NAME: The Department for Business and Trade - Early Market Engagement Event for GTN Talent and Business Showcase Platform.

**Introduction**

The Department for Business and Trade (“DBT”) has a potential requirement for the provision of a Talent and Business Showcase Platform, an online portal which will connect UK employers with international talent with an interest in moving to the UK and support community building.

DBT has not reached a final decision on the future of this requirement, and this early market engagement event is purely exploratory and does not commit DBT to future commercial activity.

**Context**

As set out in the UK Science and Technology Framework, the UK Government is committed to growing the UK’s competitive advantage in attracting international talent. DBT supports delivery of this commitment through the Global Talent Network (GTN). The mission of the Global Talent Network programme is to grow the UK’s science and technology (S&T) power by attracting the best science and technology talent through:

1. identifying highly skilled S&T talent with an interest in working in the UK

2. engaging and encouraging identified talent to pursue opportunities to work in the UK

3. providing support to streamline migration journeys

4. enabling UK employers to access international science and technology talent

In its first phase the GTN programme is focused on two markets (USA and India) and three sectors (AI, quantum technologies, and life sciences). DBT is also responsible for AI Futures, an initiative designed to attract next generation AI leaders to the UK from around the world.

**Needs**

Employers need to be able to efficiently and cost-effectively connect with potential international recruits who have the skills and experience they need and an interest in working in the UK. Highly skilled internationally mobile talent with an interest in working in the UK need to understand and be able to access UK job opportunities that are relevant to them. The GTN programme wants to ensure these needs are met in a way that boosts the likelihood that international talent choose UK jobs over other options.

**Potential Solution**

DBT is considering either buying or building a software solution to meet the above needs. We envisage a password protected, self-service online portal accessible to international talent and UK companies engaged by the GTN programme. It would enable:

1. international science and technology talent to upload their CVs and profile information and search jobs, uploaded by invited UK companies, by job category.
2. GTN client companies to upload jobs to the portal and search the list of international talent by job category.
3. A list of jobs scraped from websites agreed with DBT.
4. A community forum for international talent, companies and GTN staff to create interest groups and post messages.

The current service partly delivers this requirement through manually collecting job opportunities from UK companies, which are shared with international talent clients on an ad hoc basis.

The aim of this platform will be to:

1. generate a talent database from talent submissions, which can be accessed online by companies;
2. generate a jobs database from company submissions, which can be accessed online by international talent;
3. generate a jobs database from scraping a defined list of websites, which can be accessed online by international talent; and
4. provide a community forum for international talent, companies and GTN staff to post messages and news and connect with each other.

**Budget**

The budget is £250,000.00 (Ex VAT), however, please note we have asked a question around this within our RFI template.

**Market Engagement Objectives**

The main objectives of the early market engagement event:

1. Suppliers have a better understanding of what DBT want to achieve for any future procurement, so we encourage suppliers to ask questions.
2. DBT have a better understanding about what the market might be able to deliver, to help inform our future sourcing strategy. In addition, to enable us to have a better understanding of potential costs for this project.

**Next steps**

DBT will hold an early market engagement event virtually on MS teams on Thursday 18th January at 14:00 and invite suppliers to register their interest to attend the event.

Suppliers will be required to sign NDAs before attending the event.

Please register for the event by emailing: commercialddat@trade.gov.uk

Please note the deadline for requests to participate and for you to provide a response to the below RFI is 5pm on Tuesday 16th January.

If you are unable to attend the event but are interested in this requirement, then please email: commercialddat@businessandtrade.gov.uk

**ANNEX A – QUESTIONNAIRE**

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| No. | Question | Response  |
| 1 | **Specification:** 1. What, (if anything), has the Authority missed or overlooked in setting out the high level requirement and potential solution?
2. What additional information, parameters or steers could the Authority provide to enable bidders to develop well-targeted proposals, and why?
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| 2 | **Delivery**1. Are there off-shelf solutions which would effectively meet our requirements?
2. Approximately how long would it take to develop and/or configure the potential solution outlined above?
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| 3 | **Innovation:** 1. Based on the information you have been presented, are there any innovative ideas or suggestions on how to meet the requirement or deliver the solution?
2. Are there any market considerations which you would like to highlight to DBT which should be factored into the procurement?
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| 4 | **Pricing:**1. Please confirm if our budget of £250,000.00 is sufficient?
2. Alongside total price, please can you describe your pricing approach to this type of solution?
3. If there is a range in the price can you provide an explanation of factors that will decide this?
4. If you have proposed alternate solutions in (3), what would be the cost implications, if any?
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