Invitation to Quote

Invitation to Quote (ITQ) on behalf of Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC)

Subject: NERC Marine Logical Data Model

Sourcing reference number: UK SBS IT17321

UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS)
www.uksbs.co.uk

UKSBS
Shared **Business** Services

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Section 1 – About UK Shared Business Services

Putting the business into shared services

UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS) brings a commercial attitude to the public sector; helping Contracting Authorities improve efficiency, generate savings and modernise.

It is our vision to become the leading service provider for Contracting Authorities of shared business services in the UK public sector, continuously reducing cost and improving quality of business services for Government and the public sector.

Our broad range of expert services is shared by our Contracting Authorities. This allows Contracting Authorities the freedom to focus resources on core activities; innovating and transforming their own organisations.

Core services include Procurement, Finance, Grants Admissions, Human Resources, Payroll, ISS, and Property Asset Management all underpinned by our Service Delivery and Contact Centre teams.

UK SBS is a people rather than task focused business. It's what makes us different to the traditional transactional shared services centre. What is more, being a not-for-profit organisation owned by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), UK SBS' goals are aligned with the public sector and delivering best value for the UK taxpayer.

UK Shared Business Services Ltd changed its name from RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd in March 2013.

Our Customers

Growing from a foundation of supporting the Research Councils, 2012/13 saw Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) transition their procurement to UK SBS and Crown Commercial Services (CCS – previously Government Procurement Service) agree a Memorandum of Understanding with UK SBS to deliver two major procurement categories (construction and research) across Government.

UK SBS currently manages £700m expenditure for its Contracting Authorities.

Our Contracting Authorities who have access to our services and Contracts are detailed [here](#).

Section 2 – About the Contracting Authority

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

NERC is the UK's main agency for funding and managing research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences.

NERC's work covers the full range of atmospheric, Earth, biological, terrestrial and aquatic science, from the deep oceans to the upper atmosphere and from the poles to the equator.

The organisation coordinates some of the world's most exciting research projects, tackling major issues such as climate change, environmental influences on human health, the genetic make-up of life on Earth, and much more.

Working internationally, NERC have bases at some of the most hostile places on the planet; running a fleet of research ships and aircraft and investing in satellite technology to monitor gradual environmental change on a global scale. NERC provide forewarning of, and solutions to, the key environmental challenges facing society.

Examples of funded research

- Showing the importance of mature tropical forests to the global climate.

- Developing a safer and cleaner way to mine gold by reducing the use of mercury.

- Studying the hole in the ozone layer - discovered by our British Antarctic Survey - and monitoring climate change.

- Playing a major role in the International Census of Marine Life that monitors our oceans.

NERC also runs six organisations of world renown:

- British Antarctic Survey, in Cambridge.

- British Geological Survey, in Nottingham.

- National Oceanography Centre, in Southampton.

- Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, in Oxfordshire.

- National Centre for Atmospheric Science, in Leeds.

- National Centre for Earth Observation, Swindon.

www.nerc.ac.uk

Section 3 - Working with the Contracting Authority .

In this section you will find details of your Procurement contact point and the timescales relating to this opportunity.

| Section 3 – Contact details		
3.1	Contracting Authority Name and address	Natural Environment Research Council Polaris House, North Star Avenue Swindon, SN2 1EU
3.2	Buyer name	UK SBS ICT Procurement
3.3	Buyer contact details	ICTProcurement@uksbs.co.uk
3.4	Estimated value of the Opportunity	Up to £100k excluding VAT
3.5	Process for the submission of clarifications and Bids	**All correspondence shall be submitted within the Emptoris e-sourcing tool. Guidance Notes to support the use of Emptoris is available here. Please note submission of a Bid to any email address including the Buyer will result in the Bid not being considered.**

