**Market Engagement -Request for Information (RFI)**

**About the UK Space Agency**

The UK Space Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and plays a major role in delivering the government’s National Space Strategy. This includes supporting a thriving space sector in the UK, which generates an annual income of £16.5 billion and employs 47,000 people across the country.

UK Space Agency employs scientists, engineers, commercial experts, project managers and policy officials who help to:

* catalyse investment to support projects that drive investment and generate contracts for the UK space sector.
* deliver missions and capabilities that meet public needs and advance our understanding of the Universe.
* champion the power of space to inspire people, offer greener, smarter solutions, and support a sustainable future.

**About this Request for Information (RFI)**

The Government’s ambition is to increase prosperity for all, creating opportunity in every part of the UK. Space drives growth and productivity across many areas of the UK economy. The UK Space Agency is looking to fund investment focussed high impact programmes aimed at accelerating high potential UK companies and supporting them through their investment journey.

This call aims to coordinate and leverage private investment experts to support companies to raise investment and beyond. Supporting business to attain investment will help to create a strong and vibrant space sector and to make the UK one of the most attractive countries for space businesses of all sizes to grow and thrive, a key strategic objective set out in the National Space Strategy.

**Objectives**

UK Space Agency plans to support investment led accelerators by providing grant funding to attract and support the top UK high potential space companies on their investment journey.

**Scope of this Request for Information (RFI)**

UK Space Agency is seeking information and ideas from relevant stakeholders to understand the appetite for such a programme and gain insight into the potential impact of supporting existing investment focussed business support programmes to unlock growth in the UK Space sector.

We would like expert opinion in relation to the questions in the **Questionnaire** part of this document.

Re: the programme, how would you attract high potential growth space companies to your programme and how would they be supported to investment readiness. What investor networks do you have and how would any successful companies be matched or introduced to them.

We are keen to facilitate an ongoing journey of support through different investment stages, so an idea of how companies could be supported beyond an initial introduction or investment event.

UK Space Agency has its own Space Accelerator programme, supporting early-stage space entrepreneurs, how could your programme and network complement and add value to that programme and other UK Space Agency initiatives?

We are seeking expert insights on the anticipated cost and match funding of supporting investment focussed business support programmes and the proposed timescales.

**How the information you provide will be used and treated:**

Responses received together with wider available information will be used to guide UK Space Agency’s next steps for developing a request for proposals and shape the requirement for an investment focussed support call. The planned call (RFP) will invite proposals that include but will not be limited to, demonstrating how respondents will attract and support high potential space companies, the support they will provide to the selected companies, the amount of investment they anticipate they can support the companies to raise and the numbers and types of investors they can leverage.

Information that you provide, not already in the public domain, will be treated as commercially sensitive information. This means that access to this information will be stored in a protected digital folder restricted to UKSA staff involved with the purpose of this RFI.

If the UK Space Agency wishes to share your information with any external partners, it will consult with you first and shall ensure that confidentiality agreements with such partners are in place.

All personal data will be protected according to UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) rules.

All responses collected will be deleted by 31 December 2028 when we expect all initial activities regarding the purpose would have expired. The information gathered will not be used beyond the stated purpose without explicit permission.

**Proposed Timescales**

Market Engagement (RFI)– 13th September 2023

Questions and Clarifications Webinar – 18th September 12:00

Request for Proposals – Early October 2023

Evaluation – Mid November 2023

Contract – Early December 2023

Delivery – December 2023 – December 2024

**RFI Participation Process:**

Please provide answers to the below RFI questions on a submission of no more than two pages A4.

The two-page submissions should be sent as either a Microsoft Word or PDF (Portable Document Format) to SpaceAccelerator@ukspaceagency.gov.uk and commercial@ukspaceagency.gov.uk using the subject heading “Investment Accelerator RFI UKSAG23\_0090”:

The deadline for responses is 12.00 noon on 27th September 2023.

We will be running a questions and clarifications webinar from 11:00 – 12:00 on Monday 18th September 2023.

Please register for the event here. The link will open at 8am 14th September 2023 for registration.

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| --- | --- |
| RFI Reference Number | UKSAG23\_0090 |
| Organisation Name |  |
| Address |  |
| Contact Name |  |
| Email address |  |

**Questionnaire**

Please provide the following information plus any other information you deem relevant to maximise the impact of funding investment focussed accelerators to support high potential companies on their investment journeys.

1. Please provide a budgetary estimate of how much you would charge to deliver the type of programme outlined in this RFI? Please indicate the full cost of the proposed activity and how much contribution from UK Space Agency would deliver the desired outcomes.
2. Is the suggested 6-week window enough time to submit quality proposals? If not, how much time would you recommend for the Call to be open to allow time to collate and submit quality proposals?
3. What would your methodology be for attracting UK based high potential growth space companies?
4. How many companies would you envisage supporting through your programme for the anticipated £125K of UK Space Agency funding?
5. How would these companies be supported to investment readiness?
6. How would you ensure that they were adequately prepared to successfully meet or pitch to investors?
7. What mechanism would you adopt to facilitate introduction to investors?
8. What level of investment do you envisage these companies could raise with your support?
9. What arrangements would be in place to support selected companies on their ongoing investment journey?
10. How would you ensure that your offer is complimentary to other programmes and if applicable how could it benefit other UK Space Agency initiatives i.e., UK Space Agency Accelerator, Space Ecosystem Development etc.
11. What types of investor network do you have access to and how would you, and your investor networks remain engaged with the UK Space Agency beyond the timeframe of any grant funding agreement.

**Privacy Notice:**

This notice sets out how we will use your personal data, and your rights. It is made under Articles 13

and/or 14 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

**YOUR DATA**

The data

We will process the following personal data:

Names and contact details of employees involved in preparing and submitting responses to the Request for Information.

Purpose

We are processing your personal data for the purposes of the Request for Information (RFI) described within the accompanying RFI.

Legal basis of processing

The legal basis for processing your personal data is Consent.

Recipients

Your personal data may be shared by us with other Government Departments or public authorities where necessary as part of the RFI exercise. We may share your data if we are required to do so by law, for example by court order or to prevent fraud or other crime.

As your personal data will be stored on our IT infrastructure it will also be shared with our data processors Microsoft and Amazon Web Services.

Retention

All responses collected including personal data will be deleted by 31 December 2028 when we expect all initial activities regarding the purpose would have expired. The information gathered will not be used beyond the stated purpose without explicit permission.

Automated decision making

Your personal data will not be subject to automated decision making.

**YOUR RIGHTS**

You have the right to request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data.

You have the right to request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay.

You have the right to request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement.

You have the right to request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.

You have the right in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data where it is processed for direct marketing purposes.

You have the right to withdraw consent to the processing of your personal data at any time.

You have the right to request a copy of any personal data you have provided, and for this to be provided in a structured, commonly used, and machine-readable format.

**COMPLAINTS**

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an UK independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner’s Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

0303 123 1113

casework@ico.org.uk

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

The data controller for your personal data is the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology DSIT). You can contact the DSIT Data Protection Officer at:

DSIT Data Protection Officer

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

1 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0ET

Email: dataprotection@dsit.gov.uk