

**RFI0045**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**Navy DEVELOP RFI** **for Long Range Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Weapon (LRAW)**

**RFI Title:** RFI0045 for Long Range ASW Weapon (LRAW)

**Issue Date:** 13 June 2024

**Reference:** RFI0045

**Version:** 1.0

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# Introduction

This RFI is not a bidding opportunity but a means by which industry can provide information. In accordance with the principles of the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy (DSIS) the Royal Navy is committed to developing an ever more productive and strategic relationship with defence and security industries, capitalising on your skills as part of our support for increased transparency and inclusivity. Any future procurement activity would be conducted in accordance with the relevant Procurement legislation in place at that point in time. A decision by any prospective provider not to submit a response to this RFI will not prejudice future engagements.

**Please note:**

**This RFI is an information gathering exercise, no further discussions with industry are planned at this stage. In the event of any future procurement activity, it would be advertised in line with public procurement regulations on the Defence Sourcing Portal and Contracts Finder.**

1. Background

The Royal Navy is seeking information for a future Long Range Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Weapon (LRAW) that can be launched from surface ship combatants fitted with the Strike-length Mk41 Vertical Launcher System (VLS). The LRAW effector solution will be a ‘missile/rocket’ delivered system – although Uncrewed systems are being examined as potential future ASW enablers.

The LRAW concept provides an extended range delivery means for a Lightweight Torpedo (LWT) or Very Light Weight (VLWT) Torpedo effector against submarine contacts, cued by organic or third-party sensor detection. Engagement ranges are to comfortably overmatch those of current and forecast threat Heavy Weight Torpedoes.

The solution requires an interchangeable, stand-off, quick-reaction, all-weather ASW weapon delivery capability that enables a UK LWT to reach a water-entry point for a targeted submarine from any Mk41 VLS-fitted platform. LRAW will need to integrate with RN Combat or Sonar Systems and must be ‘Secure by Design’.

With assumed exportability in accordance with the [Integrated Procurement Model](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-procurement-model-driving-pace-in-the-delivery-of-military-capability), a global total stockpile requirement of 500 missiles should be used as a costing assumption.

Specifically, responses to this RFI should include non-committal VROM costings for a potential MOTS or novel full or partial solution (stating the year in which you expect to field Minimum Deployable Capability) by addressing the questions posed in Annex A. Solutions involving or repurposing existing booster designs to deliver the Effector payload will also be considered. VROM costs are to specifically exclude the torpedo effector. Interested parties may wish to note that there is an opportunity for industry to present potential solutions at the Sea Air Space Conference (6-9 Apr 25, Virginia, USA) which will be advertised at a later date.

1. RFI intended outcomes

This RFI aims to achieve 3 outcomes:

1. Inform and align the MOD requirement with industry capability and processes in iterating the developing requirement ahead of future approaches to market.
2. To inform an approach to market strategy that enables the implementation of an enduring solution.
3. To explore VROM costings for LRAW end-to-end and partial solutions.
4. RFI Procedure

Responses to this RFI will be reviewed by subject matter experts from different functional areas within Navy Command Headquarters.

If upon review of your submission any clarifications or additional information is required, you will be contacted using the details provided in your RFI response.

Any details provided in response to this RFI will be used for information purposes only and will not be used to determine the potential Suppliers who will be invited to bid, should the Authority proceed to tender.

The results and analysis of this RFI shall not constitute any form of pre-qualification exercise.

Any formal procurement process will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Procurement Law.

Nothing in this RFI, or any other engagements with Industry prior to a formal procurement process, shall be construed as a representation as to the Authority’s ultimate decision in relation to the future requirement.

1. How to submit responses to this RFI

Respondents should provide responses in accordance with the format provided in **Annex A** quoting the RFI reference on all documentation and emails**.**

Please do not submit additional documents such as company overviews, the purpose of the RFI is to collect information related to the technical solution, any additional documents will not be included in the review process.

Any responses received after the deadline will be passed to the subject matter experts for information, however they may not be included in the RFI review meetings which are to be held immediately following the deadline.

Once completed, please return electronically to the e-mail address(es) shown below in **section 8,** no later than **12:00, 1 September 2024**.

Responses will be acknowledged electronically by return e-mail.

1. Confidentiality & Proprietary Information

No information included in your response, or in discussions connected to it, will be disclosed to any other third party.

Proprietary information, where included, should be kept to minimum and must be clearly marked.

**For the purposes of this RFI, any documentation classified at OFFICIAL SENSITIVE or OFFICIAL SENSITIVE – COMMERCIAL must be submitted from an r.mil.uk address. Otherwise, all responses must be at OFFICIAL.**

1. Costs of preparing your RFI response

Any costs relating to the preparation and submission of a response to this RFI are the sole responsibility of the respondent.

1. Contact

Quoting the RFI reference, please submit

1. any requests for clarification
2. all responses to this RFI and
3. any questions regarding Classification of document(s) intended for submission, to:

[NAVYCOMRCL-RFI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NAVYCOMRCL-RFI@mod.gov.uk)

1. Annex A

**RFI0045 Navy DEVELOP RFI for Long Range ASW Weapon (LRAW)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answer** |
| Company Name |  |
| Company Address |  |
| Parent Company Address |  |
| Is the company a Small - Medium Enterprise (satisfies two or more of the following requirements: not more than 250 employees, a turnover of less than £36 million or a balance sheet of less than £18 million)? |  |
|  | |
| Name of Company representative completing the RFI |  |
| Contact details (e-mail and telephone number) |  |
| Company web site address |  |
|  | |
| Main products/services/line of business |  |
| Main market sector |  |
| Number of years in this market sector |  |
| **QUESTIONS** | |
| 1. Does your organisation provide an End-to-End solution (from Sense to Effect)? Please list development / manufacture / integration / installation VROM costings. 2. In which year do you expect to field Minimum Deployable Capability? 3. What is the minimum deployable capability you believe Defence should accept in this area? | |
|  | |
| 1. Is your organisation able to provide a part solution? Which aspects of the solution can you provide? Which systems do you need to integrate with? Please list development / manufacture / integration / installation VROM costings. 2. In which year do you expect to field Minimum Deployable Capability? 3. What is the minimum deployable capability you believe Defence should accept in this area? | |
|  | |
| 1. If a full system is detailed, please provide information on its operation and how it would achieve its function. If a component, sub-system or capability, please explain how it would be integrated into the wider VLS, RN Combat or Sonar Systems. | |
|  | |
| 1. What novel capabilities could be adopted in this area, and could you provide them for future capability upgrades? | |
|  | |
| 1. Does your solution allow third party targeting? | |
|  | |
| 1. What capability do you have to provide through life support? Please list VROM costings. | |
|  | |
| 1. What is the expected employment ‘Social Value for UK Prosperity’? | |
|  | |