

**RFI0050**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**NavyX Remotely Actuated Day Shapes**

**RFI Title:** NavyX Remotely Actuated Day Shapes

**Issue Date:** 11/11/2024

**Reference:** RFI0050

**Version:** 1.0

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# Introduction

This RFI is an information gathering exercise, no further discussions with industry are planned at this stage however any future procurement activity will be advertised in line with public procurement regulations on the Defence Sourcing Portal and Contracts Finder.

1. Background

NavyX, as the RN’s innovation, lethality, and autonomy accelerator, has been set the headmark of delivering and trialling IMO degree 4 autonomy onto one or more Naval Service owned surface platforms. A current challenge presented by operating at IMO degree 4 autonomy is how a ship can display the correct day shapes in line with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs). For an autonomous vessel to fulfil the requirements of the regulations, there is a need for a remotely actuated day shape system.

The Royal Navy are seeking information on remotely actuated day shapes systems and projects at all levels of technological readiness from companies and non-commercial organisations and institutions that are potentially capable of meeting the following objectives:

* 1. A remotely actuated day shape system which would be compliant with the requirements set out in the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) and suitable for a maritime environment.
  2. The solution must be appropriate for installation on a Large Uncrewed Surface Vessel (LUSV) of around 50m (LoA).
  3. The systems should seek to use the minimal space, weight and power requirements.

1. RFI intended objectives

This RFI aims to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Understand the ‘art of the possible’ in fully or partially meeting the specified objectives subject to further refinement of requirements.
2. To understand if appropriate where mutually beneficial partnerships may be established between MOD (NavyX) and organisations to further the understanding and development of solutions relevant to the objectives.
3. Align the MOD requirement with industry capability and processes for procurement of the required solution.
4. Develop a procurement strategy that will deliver best value for money for Defence.
5. To inform a Procurement Strategy that enables the implementation of an enduring solution.
6. RFI Procedure

Responses to this RFI will be reviewed by subject matter experts from different functional areas within Navy Command Headquarters.

If upon review of your submission any clarifications or additional information is required, you will be contacted using the details provided in your RFI response.

Any details provided in response to this RFI will be used for information purposes only and will not be used to determine the potential Suppliers who will be invited to bid, should the Authority proceed to tender.

The results and analysis of this RFI shall not constitute any form of pre-qualification exercise.

Any formal procurement process will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Procurement Law.

Nothing in this RFI, or any other engagements with Industry prior to a formal procurement process, shall be construed as a representation as to the Authority’s ultimate decision in relation to the future requirement.

1. How to submit responses to this RFI

Respondents should provide responses in accordance with the format provided in **Annex A** quoting the RFI reference on all documentation and emails**.**

Organisations may submit multiple solutions, one solution per form.

Please do not submit additional documents such as company overviews, the purpose of the RFI is to collect information related to the technical solution, any additional documents will not be included in the review process.

Any responses received after the deadline will be passed to the subject matter experts for information, however they may not be included in the RFI review meetings which are to be held immediately following the deadline.

Once completed, please return electronically to the e-mail address(es) shown below in **section 9,** no later than **9th December 2024 @ 12pm**

Responses will be acknowledged electronically by return e-mail.

1. Confidentiality & Proprietary Information

No information included in your response, or in discussions connected to it, will be disclosed to any other third party.

Proprietary information, where included, should be kept to minimum and must be clearly marked.

**For the purposes of this RFI, any documentation submitted should be classification OFFICIAL**.

1. Costs of preparing your RFI response

Any costs relating to the preparation and submission of a response to this RFI are the sole responsibility of the respondent.

## Insurance

Not used

## Contact

Quoting the RFI reference, please submit

1. any requests for clarification
2. all responses to this RFI and
3. any questions regarding Classification of document(s) intended for submission, to:

[NAVYCOMRCL-RFI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NAVYCOMRCL-RFI@mod.gov.uk)

**The deadline for RFI questions is the 25th of November 2024 @ 12pm. All questions and responses will be published alongside the RFI details on Contracts Finder and the Defence Sourcing Portal within the original Early Engagement Notice.**

1. Annex A

**RFI0050 NavyX Remotely Actuated Day Shapes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answer** |
| Company/Organisation Name |  |
| Company/Organisation Address |  |
| If the respondent is not a company, please specify the nature of the organisation (i.e. Academic institution, enterprise group, research group etc.) |  |
| Is the company a Small - Medium Enterprise (less than 250 employees)? |  |
|  | |
| Name of Company/Organisation representative completing the RFI |  |
| Contact details (e-mail and telephone number) |  |
| Company/Organisation web site address |  |
|  | |
| How would you propose to meet the objectives specified? | NMT 500 words |
| In meeting the objectives specified would you be proposing a high TRL Commercial of the Shelf (COTS) solution? Please provide as much detail as possible. | NMT 500 Words – Include TRL of proposed solution |
| Or: | |
| In meeting the proposed objectives would you be proposing a solution that through partnering with MOD would enable further development? Please provide as much detail as possible. | NMT 500 Words – Include TRL of proposed solution |
| If proposing a solution, would this fully or partially meet the objectives specified? Please provide as much detail as possible. | NMT 500 Words |
| If proposing a solution would the company or organisation be able to provide ongoing technical support and training.  Please provide as much detail as possible. | NMT 500 Words |
| To understand ROM Costs please specify within which cost bracket any proposed solution may fall as a initial procurement. | <£10K  £10K-30K  £30K-£150K  £150K-£300K  >£300K |
| To understand ROM Costs please specify within which cost bracket any proposed solution would cost in terms of ongoing support and training that may be provided. (per year for 1 system, 2 operators) | <£1K  £1-5K  £5-10K  £10K-30K  £30K-£150K  >£150K |
| **Innovative solutions are most welcome, even if they do not meet all the requirements above, we would welcome the opportunity to consider the positives and negatives.** | |
|  | |