

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Defence Nuclear Organisation (DNO) resides within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and was established in 2016 to oversee all aspects of nuclear business within the MOD; responsible for all submarines (from procurement to disposal), nuclear warheads, skills, related infrastructure and day-to-day nuclear policy. DNO consists of the people, equipment and infrastructure required to successfully deter the most extreme threats to our national security and way of life.

2.0 SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The scope of this project is the Design and Manufacture (“D&M”) of a reliable, safe and secure system for the **containerisation and transportation of defence nuclear material and associated assets by road**, between and within key sites as required to meet the Defence Nuclear Programme.

The DNO Project Team is keen to engage with suppliers who have the capacity and experience to complete the required design and manufacture activities along with supporting the introduction into service and optionally providing initial in-service support for the new transportation system. The project is complex with multiple stakeholders, capability, and approval demonstration requirements, with stringent regulatory, legislative (safety) and security regulations required to achieve approval.

The DNO Project Team anticipates being able to initiate a competition in 2023 to identify a prime contractor to design and manufacture the transport system. Alongside the D&M activities, there is also potential that a support package will be required for spares, tooling, training, and initial in-service support for a period following the delivery. The project is currently in the Concept Phase of the CADMID cycle with feasibility studies currently being undertaken to support the development of the new capability.

3.0 PURPOSE OF RFI

The DNO Project Team is currently seeking to ascertain the level of interest in this project from industry suppliers with the right skill sets, experience, and capacity, and to begin early market engagement with interested parties. The aim of this RFI and the returns from Industry is to:

- assess market interest.
- begin early market engagement with potential suppliers.
- determine what level of capabilities, skills and experience are available.
- understand relevant ‘best practice’.
- develop a suitable package of information to support the bidding process.

This RFI invites respondents to provide details on the following:

Key Information Requested:

- What experience and capabilities your organisation has with similar projects to design and manufacture safe and secure transportation and/or containers for sensitive payloads.
- Details of your company's specialist engineering and project management skills applicable to the project and how these have been retained.
- Your company's capacity to deliver this project, either as a prime supplier or subcontractor for bespoke elements including examples of any relevant reference projects.
- How your company might deliver the design, procurement of equipment, manufacture, testing and acceptance of the system.
- Your company's knowledge and understanding of relevant Defence safety and security regulations and verification requirements.
- Details on the maturity of your company's supply chain (applicable to this project).

4.0 TIMESCALE

Responses are required to this RFI within 30 days, please only use the requested response method as any other communications will be discounted.

Following a review, it is the intention of the Project Team to hold a Product Surgery with selected respondents in early 2022, for a more detailed presentation on the project. Further individual meetings may be arranged / could follow.

5.0 NOTICE TO READER

This RFI forms a part of the Ministry of Defence's (hereafter "the Authority") market assessment phase and **is not part of any competitive procedure**. Any information you submit will be considered solely on the basis of building a greater understanding of the marketplace and/or industry's ability and willingness to undertake the Design and Manufacture (D&M) of a new road-going, containerised transportation system for defence nuclear material and associated assets. It is expected that this will be a complex project, working with multiple stakeholders and regulators to develop an industry leading, safe and secure long-term capability.

Should the decision be made to formally compete this requirement, **any information provided must be re-submitted as part of the formal bid process**. Information specific to the Industry participants provided through this process will not be shared or distributed directly to other participants but will inform the discussions that the Authority's project team will have with Industry and may subsequently be used to inform how the formal procurement process is conducted.

The information contained in this RFI and any further information (whether written, electronic or oral) supplied by the Authority and/or any of its representatives in respect of this RFI is, and will be, supplied on the condition that neither the Authority, any of its representatives nor any agents, servants, officers or affiliates of the Authority or its representatives whatsoever is liable for any error, omission, or inaccuracy therein nor for any loss or damage sustained by any party arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication, including any error or omission or inaccuracy resulting from any negligent act or omission of any of the Authority, its representatives or any other person (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation). The Authority does not accept any responsibility or gives any undertaking to provide further information, including any information required to correct any earlier inaccuracy or error.

Any participation in this Industry Market Assessment and any response to this RFI is entirely at the respondent's cost and risk. The Authority is under no obligation to proceed with a formal procurement or in any other way proceed with the project and shall not be liable to any participants for any costs arising from participation in this process. You should note that any copyright in the information provided by the Authority as part of the market assessment process, any further documents issued by the Authority or its representatives in relation to it, rests with the Crown or with other legal entities as noted in the relevant copyright legend. All other intellectual property rights in such documentation shall remain the property of the Ministry of Defence and no recipient shall obtain any right, title or interest therein. Such documentation may not be reproduced, copied, or stored in any medium, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the Authority, other than as strictly required for the preparation of responses to this RFI.