



Invitation to Quote

**Invitation to Quote (ITQ) on behalf of The Science & Technology
Facilities Council**

**Subject UK SBS D100X Optics – Small Aperture Mirrors & Lenses
for a High Energy Laser**

Sourcing reference number PR16083

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

Registered in England and Wales as a limited company. Company Number 6330639.
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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 our customers improve efficiency, generate savings and modernise.

It is our vision to become the leading provider for our customers 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 customers. This allows our customers 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 its customers, 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

Our Customers

Growing from a foundation of supporting the Research Councils, 2012/13 saw Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) 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 Customers.

Our Procurement ambition

Our vision is to be recognised as a centre of excellence and deliver a broad range of procurement services across the public sector; to maintain and grow a procurement service unrivalled in public sector.

Procurement is a market-shaping function. Industry derived benchmarks indicate that UK SBS is already performing at or above “best in class” in at least three key measures (percentage savings, compliant spend, spend under management) and compare well against most other measures.

Over the next five years, it is the function’s ambition to lead a cultural change in procurement in the public sector. The natural extension of category management is to bring about a fundamental change in the attitude to supplier relationship management.

Our philosophy sees the supplier as an asset to the business and the route to maximising value from supply. This is not a new concept in procurement generally, but it is not a philosophy which is widely employed in the public sector.

We are ideally positioned to “lead the charge” in the government’s initiative to reform procurement in the public sector.

UK SBS Procurement’s unique selling points are:

- Focus on the full procurement cycle
- Leaders in category management in common and specialised areas
- Expertise in the delivery of major commercial projects
- That we are leaders in procurement to support research
- Use of cutting edge technologies which are superior to those used generally used across the public sector.
- Use of market leading analytical tools to provide comprehensive Business Intelligence
- Active customer and supplier management

‘UK SBS’ contribution to the Government Procurement Agenda has been impressive. Through innovation and leadership UK SBS has built an attractive portfolio of procurement services from P2P to Strategy Category Management.’

John Collington

Former Government Chief Procurement Officer

Section 2 – About Our Customer

Science and Technology Facilities Council

STFC is a world-leading multi-disciplinary science organisation, whose goal is to deliver economic, societal, scientific and international benefits to the UK and its people – and more broadly to the world.

STFC support an academic community of around 1,700 in particle physics, nuclear physics, and astronomy including space science, who work at more than 50 universities and research institutes in the UK, Europe, Japan and the United States, including a rolling cohort of more than 900 PhD students.

The organisation's large-scale scientific facilities in the UK and Europe are used by more than 3,500 users each year, carrying out more than 2,000 experiments and generating around 900 publications.

The combination of access to world-class research facilities and scientists, office and laboratory space, business support, and an environment which encourages innovation has proven a compelling combination, attracting start-ups, SMEs and large blue chips such as IBM and Unilever.

Examples of funded research

- STFC is providing the design infrastructure for the £23bn UK microelectronics sector that underpins strategically important industries worth £78bn to the UK economy
- STFC's ISIS facility and its users, working in partnership with the NHS, developed a novel material to improve the treatment of cleft lip and palate, speeding up healing times and reducing operating costs
- STFC's Synchrotron Radiation Source was used to understand how conventional anti-malarial drugs work, allowing the development of more effective treatment to reduce the devastating global impact of malaria
- STFC's ISIS facility is identifying new materials that can safely and conveniently store hydrogen, enabling the development of hydrogen-fuelled cars reducing reliance on fossil fuels and cutting carbon emissions

www.stfc.ac.uk

Section 3 - Working with UK Shared Business Services Ltd.

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	Customer Name and address	Science & Technology Facilities Council Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Harwell Oxford OX11 0QX
3.2	Buyer name	Jonathan Smith
3.3	Buyer contact details	jonathan.smith@uksbs.co.uk phone : +44 (0) 1235 – 446394
3.4	Estimated value of the Opportunity	£30,000.00 - £120,000.00
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 <u>will</u> result in the Bid <u>not</u> being considered.

Section 3 - Timescales		
3.6	Date of Issue of Contract Advert and location of original Advert	29/04/2016 Contracts Finder
3.7	Latest date/time ITQ clarification questions should be received through Emptoris messaging system	26/05/2016 14:00
3.8	Latest date/time ITQ clarification answers should be sent to all potential Bidders by the Buyer through Emptoris	27/05/2016 14:00
3.9	Latest date/time ITQ Bid shall be submitted through Emptoris	01/06/2016 14:00
3.10	Date/time Bidders should be available if face to face clarifications are required	N/A
3.11	Anticipated rejection of unsuccessful Bids date	15/06/2016

3.12	Anticipated Award date	27/06/2016
3.13	Anticipated Contract Start date	04/07/2016
3.14	Anticipated Delivery Date for confirmed 1x set of Optics	18/11/2016
3.15	Bid Validity Period	60 Days

Section 4 – Specification

D100X Optics Bundle 3 – Small Aperture Mirrors & Lenses for a High Energy Laser

Executive Summary

Proposals are sought by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) for the supply of a small aperture optics bundle comprising high-reflectivity (HR) rectangular mirrors and anti-reflection (AR) coated lenses. These will form an integral part of the multi-pass laser amplifier and beam transport for the 100 J amplifier system being built for the D-100X Project. These optics will be incorporated into the amplifier system and will be operated at room temperature in ambient atmospheric conditions. The optics will be tested in the system at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) in the UK, before being transported to and commissioned in the European XFEL Facility in Hamburg, Germany.

