Notices and Key Dates

1. The Authority wish to conduct additional early with the market with the objective of gathering knowledge in these key areas:
	* To further engage and gain potential suppliers’ opinion on Market prices, and lead times.
	* to gain insight to the existing support arrangement and supply chain issues
	* Understand existing Servicing requirements.
	* Understand Human factor issues, include mask sizes, and their limitations.
	* Understand existing training packages and potential options for training courses.
2. All RFI responses must be submitted electronically via to desshipscomrcl-salmo-multiuser@mod.gov.uk. The Closing date is  Friday 17th May 2024

## Additional Information

1. This RFI will give potential suppliers the opportunity to comment on the proposed requirement and perhaps offer alternative solutions which might produce better value for money. Suppliers not providing a response, will not prevent their participation from any subsequent formal procurement activity.
2. The original questions published in RFI 710289451 along with the additional new questions have been provided at Attachment A. Potential suppliers may respond in part or full to the question set.
3. Any supplier previously responding to RFA RFI 710289451 may wish to response to the new question set only but is under no obligation to do so.
4. Any resulting formal procurement procedure will be conducted competitively.
5. Potential suppliers will bear all costs associated with preparing and submitting the RFI responses. The Authority will not be liable for the costs of any work or effort incurred by potential suppliers participating in this RFI, including where the Authority decides not to launch a formal procurement procedure.
6. The Authority reserves the right to seek clarification or additional documents in respect of potential suppliers’ responses where necessary.
7. Potential suppliers’ responses to an RFI may be marked as commercially sensitive if they include technical, financial or other commercially sensitive information.
8. No RFI responses provided by potential suppliers will be carried forward, used or acknowledged for the purpose of evaluating the potential supplier in any subsequent formal procurement procedure.