Section 3 - Timescales		
3.6	Date of Issue of Contract Advert and location of original Advert	01/08/2017 Contracts Finder
3.7	Latest date/time ITQ clarification questions shall be received through Emptoris messaging system	08/08/2017 11.00
3.8	Latest date/time ITQ clarification answers should be sent to all Bidders by the Buyer through Emptoris	10/08/2017 14.00
3.9	Latest date/time ITQ Bid shall be submitted through Emptoris	14/08/2017 14.00
3.10	Date/time Bidders should be available if face to face clarifications are required	Not Applicable.
3.11	Anticipated selection and de selections of Bids notification date	01/09/2017
3.12	Anticipated Award date	01/09/2017
3.13	Anticipated Contract Start date	15/09/2017
3.14	Anticipated Contract End date	31/03/2018

| 3.15 | Bid Validity Period | 90 Days |

Section 4 – Specification

Background to the Requirement

The Oceanids C2 programme is developing a software architecture to enable over the horizon piloting and data curation of heterogeneous fleets of Marine Autonomous Systems conducting ocean science.
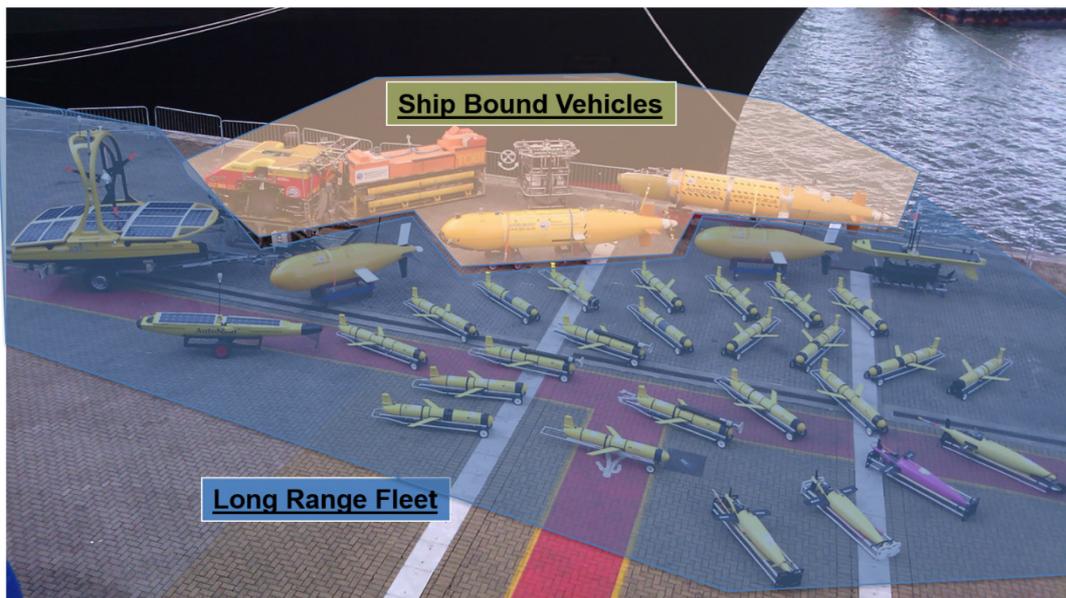
The following vehicles are part of the NERC long range fleet and will be integrated into the C2 infrastructure.

- Kongsberg Seaglider
- ASV C-Enduro (Thomas)
- AutoNaut (Gordon)
- Teledyne Slocum Gliders
- Liquid Robotics Wave Glider
- University of Wahsington Deepglider (Forthcoming)
- NOC Autosub Long Range 6000
- NOC Autosub Long Range 1500 (Forthcoming)

The following vehicles will be used for testing but are not part of the long range fleet:

- ecoSUBu5

The following vehicles are not part of the long range fleet but may be integrated into C2:

