Contract for the Exploration of Data for Autonomous and Smart Shipping – Clarification Q & A

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| **Clarification Question 07:**  With regards to non- proprietary data, mentioned in the third bullet point on Page 2 of the SOR, does this exclude current 3rd party proprietary purchasable data e.g., weather data or voyage weather routeing data/services? | **MCA Response:**  Yes, this should exclude purchasable data as we have no budget, we’d be reliant on good-will and data sharing to incentivise collaboration in this project. |
| **Clarification Question 08:**  Under 'Objectives', you mention MCA's 'role as the regulator in this new data landscape'. Is this a new regulatory role, and what are MCA's regulatory responsibilities? | **MCA Response:**  The MCA is the maritime regulator. We would like bidders to consider how a shift towards autonomy and greater reliance on data will affect the MCA as a regulator in the future. |
| **Clarification Question 09:**  The datasets mentioned are AIS, port call data, weather, tide, and bathymetry. Are there other data that the M&CA have ownership of that must be included? Can the M&CA provide licences for this data? | **MCA Response:**  No, but we would like bidders to consider other datasets that would be complimentary. We have proprietary access to AIS, port call and bathymetry data, but we do not have the ability to provide licences for the data. |
| **Clarification Question 10:**  The evaluation criteria, under Capability/Delivery mentions 'objectives of the review and the policy context'. Can we assume that this refers to satisfying the objectives/tasks under the statement of requirements, or was there another goal in mind? | **MCA Response:**  No other goal in mind, your assumption is correct. |
| **Clarification Question 11:**  Can you clarify whether there is a page limit for the ITT response? | **MCA Response:**  There are no page limits. |
| **Clarification Question 12:**  Can you clarify whether there are any format restrictions for the ITT response? | **MCA Response:**  Only hard copies of your bid will be accepted. |
| **Clarification Question 13:**  What data is currently held by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency? | **MCA Response:**  The MCA currently holds terrestrial AIS data, port call data, and bathymetric data collected by the Civil Hydrography Project. |
| **Clarification Question 14:**  What is the existing data and system architecture in place? | **MCA Response:**  The datasets collected by the MCA are independent and un-linked, but accessible. AIS data consists of 6 years of historic, cleansed data in CSV format. Port call data can be requested in Excel format. |
| **Clarification Question 15:**  What parallel initiatives should be considered in relation to delivering this work? | **MCA Response:**  We would be interested to hear of any that the bidders believe to be relevant to the project. |
| **Clarification Question 16:**  What are the IP constraints relating to the project? | **MCA Response:**  The results of the project will be made publicly available except where commercially sensitive or for security reasons. |
| **Clarification Question 17:**  What constraints are there in relation to the delivery of any proposed solution? | **MCA Response:**  None. |
| **Clarification Question 18:**  What other complimentary datasets have been considered to date, who are the suppliers and what data sharing agreements are in place? | **MCA Response:**  The MCA has data sharing agreements with a number of organisations, including the UKHO and Met Office. However, we’d be engaging with partners in a collaborative research project to create a small-scale test product, so existing data sharing agreements can’t necessarily be relied upon. We expect to draw up light-touch, bespoke data sharing agreements with collaborators for the purposes of the project. |