**HOS/15/046 – Advertisement for provision of a helicopter service for Home Office trials**

**Background:**

The Home Office seek to hire helicopter support for 5 days during a two week trial from 7th – 18th December 2015. The helicopter will be required to undertake multiple surveys of the trial site carrying each of three specified pieces of equipment and at least one passenger, who will be using the equipment while airborne.

**Key Details:**

Prospective organisations must be able to provide the following helicopter service;

* The helicopter must be present for a period of 5 days, between 7th - 18th December 2015 at a site in Essex;
* The helicopter must carry out multiple surveys of the site, at heights of 50 – 2000 ft, as directed during the trials.
* During surveys, one of three pieces of equipment must be carried inside the aircraft, whose weight and dimensions are specified (all < 100kg), alongside a minimum of one passenger who will be using the equipment during flight.
* The supplier must be responsible for proposing and achieving the means to carry and operate the equipment safely and within regulations, including securing any and all necessary CAA/EASA approvals for the flights. The Home Office will work with the supplier to provide any required information on the equipment to be flown.

**Specification**

The details below summarise the specification for the helicopter requirement.

1. The helicopter must be available over 5 days during 7th – 18th December 2015. A minimum flight timetable between 9:00 – 15:00 will be required within this period.
2. The helicopter must be supplied to a site in Essex with no public access. The supplier will need to make arrangements for necessary refuelling at this site or another nearby location.
3. During all surveys, the supplier will be expected to carry at least one piece of survey equipment, out of the three systems specified below. All three systems will be used in the helicopter on different occasions during the trial:

**System 1:** This device is made up of 5 different modules; 4 detectors, each 73.1cm (L) x 16.2cm (W) x 17.2cm (H) and one console, 23.3cm (L) x 19.8cm (D) x11.2cm (H) with a total weight of 97.6kg. It requires a +9 to 40V DC power supply.

**System 2:** The device comprises two Peli cases, each 74cm (L) x 38cm (W) x 23cm (H), with a total weight of < 80kg. It requires a +12 to 24V DC power supply.

**System 3:** This device is contained as a single unit of 75.0cm (L) x 56.0cm (W) x 37.0cm (H), with a total weight of 90kg. It requires a +12 to 40V DC power supply and will be mounted a metal plate with dimensions 83.8cm (L) x 67.4cm (W) x 0.6cm (H) and a weight of 8kg.

Each system must be fastened securely within the helicopter, and must be laid flat, in the plane of its length (L) x width (W). Separate modules within a device cannot be stacked and must be orientated parallel to each other. They could, however, be physically separated to an extent with connecting wires.

1. During all surveys, a minimum of one passenger must also be carried, who will use the device during the survey, via a laptop which will be connected to the device. The passenger will need to have access to a laptop, which will be switched on throughout the flight and connected to the survey equipment.
2. The helicopter will be required to land and take off from this location repeatedly during the operation. Required flights will include:
	* hovering at heights between 50–2000ft.
	* accurate flying of “survey ladder” (raster-like) flight patterns at between 300–2000ft, at speeds of 40- 140 knots and with linear legs of ~1-2 km and line spacing of ~50m.
	* short flights away from the test site across some general rural and semi-urban terrain.

 **Expressions of Interest:**

Without prejudice or commitment to future contract or agreement, the Home Office seeks expressions of interest for this work. Before a detailed specification for this work can be released, a non-disclosure agreement must be put in place between prospective organisations and the Home Office. A non-disclosure agreement will be released on request to those organisations that provide evidence to satisfy the high-level specification above.

Expressions of interest must include full contact details and detail the following:

* Helicopter model(s) that can be provided, which satisfy the specification detailed here.
* Whether a specific model, the Airbus H135, or similar, can be provided to satisfy the specification. If another model is offered, its similarity to the H135 should be justified.
* Details about flight restrictions of the aircraft to be provided, to include heights, speeds and dependencies on weather and environmental conditions.
* Diagrams/pictures of available carrying space within the helicopter.
* Information as to the maximum payload of equipment, and space for passengers within the helicopter.
* A full breakdown of the expected costs for the provision of the helicopter.

Responses shall be sent to HOSProcurement@HomeOffice.gsi.gov.uk **quoting HOS/15/046**  in the subject line on a word document by Friday 9th October 2015.