



**VEHICLE SUPPORT TEAM**

**ARMoured VEHICLE STRUCTURAL  
INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT (AVSIM)**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION -  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

Version: 1.0  
Date: 4 October 2023  
Reference: 704676451

Issued by:  
DE&S Vehicle Support Team  
Ministry of Defence  
Abbey Wood, Bristol, BS34 8JH.

To ensure openness, transparency and propriety in the evaluation process, all enquiries and requests for clarification must be addressed in writing to the above point of contact through the Defence Supplier Portal (DSP).



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## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Thank you for your interest in supporting early market engagement with the Vehicle Support Team, Part of Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S), UK Ministry of Defence (MOD).
2. DE&S is aiming to engage with a broad cross-section of all potential suppliers at this stage including original equipment manufacturers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) as well as potential strategic partners or GOCO contractors. We are interested in seeking views from organisations with expertise in delivering services not just within engineering or Defence environments but also other industries where they may be operational parallels.
3. The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to obtain information from potential suppliers to provide the Authority with an understanding of the market, and industry's capability and capacity to supply. This information will be used to develop a robust requirement and procurement strategy for the Initial Gate Business Case (IGBC).
4. Responding to this RFI is voluntary and **does not** start any official procurement process for the AVSIM Requirement. Participation **does not** guarantee any inclusion in subsequent potential procurement processes. It should be noted that all information released as part of this RFI is being released on a SUBJECT TO CONTRACT basis, and it is therefore subject to change and may not form part of any future prospective procurement process.
5. Your response to this RFI should consist of a completed Questionnaire in English in either MS Office or PDF format. All responses must be submitted through the DSP. In order to keep the response size manageable, you are requested to limit your response to no more than two pages per question; you may wish to add extra pages for diagrams, tables, etc. to support your response. You are welcome to provide additional supporting information (brochure material, presentation packs etc) outside the main body of the questionnaire.
6. As detailed within the AVSIM Context Document provided alongside this questionnaire, there are two distinct elements to which DE&S are inviting interested parties to respond to; Work Package 1: 'Scanning' of vehicle hulls whilst in-service, and; Work Package 2: Provision of a 'Hull Management System'. Respondee are welcome respond to the questionnaire with answers pertaining to either or both of these work packages. Please make it clear in your response to each question which work package your response aims to answer.
7. Please answer all questions in the table below and submit this section in your response back to us by the closing date.
8. You may provide case studies and other pertinent information, however, please do not include marketing material, copies of certificates, quality documentation or price lists at this stage.

## UK OFFICIAL

9. Your response to this RFI is requested by no later than 14.00 on **8<sup>th</sup> November 2023** and requests for extensions to this will not be granted. Please submit responses in line with the details in paragraph 6 above, in accordance with compliant levels for OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE. Please send your response via the Defence Sourcing Portal messaging system at <https://contracts.mod.uk/> for the attention of Carl Greenslade and Daniel Morris

# AVSIM QUESTIONNAIRE

## 1. Procurement Strategy

Given the information in the Context Document and your knowledge and experience, can you;

- Describe your preferred procurement strategy for delivering either or both work packages to Performance, Cost and Time?
- Provide any relevant examples from similar projects you have worked on?

Your Answer:

## 2. Commercial Construct

Given the information in the Context Document and your knowledge and experience, can you;

- Describe your preferred commercial construct and can you articulate what the benefits might be?
- Describe what you think the scope of the contract(s) should include, and why?
- Provide any relevant examples from similar projects you have worked on?

**Additional Notes for consideration:**

The Authority has a number of options for commercial constructs for delivering both scanning of vehicles and a suitable Hull Management System.

For both work packages suppliers would be expected to work closely with multiple vehicle Design Authorities and/or Engineering Authorities, so if possible please provide details of where your organisation has successfully done this in the past, and include the commercial construct(s) use to successfully do this.

For work package 1, suppliers would be expected to liaise with the main repair agent for vehicles (currently Babcock Defence Support Group).