- Autosub 6000 MK2

Operations with these vehicles can last from hours to months and include single platforms or fleets of tens of vehicles, with the vehicles operating hundreds of miles offshore. The shore-based operators of these vehicles (which include both experienced pilots and science end-users) require the ability to remotely access the vehicles for command and control and to analyse the data collected from these assets. Remote access is provided via a range of satellite communications and protocols which are individual vehicle manufacturer dependent. At any one time, multiple operators may require access to specific vehicles, all potentially working in a distributed manner and using a variety of software tools and devices. To meet these demands, the NOC, in partnership with the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS), is developing a vehicle agnostic command, control and data management system. The following figure provides an overview of the proposed cloud-based architecture.
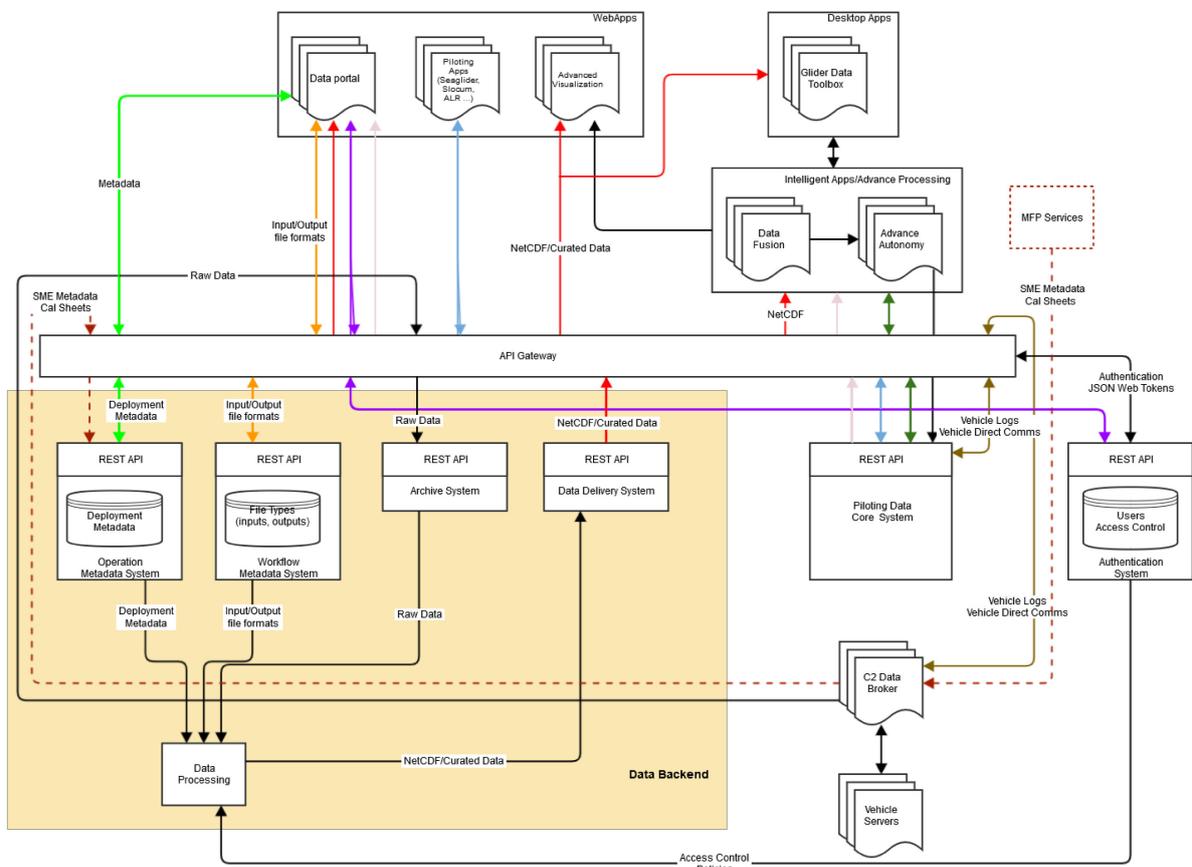
The whole architecture is based on the microservices concept, where every subsystem on the diagram is a loosely couple system that can work and provide functionality in isolation, communicating with other systems, both internal and external, via REST APIs. The rationale behind the design is to offer a system with the following characteristics:

- The system can be distributed across different institutions or services providers if necessary, providing consistency, reliance and scalability.
- Provide a modular non-monolithic architecture, facilitating the creation of new functionality (new microservices) and allowing the replacement of individual

parts of the system without affecting others.
- Utilise industry-standard methods for microservice interaction (REST APIs).
- Design decisions can be made independently on each microservice. The only commonality across microservices is they provide a REST API for interaction, but the technologies used to implement them can differ.

The architecture proposes a constellation of microservices acting as a backend, exposed to the exterior through an API Gateway. The Gateway has several responsibilities:

- Abstracting the backend from the external world: any consumer of the system interacts with the API Gateway. This gives flexibility to the backend, allowing the microservices to be distributed across different geographical locations and even moved onto the cloud.
- Providing security: The Gateway is the system responsible for authenticating and validating the users of the system, enforcing access controls.

The graphical user interfaces and systems that consume and interact with the infrastructure are **outside** of the backend, accessing the resource using industry-standard REST APIs

Scope

The system to be developed by the Supplier is the Piloting Data Core. This system (or series of systems), will store all the operational data and metadata involved on the piloting tasks. This system will encapsulate:

- A consistent data model: In order to reduce piloting complexity and create automated systems, it is necessary to develop intermediate data models and structures to store commands and plans, alongside the vehicle responses and reports. These structures must be consistent across the long-range unmanned fleet, comprised of many heterogeneous systems from multiple manufacturers.
- Vehicle commanding: Every technology within the long-range fleet provides a different mechanism to transmit commands and plans from the shore to the platform itself, introducing complexity within the system. Consequently, abstracting such processes as much as possible from the pilots and automated systems is key to be able to manage complex fleets.
- Mission planning: The concept of a mission is high-level and consists of objectives rather than commands directly executable by the assets. The Piloting Data Core will model that concept and the translation on real commands and files to be sent to the assets.
- Pilot decision logging: Every plan, command or change made by a user has an associated rationale. For logging purposes, it is essential these thoughts are properly captured and connected to the associated actions.

Requirement

- The system to be developed will provide the following functionality:
  - An abstract data model to store information coming from the unmanned platforms (listed in Background to the Requirement). The exact content of the data model will be defined in collaboration with NOC engineers, however example content includes:
    - Asset connection times to the servers.
    - Orders and configurations sent to the assets.

- Responses and information coming from the assets.
  - A REST API to access and modify the undelaying data model.
  - A REST API to control the Unmanned Assets.
  - A WebSockets API to interact with the assets with low latency.

All developed software functionality must be run from the existing Oceanids servers. The server technologies are to be proposed and are not defined at this stage, but the following must be met:

- The existing server hardware runs on Linux OS Centros 7x and the new system must be compatable.
- The servers must run on VMs. Docker containers should be used where possible.
- The usage of open and *free* ("computer software distributed under terms that allow the software users to run the software for any purpose as well as to study, change, and distribute the software and any adapted versions") technologies is required.

- Each element of the C2 architecture must be clearly documented with well-defined interfaces to aid integration with associated components:
  - APIs: Description of url methods and parameters. Provide OpenAPI-Swagger specification, this is the standard used by the Oceanids C2 team to design and document the project APIs. It is required for consistency across the project.
  - Code: In code documentation, following the industry standard Doxygen, this is the standard used by the Oceanids C2 team to document the code. It is required for consistency across the project. The documentation will be reviewed and accepted by the Oceanids Team.
  - Sample code showing the use of the API.
  - Technical notes on the backend code.
- The Supplier will work with the Oceanids C2 team, integrating their resources on the Oceanids Agile process:
  - The Supplier will be part of the Oceanids C2 Sprints (blocks of 2-3 weeks of work).
  - The scope and features to be developed during the Sprint will be decided prior to the Sprint.
  - It is expected that the Supplier will provide working software by the end of each Sprint. Working software is software in production, tested and documented.
  - The Supplier will have presence on the Sprint and daily meetings, that presence could be physically attending in one of the sites (Southampton, Liverpool or Oban), or using VC/telephone.
- Monthly reviews:
  - The Supplier will attend a monthly review meeting with the Oceanids C2 technical leads to review progress.
  - In-person meetings must occur at least every 3 months.
  - The monthly meetings will be chaired by the C2 development leads. The supplier will be expected to present (for circa 15mins) on current progress, risk and opportunities and spend profile.

