**T1155 detonators – suppliers conference call**

Attendees from RSSB, SYSTRA Scott Lister, DNVG, Bridgeway consulting, Rail Safety and Systems Assurance

Background – detonators have been used for 180 years as safety protection method. Previous research (T507) done before indicated more investment should be on staff competency rather than the removal of detonators. Since this work there has been advances in technology and rail safety performance, indicating that detonators may no longer be the right solution to control the hazards they protect.

T1155 has been structure research in collaboration with industry members to review of 9 scenarios (taken from RSSB rule book). Each scenario should be assessed to identify the hazards and possible alternative approaches, such as new technology or change in process. The work should assess the risk and benefits from removing dets, identify alternatives to detonators for each scenarios and undertake a quantified the risk assessment for each case scenarios as identified in the specification.

This work should align with work already undertaken, including assistance to failed train and emergency protection. Available information on these cases can be provided to the supplier to build upon in their assessment.

The project scope was outlined and it was noted that T507 – was done 10 years ago which included a review of international practices. This is available on SPARK - <https://www.sparkrail.org/Lists/Records/DispForm.aspx?ID=9597>, <https://www.sparkrail.org/Lists/Records/DispForm.aspx?ID=9599>

An overview of the required methodology was provided, outlined in line with the specification.

There are a number of deliverables that include individual reports for each scenario/case, reporting on alternative options to detonators, summary implementation strategy for each case, Exec summary presentation, and research in brief.

RSSB will provide support to supplier with steering group members from across industry and this will include quarterly meetings. Project expected to start by end of October.

We would like the supplier to consider first case to be delivered is assistance to failed train - then supplier to prioritise list with steering group.

Budget £210K

Selection award criteria – would recommend to suppliers that all answers have been covered clearly and the evaluation criteria questions are satisfied.

**Open to questions**

Q: RSSB did a project on track occupancy permits is there any outputs available from that project that can be shared?

A: We will need to go back and check. RSSB can confirm information on this can be provided to the supplier when in contract.

Q: a clarification question was asked on the communication plan for this work.

A: Communication plan has been developed and we would ask supplier during the project to help build and continue with this. It is included in the spec and evaluation criteria question so please consider this in your bids.

Q: can you address the queries sent in by email

A: yes, these will also be published on contracts finder. These are:

* Q: What elapsed time should be allowed for the Operations Principles Group review and acceptance of the reports?

A: Suppliers are advised that the Operations Principles Group meet monthly, which may be factored into their project proposals.

* Q: Cost Breakdown. Would it be acceptable for the lowest level of cost breakdown to be on the five deliverable worstreams identified in section 7 of the ITT (Risk Assessment Reports, Alternative Options to Detonators Report, Summary and Implementation Strategy, executive Summary Presentation of Key findings and Research in Brief).

A: Yes, although we are not looking for costs against each scenario but for one cost for overall. However, it would be useful to RSSB to see a cost breakdown per case/scenario but would accept one overall cost.

* Q: Will RSSB facilitate the contact with overseas administrations in relation to the Alternative Options to Detonators?

A: RSSB have contact with a selection of overseas stakeholders and will provide those contacts. It is expected that the supplier will manage the successful engagement with these stakeholders and additionally identify and engage with any additional stakeholders that do not have an existing contact with the RSSB team.

Q: is everyone clear what RSSB are asking to be delivered?

A: all “yes”

Any further questions – keep checking contracts finder for further updates or write in to us. The evaluation criteria explained again

Meeting closed after 30 minutes.