For work package 2, suppliers may need to liaise with suppliers of similar systems to ensure software systems are able to integrate and/or share pertinent data.

Your answers

### 3. Risk

Given the information in the Context Document and your knowledge and experience, can you;

- Detail any significant risks that the Authority will need to address.
- Detail what, if any, technical information you would require from the Authority in order to manage these risks?
- Provide any relevant examples from similar projects you have worked on?

Your Answers

## 4. Capacity

**Are you likely to have the capacity and supporting equipment to provide the required services? Please provide a justification to support your view.**

**Additional Notes for consideration:**

The number of vehicles in scope for in-service scanning is likely to increase over time so services need to be scalable accordingly.

To aid with planning for capacity, the following can be assumed:

1. Initial rough estimates for vehicle scanning 'events' are as follows:
  - 16 hour scanning event takes place on 100 vehicles per annum
  - 112 hour scanning event takes place on 12 vehicles per annum
2. 90% of scan events will be in the UK
3. The number of vehicles being subjected to scan events over time may increase threefold between 2025 and 2035, i.e. 300 x 16hr and 36 x 112hr scanning events per annum.

Your Answers



## 5. Safety & Reliability

Given the information in the Context Document and your knowledge and experience, can you;

- Detail how you would meet all safety requirements, legislative and otherwise, for these work packages?
- Detail how you would guarantee quality?
- Detail what, if any, technical information you would require from the Authority in order to undertake these tasks?
- Provide any relevant examples from similar projects you have worked on?

### Additional Notes for consideration:

Both work packages will form part of the safety argument for in-service platforms so suppliers may be required at times to provide expertise, input, and all relevant data and information required in order to prove the safe inspection and maintenance of these vehicles.

Your Answers

## 6. Technical – Software and Data

Given the information in the Context Document and your knowledge and experience, can you;

- **Manage the interaction between various software systems required to provide this service?**
- **Detail what, if any, technical information you would require from the Authority in order to undertake these tasks?**
- **Provide any relevant examples from similar projects you have worked on?**

**Additional Notes for consideration:**

Work Package 1 will focus on the capture of Non Destructive Testing data in a format suitable to be used to make decisions about the safe use of vehicles. This data should be able to directly integrate into the hull management system within work package 2.

Work package 2 must be able to accept data from multiple input sources and, at a minimum output relevant information pertaining to individual vehicles to existing and future Fleet Management systems, i.e. the Joint Asset Management and Engineering System (JAMES). Integration into fleet management systems is preferable but not essential.

Your Answers

## 7. Engineering

Given the information in the Context Document and your knowledge and experience, can you;

- Detail how the engineering elements of this requirement may be met by your existing engineering processes?
- Detail how you would manage the quality aspects of a service provision contract against the requirements laid out ISO 9001?
- Please provide details of how you would future proof either service for improvements in technology and/or data capture.
- Provide any relevant examples from similar projects you have worked on?

Additional Information

For work package 1, exploitation of emerging Non Destructive Testing technologies is highly desirable, to reduce vehicle downtime and/or improve the fidelity and usefulness of data captured.

For work package 2, it is highly desirable that the system shall reduce or remove the need for human intervention in the decision making process over time. Please detail as to how engineering techniques and models (such as decision trees) can be implemented in the short term, and advise as to whether development of algorithms and/or machine learning can be used to further improve this over time.

Your Answers

## 8. Your Role

**Given the information in the Context Document and your knowledge and experience, do you think this is something you are likely to bid for and if so and at what level? e.g. Prime Contract Level?**

**If you are not likely to bid why not?**

**Is there anything else you would like to add that you feel the Authority should take into consideration?**

Your Answers

## 9. Your Experience.

**Can you provide any details on other projects you have undertaken on armoured fighting platforms?**

**Can you provide any details of where you have existing solutions that could be exploited in the AVSIM project?**

**If your area of expertise is not in the Land Environment can you describe what synergies you see between your experiences and with AVSIM?**

Additional Notes for consideration:

Your response should address your role and responsibilities in these projects

Your Answers