- The acceptance criteria for the software will be:
  - Run all the agreed unit tests without failure. An appropriate level of test coverage is required. The Oceanids C2 team will review the metrics and test cases at the end of each sprint.
  - Run the developed software with all the other C2 systems without

failure. The success criteria will be agreed before the sprint, and will need to cover:
- Load testing.
- Period of testing.
- o Provide the required functionality agreed during the Agile process.
- o Supply all documentation produced in relation to the requirement.

- At the end of the project the Supplier will:
  - o Have the system on production on the Oceanids C2 Servers.
  - o Hand over the full System source code.
  - o Hand over the full suite of tests and coverage statistics.
  - o Hand over the generated Doxygen documentationHand over the Swagger API documentation.

Milestone Payments:
- The release functionality will be defined between the Oceanids C2 team and the Supplier before starting the release.

1. Release 1: Basic functionality System - 15/11/2017. This basic system should provide:
   a. An onsite installation of the software. On a NOC Server: either a Virtual Server or a Docker Container.
   b. The code.
   c. The tests associated to the code (with an acceptable code coverage, minimum of 80%. This is subject to approval from the Oceanids C2 team. The team can approve a smaller coverage if considers it acceptable and reject a bigger coverage if considers not appropriated).
   d. The OpenAPI-Swagger associated files.
   e. The Doxygen documentation.
   f. Examples of usage of the API/Webservice
   g. A basic REST API/Webservice. The endpoints to be included on that API/Webservice will be decided between both groups (the Oceanids C2 team and the Supplier) at the beginning of the project.
   h. A basic data model to drive the Webservice.

2. Release 2: Medium functionality System 15/02/2018.
   a. An onsite installation of the software. On a NOC Server: either a Virtual Server or a Docker Container.
   b. Bug fixes discovered on Release 1.
   c. More or improved endpoints on the API with the associated data model. That functionality will be decided between both groups (the Oceanids C2 team and the Supplier) at the Release 2 plan meeting.
   d. The code.
   e. The tests associated to the code (with an acceptable code coverage, minimum of 80%. This is subject to approval from the Oceanids C2 team. The team can approve an smaller coverage if considers it acceptable and reject a bigger coverage if considers not appropriated).
   f. The OpenAPI-Swagger associated files.
   g. The Doxygen documentation.
   h. Examples of usage of the API/Webservice

3. Release 3: Final system 15/03/2018.
   a. An onsite installation of the software. On a NOC Server: either a Virtual Server or a Docker Container.
   b. Bug fixes discovered on Release 2.
   c. The code (with an acceptable code coverage, minimum of 80%. This is subject to approval from the Oceanids C2 team. The team can approve a smaller coverage if considers it acceptable and reject a bigger coverage if considers not appropriated).
   d. The tests associated to the code.
   e. The OpenAPI-Swagger associated files.
   f. The Doxygen documentation.
   g. Examples of usage of the API/Webservice

After every release is receipted and accepted by the Oceanids C2 team, the stage payment amount agreed in the pricing schedule will be paid to the Supplier.

Terms and Conditions

Bidders are to note that any requested modifications to the Contracting Authority Terms and Conditions on the grounds of statutory and legal matters only, shall be raised as a formal clarification during the permitted clarification period.