This document along with the accompanying technical specification sheets and drawings, describes the technical specification for these optics. The minimum scope of the contract is for manufacture, polishing, coating, optical testing, certification and delivery to RAL.

Please note: This tender opportunity is identified as ‘Bundle 3’ due to the procurement strategy for the D100X Project dividing the required optics into appropriate groupings for tender. Bundle 4 was advertised on 23rd March 2016. Bundle 3 is the second optics bundle to be procured. It is anticipated remaining Bundles of the optics will be tendered for in the next 1-2 months.

Technical Specification

There are a number of different optics within this bundle, all of which are required to be supplied as part of this tender.

Mirrors Overview

The **rectangular turning mirrors** will be used to steer a high energy square cross-section laser beam of aperture 33 mm x 23 mm at 1030 nm into the amplifier, from an initial low energy and average power level of $\sim 100 \text{ mJ @ } 10 \text{ Hz} = \sim 1 \text{ W}$, through the amplifier multiple times before emerging at a higher energy and average power level in excess of $10 \text{ J @ } 10 \text{ Hz} = 100 \text{ W}$.

The **0 degree HR mirrors** will be used in transmission to provide a monitor beam for a range of diagnostic systems. Therefore the transmitted wave-front of the mirror is more critical in these optics.

The **50.8mm beam transport mirrors** will be used to steer the high energy output from the amplifier to the next amplification stage. The energy and power level incident on these mirrors will be in excess of $10 \text{ J @ } 10 \text{ Hz} = 100 \text{ W}$.

The **76.2mm beam transport mirrors** will be used both in steering high energy output as well in transmission at 45 degrees to provide a monitor beam for a range of diagnostic systems. Therefore, high LIDT, quality of coating and the transmitted wave-front of mirror is more critical in these optics.

The **940HR beam splitter** mirrors will be used to steer the pump beam for the amplifier. The incident energy and power on these mirrors will up to $\sim 30 \text{ J @ } 10 \text{ Hz} = 300 \text{ W}$. These mirrors will also be transmissive at 1030 nm to minimise the amplified light entering the pump sources.

Table 1 shows the required number of the above mirror types, as well as the document numbers for the detailed specification sheet and drawing associated with each.

Lenses Overview

The **Square lenses** will be used in 1:1 relay-imaging telescopes, one on each pass of the amplifier, to allow propagation of a high energy square cross-section laser beam of aperture 23 mm x 23 mm at 1030 nm around the amplifier system. The initial beam will have a low energy and average power level of $\sim 100 \text{ mJ @ } 10 \text{ Hz} = \sim 1 \text{ W}$, that is passed through the amplifier several times before emerging at a higher energy and average power level in excess of $10 \text{ J @ } 10 \text{ Hz} = 100 \text{ W}$.

The **beam transport lens** will be used in a 1:4 beam expansion telescope at the input to the next amplifier stage. The energy and power level incident on this lens will be in excess of $10 \text{ J @ } 10 \text{ Hz} = 100 \text{ W}$.

All lenses will be AR coated on both faces and be used in an ambient temperature and pressure environment.

Table 1 below shows the required number of the above lens types, as well as the document numbers for the detailed specification sheet and drawing associated with each.

The supplier shall provide details of the coating technique they propose for the HR & AR coatings for each optic. In the event that the supplier is unable to meet all of the specifications given in the technical specification sheets, they shall indicate in their response the level of performance they are prepared to guarantee for any parameter whose specification they cannot meet. Under these circumstances the supplier shall also provide a target specification they aim to achieve.

Wherever possible the supplier shall provide evidence, such as modelling results or test data, for similar coated optics that have demonstrated the required level of performance in representative environments to support their proposal.

Witness samples & testing

The Supplier shall provide a breakdown of the testing they intend to carry out to provide proof that the optics meet the required specification. This will include witness samples of relevant substrates / coatings and, for example, any LIDT tests carried out.

Pricing & Quantity

The Supplier shall provide a total price based on the quantities provided in Table 1.

In addition to this, the Supplier shall provide a price breakdown indicating the cost for the polished substrate, the HR coatings, the AR coatings, testing, marking/certification & delivery as per question AW5.2.

The Supplier is also requested to provide costs for additional numbers of each optic within a suitable quantity range, i.e. 1-4, 4-8 etc **though this will not be part of the scoring methodology for question AW5.2.** The provision of these additional costs is addressed in question AW6.14.

STFC wish to retain the option to buy further sets of optics, as specified above, at some point during the next four years. The Supplier shall provide a price for ordering an additional set/s within 12, 24, 36 and 48 months of the contract award date. **The price for additional sets will not be part of the scoring methodology for question AW5.2.**

The Contract is only for a confirmed one set of optics. Any additional order is not guaranteed, and at the sole discretion of the Customer.

