



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Geospatial (Land) Enabling Programme Procurement Q&A

Following Market Engagement Session
9-10am May 22nd 2025



Forestry Commission
England



Environment
Agency

	Date	Question	Response
Q001	22/May/25	Which external organisations have supported the Discovery phases and will they be invited to bid for this work?	External support was provided during Discovery. We will confirm whether those organisations will be bidding, subject to commercial sensitivities
Q002	22/May/25	To what extent is the Government Digital Service (previously Geospatial Commission) involved?	The programme is aligned with the Geospatial Commission. We've had prior engagement and aim to strengthen that alignment going forward, particularly around standards and broader strategy
Q003	22/May/25	Could you provide more details about the common spatial framework and its current remit?	The common spatial framework is a conceptual base map of England to support operational, policy, regulation, environmental tracking. It is intended to provide a single authoritative view of land, reducing duplication, inaccuracies and supporting interoperability. It must be able to have regular refresh functionality for whole map and individual updates.
Q004	22/May/25	How far into establishing the Data Standards are you? is there a proposed data schema?	Work is at an early stage. Inspire standards are currently used across Defra, We are engaging with the Chief Data Office and the Geospatial Commission to ensure consistency, but a formal schema is not yet established.
Q005	22/May/25	If you have an input aerial photo, can you confirm the integration of EO data?	EO and aerial imagery may be integrated depending on user needs identified during Alpha. We are open to assessing existing tools or sourcing new data based on user requirements.
Q006	22/May/25	Have you undertaken a data maturity assessment ?	Not directly through this programme. However Defra Chief Data Office has undertaken data maturity assessments across the group, and we are aligned with that work

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Q007	22/May/25	Beyond the current partners, are there other partners that could benefit from this in the longer term? E.g. other gov dept; public open data?	yes, there is potential for wider use across Government and by the public, but this will be determined based on ongoing user needs and engagement with groups like Geospatial Commission.
Q008	22/May/25	In terms of the operational model for this program, where would DEFRA want this work to be executed- onsite, onshore, offshore or in a hybrid mode?	Onshore delivery is expected. Suppliers need not be based on Defra premises, but will be expected to attend monthly meetings, potentially at a central location such as Crewe.
Q009	22/May/25	We're working on DBT's National Digital Twin Programme and can see benefits in collaboration and data sharing when the time's right. Have you explored to date?	The potential has been noted. Whilst not actively linked with DBT's programme currently, alignment and collaboration opportunities may be explored as the programme evolves.
Q010	22/May/25	Is there a need for commercial satellite data for the basemap not just aerial imagery?	this depends on user requirements. The Alpha phase will determine if existing data is sufficient or if new sources, including commercial satellite data are needed
Q011	22/May/25	Can you share any thoughts on what your ideal partner would be like (capabilities, culture, ways of working etc.)	The ideal partner will demonstrate geospatial expertise in a regulated/government context, experience of government agile delivery, collaborative ways of working and ability to work with SMEs and across complex stakeholder groups
Q012	22/May/25	There are a range of digital programmes such as RPA's analytics platform. Does the land model need to be integrated with tech like this as part of the scope?	This will be the basis of a design decision that will be required during alpha/design stage. Based on user and business requirement, the options of a) current infrastructure can support b) current infrastructure with expansion and changes can support c) current infrastructure cannot support will be explored and decided.
Q013	22/May/25	Are you willing to accept larger organisations paired with SME's?	Yes. Collaboration with SMEs is encouraged. This could be via consortia or subcontracting to ensure required specialist capability is delivered
Q014	22/May/25	What is the budget for this procurement?	Budget cannot be confirmed at this stage, more detail may be provided in due course
Q015	22/May/25	Given the tender is likely to be awarded to a larger organisation, how should SMEs find out which larger organisations are bidding to form partnerships?	SMEs are encouraged to network with larger suppliers via the DPS and early engagement events. We support visibility and will consider what we can do to facilitate this further

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Q016	22/May/25	Hello, are you looking for any project/ programme management support from your delivery partner(s)?	Not at present. Project and programme management is being resourced separately
Q017	22/May/25	Is there any leeway on the response time as it falls over the summer school holidays period?	The ITT is scheduled for release on 30th June to avoid peak holidays. Timeline will be kept under review, but early mobilisation is essential to meet delivery targets
Q018	22/May/25	What questions are expected to be in by the 28 May period? instead of the 2 June?	28th May is the deadline for clarification questions, Full RFI responses are due by 2nd June
Q019	22/May/25	Are you expecting the partner to build a front-end application, or focus purely on backend data modelling and standards?	Both. The solution must support data interoperability and user accessibility. This includes frontend and backend functionality as part of the data product
Q020	22/May/25	Does this system replace the existing MAGIC system?	Not necessarily. Existing tools like MAGIC will be assessed during Alpha. If they meet the requirements, they may be used or enhanced
Q021	22/May/25	Will the product be open source? Or will this be internal to government bodies only?	This will depend on findings from Alpha and discussions with Chief Data Office and Geospatial Commission. Broader government and public access is being considered
Q022	22/May/25	Given the tender is likely to be awarded to a larger organisation, how should SMEs find out which larger organisations are bidding to form partnerships?	See Q15-SMEs are encouraged to engage via the DPS and through networking around early market engagement events
Q023	22/May/25	were there any external in discovery phase and will they be bidding on this?	External organisations were involved. Whether they will bid is subject to commercial confidentiality and will be clarified where possible

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Q024	22/May/25	how do you see the extensions working, initial support 7 months, how roll into ..	The initial contract will cover 7 months.Up to four 1-year extensions are planned via optional Statement of work,based on the delivery of outcome and needs
Q025	22/May/25	Would DEFRA we open to a secondment to the land base area team as part of the tender so enable close working collaboration?	Collaboration will be key between supplier, programme team and defra teams. This will not be in the form of formal secondment to Defra.
Q026	22/May/25	Will todays slide deck and meeting recording be shared and if so, when?	yes, these slides and a summary of the session (including Q&A) will be shared with you shortly after the event. Due to sensitivity around elements of the subject matter, a meeting recording cannot be shared.
Q027	22/May/25	Will the RFI responses inform the criteria you will apply to downselect suppliers for the mini competition on the CCS framework?	RFI responses will be used to inform and refine our approach,but at this moment are not being considered as formal selection criteria
Q028	22/May/25	Can you confirm that a non-UK registered SME will be able to bid?	we shall investigate this with Crown Commercial Services and confirm the position
Q029	22/May/25	Is commercial earth observation data a part of this requirement in some way?	To date this has not been identified as a user requirement. But the alpha phase will determine if existing data is sufficient or if new sources are needed.