**Design and Integration Partner for Tactical Communications (TC) Contract**

The Authority is considering placing a contract for a Design and Integration Partner (DIP) for Tactical Communications.

The DIP will follow an Authority governed service to evolve designs in a collaborative working environment; with an agile approach focused on a controlled set of agreed user requirements and delivering an end-to-end service (or parts thereof) in partnership with the Authority and selected third parties, potentially including procurement and Logistical Support of systems. Field service representation (FSRs) and an on-site presence alongside the user base(s) will be pivotal for success of the support of the system.

The first project to be included under the contract will be for the ongoing development of a dismounted On The Person (OTP), rugged Command, Control, Communications, Computing, and Information System (C4IS) that will provide and enhance a user’s situational awareness during Operations. The system is currently in-service with a government furnished Data Entry Device, software, and communication(s) equipment.

The OTP requirement will be the first to utilise the DIP Contract, with the opportunity to onboard additional requirements from across the Tactical Communications during the life of the Contract.

The DIP contract will be for an initial period of 3 years, with options for additional in-service support until 31st March 2032. Anticipated Contract start is December 2025, with a mobilisation period option prior this date.

The initial Contract Value (covering the OTP requirement) is estimated at c. £7.8 million, with (included without commitment) up to a further c. £12 million in Options for the initial requirement. Furthermore, the Authority anticipates that there will be reviews and further requirements throughout the life of the Contract, and therefore includes a potential maximum value of £134 million (including the initial contract value and Options) to account for this, with any proportion of this value to be contracted for throughout the life of the Contract, subject to the availability and approval of funding and at the Authority’s discretion.

Prospective contractors are required to hold Quality Management System certification to BS EN ISO 9001:2015 ‘Quality Management Systems’ or suitable alternative, with the appropriate scope to deliver contract requirements, issued by a Nationally Accredited Certification Body. You will be required to provide a copy of the certificate(s) as directed by any Dynamic Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (DPQQ) associated with this Notice, and in any event, the winning supplier will be required to provide it for review prior to contract award.

The Authority can only consider UK registered companies, that are Facility Security Clearance (FSC) cleared at SECRET UK EYES ONLY, due to the Security Classification of the project, with UK personnel that have a minimum of Security Clearance (SC) (Developed Vetting (DV) required for certain roles) for delivery of the project, this will be required by contract award.

The Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) is indicatively due to be released December 2023 with one round of negotiations. Following negotiations, the Tenderers have the opportunity to submit their final Tender Submission, further information on this shall be provided within the Tender documentation. An industry day will be held within 14 working days of the ITN release, details will be provided to those who are successful at PQQ.

**Additional Info:**

Due to the sensitivity of the requirement if you have an interest in this requirement, please register by contacting Emma Eddy on DES-SPTC-DIP@mod.gov.uk, by stating your organisation’s name, address. names and email addresses of those who require access to PQQ documentation, (access shall be limited to no more than three (3) individuals per Potential Supplier).

The Authority will submit the given email address(es) on Defence Share, where an invitation to create an account against this Project will be sent. Once registered on Defence Share, you will have access to the PQQ documents, and your organisations allocated folder.

The Potential Suppliers should upload their PQQ submissions to Defence Share, within their organisation’s folder. To note only the Authority can see all Potential Providers and their folders on Defence Share.

All communications on Defence Share are at OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Classification.

PQQ submissions must be completed in the Excel document ‘20230606\_705278451\_PQQ Response\_OSC’, this will be accessible on Defence Share.

We can only accept PQQ response at security classification of OFFICIAL SENSITIVE or below. We cannot accept PQQ response with a Security Classification higher than OFFICIAL SENSITIVE.

The PQQ deadlines are:

* Last day for PQQ request – 1600 hrs on the 25th September 2023.
* PQQs should be submitted by NLT 1600 hrs on the 3rd October 2023.

Clarification Questions are not being accepted at PQQ stage of the competition.

PQQs received after the Submission deadline will not be reviewed and will not be carried forward to ITN. The Authority will be taking a minimum of four (4) (five (5) where scoring is tied) potential Tenderers forward to the ITN stage based on the highest scores of the PQQ, in accordance with the marking criteria in ‘20230825\_705278451\_DIP TC\_PQQ Marking Guidance\_Final-OSC’.

The Tender process which the Authority will take is the Competitive Negotiated Procedure, using Iterative Tendering. There shall be one (1) round of negotiations following initial Tender return, post negotiations there shall be time for the Tenderers to submit their Best and Final Offer (BaFO).

Anticipated ITN dates as follows:

* Issue ITN – 11th December 2023
* Industry day – Within 14 days of ITN release
* Return of initial ITN submissions – 4th March 2024
* Negotiations - 15th April 2024
* Final Tender Submission – 22nd May 2024
* These dates maybe subject to change.