

SSRO-C-149 New SSRO Website re-design, development and maintenance Clarification Questions and Answers

Ref.	Question Detail	Answer
Q1	Regarding the holding of ISO27001 and Cyber Essentials Plus, would you reconsider the requirement for both these certifications to be held. We hold ISO27001 certification and Cyber Essentials, not CE+. Given the requirements of the ISO27001 standard, this is generally considered adequate assurance for government agencies.	Due to the nature of the services being commissioned and the SSRO's work, both accreditations are required. The SSRO will consider equivalent accreditations but does not consider ISO27001 to be equivalent to Cyber Essentials Plus.
Q2	<p>We have a query in relation to Cyber Essentials Plus certification please.</p> <p>We understand the chosen supplier will need to hold a valid Cyber Essentials Plus certificate at the point of contract award, as well as for the duration of the contract.</p> <p>We confirm we are Cyber Essentials Plus certified through Claranet and are 27001:2022 (latest version of the standard) certified through BSI.</p> <p>For transparency we would like to flag all Cyber Essentials Plus certificates have a defined scope and this doesn't typically include the environment for general web hosting due to the impracticalities of successfully including this aspect within the assessment.</p> <p>We are proposing to use a specialist secure hosting company for the hosting aspect of the contract. The company is an established and reputable UK host with Cyber Essentials Plus certification, however the certificate is for central networks, etc., and doesn't include the general hosting environment. This approach is our primary recommendation based on experience of working on similar projects and budgets.</p> <p>Please could you advise if this is satisfactory?</p>	Based on the information provided, the SSRO considers this to be acceptable, but the SSRO would need to know particulars to reach a final position.

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Q3	<p>1) What is the total budget available for this project? If possible please break down of the budget.</p>	<p>1) The estimated total value of this contract is £40,000 including VAT, as set out in the published tender. There is no further breakdown.</p> <p>The SSRO is asking suppliers to provide a breakdown of their pricing as part of their tenders (Appendix 3). This breakdown covers design and development, hosting, maintenance and support, and is to be assessed on the total estimated price quoted (without sub-weightings).</p>
Q4	<p>2) In page 6 of ITT, under the section 4.15 Tender requirements, you have stated the supplier must hold both of the below certifications.</p> <p>(a) ISO27001:2013 (or equivalent) accreditation; and (b) Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation</p> <p>Question: We currently hold only IMS ISO 9001:2015 / ISO 27001:2022 and Cyber Essentials. We do not hold Cyber Essentials Plus as the ISO certification is already the equivalent of the Cyber essentials plus.</p> <p>As generally public sector buyers ask for any one of the certifications, Can you consider one of the certifications instead ?</p>	<p>2) Due to the nature of the services being commissioned and the SSRO's work, both accreditations are required. The SSRO will consider equivalent accreditations, but does not consider ISO accreditation to be equivalent to Cyber Essentials Plus.</p>

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Q5	Can I get some clarification in regards to the delivery timeline, you request the MVP to be built by the 31st March 2025, the documents alludes to this being used to gather content and get feedback/approval from stakeholders, it also mentions that the site wants to be live by quarter 1. Am I right in assuming that your quarter 1 is based on the tax year (Delivering end of June).	Yes, that is correct. The SSRO would like the website to be live by 30 June 2025, although there may be some flexibility depending on the progress the supplier is making with the website build.
Q6	<p>Can you please clarify what is accepted as equivalent to an ISO27001:2013 (or equivalent) accreditation? We have Cyber Essentials Plus certification but would like to ensure we meet the ISO side where we don't have the official accreditation, what you would accept in its place to not fail a bidder?</p> <p>The above is referenced on Website re-design, development and maintenance.pdf page 3 & 4 of point 3.3.</p>	An example of an equivalent accreditation to ISO27001:2013 is Level Two audited step IASME Cyber Assurance certification.
Q7	<p>With reference to:</p> <p>Document: Appendix 1: Specification document Section 5.1 Ref 1.24 - Intellectual Property: The SSRO must own all intellectual property to its website.</p> <p>Modern websites often encompass many existing 3rd party systems and in order to meet the timeline will probably also contain pre-existing, generic code often referred to as 'Common IP'. Can you please confirm your understanding that it will not be possible to assign 'all' IP where the IP is part of a third-party system, is considered common IP or is pre-existing background IP?</p> <p>Can the SSRO accept an IP definition of 'foreground IP' and 'an implied worldwide, royalty free perpetual licence to all other IP that is not covered by Open Source or Third-Party Licences'?</p>	In circumstances where IP cannot be assigned (for example where it is owned by a third-party or is pre-existing), the SSRO will accept a royalty-free, perpetual license.
Q8	The original timescale was to launch before April 1 st 2025. It looks as if the new deadline is to have the design completed by then, but to	The SSRO has revised its earlier indicative timeframes. The website design is to be completed on or before 31 March 2025, with an expected go live date within the period 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025.

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	launch in Q1 2025/26 (i.e. the period from April to June) - please confirm. Is there a desire to be launched early in that quarter?	
Q9	How do you want sample sites / examples of work to be included in the response? Within the word limit as hyperlinks?	Bidders may include examples as hyperlinks with a brief description of the work done, which will form part of the word limit.
Q10	The spreadsheet Appendix 3 – Pricing Schedule has password protection on cell B6, the Supplier Name field, so we can't update that. Please advise.	A revised Appendix 3 Pricing Schedule which has this cell unlocked has been uploaded.
Q11	The scoring mechanism for pricing appears to refer to the combined cost of design & development and then hosting and support for 2 years with equal weight – please confirm.	The price element of this contract has an overall weighting of 30% which is based on a quoted total estimated cost as detailed in the Invitation to Tender (sections 5.14 -5.17) and Appendix 3 Pricing Schedule. There are no sub-weightings for the individual elements.
Q12	Pricing Schedule - There are currently two sections covering Hosting and Support. The project will require Implementation fees, covering the migration, theme development, testing, training, etc... Does the SSRO envisage these fees to be included in the hourly rate for Support during Year 1, or should we add a separate line item detailing the Implementation costs?	<p>The SSRO expects that costs relating to implementation, migration, theme development, testing and initial training will be included within the Service Design and Development element. Separate line items within the Pricing Schedule would be helpful to enable us to understand the different cost elements that have been included.</p> <p>Year 1 and 2 costs should only contain hosting and ongoing support costs.</p>
Q13	Content Management System - Does the SSRO have a preference for either Wagtail, WordPress or Drupal? The current functional scope is limited, so on this basis we would recommend WordPress. However if there is a roadmap or product backlog with more complex requirements in future, such as complex workflow or multi-stakeholder role based access, then we would recommend Drupal.	The SSRO invites suppliers to propose a service that will best support the delivery of the service requirements as set out in Appendix 2. Those proposals will be evaluated based on using the methodology described in the Invitation to Tender and against the service requirements.
Q14	Budget - Please confirm whether the value of the contract stated as £40,000 covers the implementation, hosting and support services for years 1 and 2.	The estimated total value of this contract is £40,000 including VAT, as set out in the published tender. This covers all elements of the contract.

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