The anticipated value of one set is £30k, with the anticipated value of up to four sets is £120k.

Delivery

Staged delivery of optics in batches is acceptable but the Supplier shall take the 'date required' for each optic type shown in Table 1 into account when assigning priority. The 'date required' represents the date by which all optics of a particular type must be supplied. The supplier shall provide a logically linked delivery schedule with their proposal.

Table 1: Summary of the optics required and the associated specification and drawing numbers for each.

Optic Description	Specification Document	Drawing Number	Qty	Date Required
D100X 10J 152mm HR940 Beam Splitter	D100X-SP-WP3-OPT-5-A-ISS	SL-1033616-A	3	18/11/2016
D100X 10J Rectangular Wedged Mirror Specification	D100X-SP-WP3-OPT-3-A-ISS	SL-1032907-A	54	18/11/2016
D100X 10J 50mm 0 deg HR mirror	D100X-SP-WP3-OPT-4-A -ISS	SL-1032956-A	8	18/11/2016
D100X 10J Square Lens	D100X-SP-WP3-OPT-6-A-ISS	SL-1033618-A	39	18/11/2016
D100X 10J-100J Beam Transport 50.8mm 45deg Mirror	D100X-SP-WP3-OPT-1-A-ISS	SL-1032958-A	2	18/11/2016
D100X 100J Beam Transport 76.2mm 45deg Mirror	D100X-SP-WP3-OPT-2-A -ISS	SL-1032957-A	8	18/11/2016
D100X 10J-100J Beam Transport 50.8mm Circular Lens	D100X-SP-WP3-OPT-7-A -ISS	SL-1033615-A	2	18/11/2016

The Contract duration shall be for a period of up to four years. Delivery of the confirmed first set of optics must be no later than 18th November 2016.

Up to three additional sets of optics may be ordered within four years of the contract award date. Any additional order is at the sole discretion of the Customer and is in no way guaranteed.

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, the Customer and any specific external stakeholders UK SBS deem 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 ($5+5+6=16 \div 3 = 5.33$))

Pass / fail criteria

Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject
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 Mandatory Elements of Specification
-	-	Invitation to Quote – received on time within e-sourcing tool

Scoring criteria

Evaluation Justification Statement

In consideration of this particular requirement UK SBS has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this ITQ. UK SBS 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	30.00%
Quality	AW6.2	Small Aperture Mirrors: Material	2.00%
Quality	AW6.3	Small Aperture Mirrors: Flatness & Flatness Gradient	10.00%
Quality	AW6.4	Small Aperture Mirrors: Reflectivity & defect	6.00%
Quality	AW6.5	Small Aperture Mirrors: Absorption, LIDT & Scatter	6.00%

Quality	AW6.6	Small Aperture Mirrors: Transmissive Wavefront	2.00%
Quality	AW6.7	Small Aperture Lenses: Material	2.00%
Quality	AW6.8	Small Aperture Lenses: Back Focal Length	6.00%
Quality	AW6.9	Small Aperture Lenses: Flatness & Curvature	2.00%
Quality	AW6.10	Small Aperture Lenses: Reflectivity & defect	4.00%
Quality	AW6.11	Small Aperture Lenses: Absorption, Scatter & LIDT	4.00%
Quality	AW6.12	Small Aperture Lenses: Transmitted wavefront and Transmitted wavefront gradient	6.00%
Quality	AW6.13	Methodology & Testing	4.00%
Quality	AW6.14	Information & Costing for Additional Optics	4.00%
Quality	AW6.15	Quality Procedures	4.00%
Quality	AW6.16	Delivery Schedule	8.00%

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/Total Points available multiplied by 20 ($60/100 \times 20 = 12$)

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 10% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 10.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 6% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points available multiplied by 10 ($60/100 \times 10 = 6$)

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 $(60+60+40+40) \div 4 = 50$

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: $\text{Score/Total Points multiplied by 50}$ $(80/100 \times 50 = 40)$

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

What makes a good bid – some simple do's ☺

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.
- 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 typically 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 your customer is and what they want – a generic answer does not necessarily meet every customer'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 and concise 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 Customer to discuss your Bid. If your Bid requires clarification the Buyer will contact you.
- 7.16 Do not contact any UK SBS staff or Customer 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 Customer 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.

Some additional guidance notes

- 7.23 All enquiries with respect to access to the e-sourcing tool and problems with functionality within the tool may 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.
- 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 UK SBS.
- 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 60 days or your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.34 Bidders may only amend the Contract terms if you can demonstrate there is a legal or statutory reason why you cannot accept them. If you request changes to the Contract and UK SBS 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 UK SBS 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 UK SBS 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, UK SBS 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 UK SBS 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 From 2nd April 2014 the Government is introducing its new Government Security Classifications (GSC) classification scheme 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 from 2nd April 2014. The link below to the Gov.uk website provides information on the new GSC:

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

UK SBS 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](#)
- [Tenders Electronic Daily](#)
- [Equalities Act introduction](#)
- [Bribery Act introduction](#)
- [Freedom of information Act](#)