Section 5 – Evaluation model

The evaluation model below shall be used for this ITQ, which will be determined to two decimal places.

Where a question is 'for information only' it will not be scored.

The evaluation team may comprise staff from UK SBS,and the Contracting Authiority and any specific external stakeholders the Contracting Authority deems required. After evaluation the scores will be finalised by performing a calculation to identify (at question level) the mean average of all evaluators (Example – a question is scored by three evaluators and judged as scoring 5, 5 and 6. These scores will be added together and divided by the number of evaluators to produce the final score of 5.33 (5+5+6 =16÷3 = 5.33)

Pass / fail criteria		
Questionnaire	**Q No.**	**Question subject**
Commercial	SEL1.2	Employment breaches/ Equality
Commercial	FOI1.1	Freedom of Information Exemptions
Commercial	AW1.1	Form of Bid
Commercial	AW1.3	Certificate of Bona Fide Bid
Commercial	AW3.1	Validation check
Commercial	AW4.1	Contract Terms
Price	AW5.5	E Invoicing
Price	AW5.6	Implementation of E-Invoicing
Quality	AW6.1	Compliance to the Specification
Commercial	SEL3.11	Compliance to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act

Scoring criteria			

Evaluation Justification Statement
In consideration of this particular requirement the Contracting Authority has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this ITQ. The Contracting Authority considers these weightings to be in line with existing best practice for a requirement of this type.

Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject	Maximum Marks
Price	AW5.2	Price	40%
Quality	PROJ1.1	Marine autonomous systems expertise	5%
Quality	PROJ1.2	Developing piloting interfaces expertise	5%
Quality	PROJ1.3	Proposed project plan	20%
Quality	PROJ1.4	Methodology	10%
Quality	PROJ1.5	Processes for testing and documenting software	10%
Quality	PROJ1.6	REST APIs, Agile software development and Microservices	10%

Evaluation of criteria

Non-Price elements

Each question will be judged on a score from 0 to 100, which shall be subjected to a multiplier to reflect the percentage of the evaluation criteria allocated to that question.

> Where an evaluation criterion is worth 20% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 20%.

> Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 12% by using the following calculation:

Score = {weighting percentage} x {bidder's score} = 20% x 60 = 12

The same logic will be applied to groups of questions which equate to a single evaluation criterion.

The 0-100 score shall be based on (unless otherwise stated within the question):

0	The Question is not answered or the response is completely unacceptable.
10	Extremely poor response – they have completely missed the point of the question.
20	Very poor response and not wholly acceptable. Requires major revision to the response to make it acceptable. Only partially answers the requirement, with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed.
40	Poor response only partially satisfying the selection question requirements with deficiencies apparent. Some useful evidence provided but response falls well short of expectations. Low probability of being a capable supplier.
60	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire.
80	Good response which describes their capabilities in detail which provides high levels of assurance consistent with a quality provider. The response includes a full description of techniques and measurements currently employed.
100	Response is exceptional and clearly demonstrates they are capable of meeting the requirement. No significant weaknesses noted. The response is compelling in its description of techniques and measurements currently employed, providing full assurance consistent with a quality provider.

All questions will be scored based on the above mechanism. Please be aware that the final score returned may be different as there may be multiple evaluators and their individual scores will be averaged (mean) to determine your final score.

Example
Evaluator 1 scored your bid as 60
Evaluator 2 scored your bid as 60
Evaluator 3 scored your bid as 40
Evaluator 4 scored your bid as 40
Your final score will (60+60+40+40) ÷ 4 = 50

Price elements will be judged on the following criteria.

The lowest price for a response which meets the pass criteria shall score 100.
All other bids shall be scored on a pro rata basis in relation to the lowest price. The score is then subject to a multiplier to reflect the percentage value of the price criterion.

For example - Bid 1 £100,000 scores 100.
Bid 2 £120,000 differential of £20,000 or 20% remove 20% from price scores 80
Bid 3 £150,000 differential £50,000 remove 50% from price scores 50.
Bid 4 £175,000 differential £75,000 remove 75% from price scores 25.
Bid 5 £200,000 differential £100,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.
Bid 6 £300,000 differential £200,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.
Where the scoring criterion is worth 50% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 50.

In the example if a supplier scores 80 from the available 100 points this will equate to 40% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points multiplied by 50 (80/100 x 50 = 40)

The lowest score possible is 0 even if the price submitted is more than 100% greater than the lowest price.

Section 6 – Evaluation questionnaire

Bidders should note that the evaluation questionnaire is located within the **e-sourcing questionnaire.**

Guidance on completion of the questionnaire is available at
http://www.uksbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/supplier.aspx

PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY

Section 7 – General Information

DO:

7.1   Do comply with Procurement document instructions. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification.

7.2   Do provide the Bid on time, and in the required format. Remember that the date/time given for a response is the last date that it can be accepted; we are legally bound to disqualify late submissions. Unless formally requested to do so by UK SBS e.g. Emptoris system failure

7.3   Do ensure you have read all the training materials to utilise e-sourcing tool prior to responding to this Bid. If you send your Bid by email or post it will be rejected.

7.4   Do use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint Excel 97-03 or compatible formats, or PDF unless agreed in writing by the Buyer. If you use another file format without our written permission we may reject your Bid.

7.5   Do ensure you utilise the Emptoris messaging system to raise any clarifications to our ITQ. You should note that we will release the answer to the question to all Bidders and where we suspect the question contains confidential information we may modify the content of the question to protect the anonymity of the Bidder or their proposed solution

7.6   Do answer the question, it is not enough simply to cross-reference to a 'policy', web page or another part of your Bid, the evaluation team have limited time to assess bids and if they can't find the answer, they can't score it.

7.7   Do consider who who the Contracting Authority is and what they want – a generic answer does not necessarily meet every Contracting Authority's needs.

7.8   Do reference your documents correctly, specifically where supporting documentation is requested e.g. referencing the question/s they apply to.

7.9   Do provide clear , concise and ideally generic contact details; telephone numbers, e-mails and fax details.

7.10   Do complete all questions in the questionnaire or we may reject your Bid.

7.11   Do check and recheck your Bid before dispatch.

What makes a good bid – some simple do not's ☹

DO NOT

7.12   Do not cut and paste from a previous document and forget to change the previous details such as the previous buyer's name.

7.13   Do not attach 'glossy' brochures that have not been requested, they will not be read unless we have asked for them. Only send what has been requested and only send supplementary information if we have offered the opportunity so to do.

7.14   Do not share the Procurement documents, they are confidential and should not be shared with anyone without the Buyers written permission.

7.15   Do not seek to influence the procurement process by requesting meetings or contacting UK SBS or the Contracting Authority to discuss your Bid. If your Bid requires clarification the Buyer will contact you. All information secured outside of formal Buyer communications shall have no Legal standing or worth and should not be relied upon.

7.16   Do not contact any UK SBS staff or the Contracting Authority staff   without the Buyers written permission or we may reject your Bid.

7.17   Do not collude to fix or adjust the price or withdraw your Bid with another Party as we will reject your Bid.

7.18   Do not offer UK SBS or or the Contracting Authority staff any inducement   or we will reject your Bid.

7.19   Do not seek changes to the Bid after responses have been submitted and the deadline for Bids to be submitted has passed.

7.20   Do not cross reference answers to external websites or other parts of your Bid, the cross references and website links will not be considered.

7.21   Do not exceed word counts, the additional words will not be considered.

7.22   Do not make your Bid conditional on acceptance of your own Terms of Contract, as your Bid will be rejected.

7.23   All enquiries with respect to access to the e-sourcing tool and problems with functionality within the tool must be submitted to Crown Commercial Service (previously Government Procurement Service), Telephone 0345 010 3503.

7.24   Bidders will be specifically advised where attachments are permissible to support a question response within the e-sourcing tool. Where they are not permissible any attachments submitted will not be considered as part of the evaluation process.

7.25   Question numbering is not sequential and all questions which require submission are included in the Section 6 Evaluation Questionnaire.

7.26   Any Contract offered may not guarantee any volume of work or any exclusivity of supply.

7.27   We do not guarantee to award any Contract as a result of this procurement

7.28   All documents issued or received in relation to this procurement shall be the property of the Contracting Authority. / UKSBS.

7.29   We can amend any part of the procurement documents at any time prior to the latest date / time Bids shall be submitted through Emptoris.

7.30   If you are a Consortium you must provide details of the Consortiums structure.

7.31   Bidders will be expected to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or your Bid will be rejected.

7.32   Bidders should note the Government's transparency agenda requires your Bid and any Contract entered into to be published on a designated, publicly searchable web site. By submitting a response to this ITQ Bidders are agreeing that their Bid and Contract may be made public

7.33   Your bid will be valid for 90 days or your Bid will be rejected.

7.34   Bidders may only amend the contract terms during the clarification period only, only if you can demonstrate there is a legal or statutory reason why you cannot accept them. If you request changes to the Contract terms without such grounds and the Contracting Authority fail to accept your legal or statutory reason is reasonably justified we may reject your Bid.

7.35   We will let you know the outcome of your Bid evaluation and where requested will provide a written debrief of the relative strengths and weaknesses of your Bid.

7.36   If you fail mandatory pass / fail criteria we will reject your Bid.

7.37   Bidders are required to use IE8, IE9, Chrome or Firefox in order to access the functionality of the Emptoris e-sourcing tool.

7.38   Bidders should note that if they are successful with their proposal the Contracting Authority reserves the right to ask additional compliancy checks prior to the award of

any Contract. In the event of a Bidder failing to meet one of the compliancy checks the Contracting Authority may decline to proceed with the award of the Contract to the successful Bidder.

7.39   All timescales are set using a 24 hour clock and are based on British Summer Time or Greenwich Mean Time, depending on which applies at the point when Date and Time Bids shall be submitted through Emptoris.

7.40   All Central Government Departments and their Executive Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies are subject to control and reporting within Government. In particular, they report to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury for all expenditure. Further, the Cabinet Office has a cross-Government role delivering overall Government policy on public procurement - including ensuring value for money and related aspects of good procurement practice.

For these purposes, the Contracting Authority may disclose within Government any of the Bidders documentation/information (including any that the Bidder considers to be confidential and/or commercially sensitive such as specific bid information) submitted by the Bidder to the Contracting Authority during this Procurement. The information will not be disclosed outside Government. Bidders taking part in this ITQ consent to these terms as part of the competition process.

7.41   The Government is introducing its new Government Security Classifications (GSC) classification scheme on the 2nd April 2014 to replace the current Government Protective Marking System (GPMS). A key aspect of this is the reduction in the number of security classifications used. All Bidders are encouraged to make themselves aware of the changes and identify any potential impacts in their Bid, as the protective marking and applicable protection of any material passed to, or generated by, you during the procurement process or pursuant to any Contract awarded to you as a result of this tender process will be subject to the new GSC . The link below to the Gov.uk website provides information on the new GSC:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to amend any security related term or condition of the draft contract accompanying this ITQ to reflect any changes introduced by the GSC. In particular where this ITQ is accompanied by any instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as a result of any changes stemming from the new GSC, whether in respect of the applicable protective marking scheme, specific protective markings given, the aspects to which any protective marking applies or otherwise. This may relate to the instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as they apply to the procurement as they apply to the procurement process and/or any contracts awarded to you as a result of the procurement process.

USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS

- Emptoris Training Guide
- Emptoris e-sourcing tool
- Contracts Finder
- Equalities Act introduction
- Bribery Act introduction
- Freedom of information Act