Request for

Information (RFI)

Email Security Gateway

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# Introduction

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is currently seeking information from potential Suppliers active in the Marketplace in order to both qualify requirements and assess market supply opportunities for the provision of an Email Security Gateway.

CPS will seek to assess opportunities for implementing supply contracts for such products and services which will deliver tangible value for money and best in class quality whilst ensuring a compatible strategic fit. The Request for Information (RFI) is classified as pre-market engagement and a formal tender will be used to identify the supplier that best meets our needs.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) want to engage with Suppliers in the market to understand what solutions are available, the suitability to the organisation and how these can be delivered.

This Request for Information (RFI) document summarises the requirement and requests feedback to be provided via the supplier response to questions. This will aid the Authority to develop future requirements, inform future procurements, understand innovation as well as set an appropriate budget. The CPS is under no obligation to go out to the market following this exercise.

This Request for Information (RFI) document adheres to the [GCF Supplier Code of Conduct](../../Supplier%20Code%20of%20Conduct/GCF%20Supplier_Code_of_Conduct.pdf).

Following this exercise, the CPS may undertake further market engagement exercises to obtain and refine information.

## 1.1 Principles

**The principles of this request for information are as follows:**

**Consistent Messaging to the Market**

Dialogue with the market will be consistent and as open as is possible within the bounds of appropriate commercial confidentiality.

**Honesty and Openness**

Comments made will not be attributable, unless specifically agreed, and any/all discussions will work through possible options, however discussion does not imply that an option is preferred or, will be implemented, as consultation is to shape the process.

**Future Procurements**

These discussions do not form a part or any existing or future procurements and any feedback given during the discussions will have no influence on the participant’s role or standing in any future procurements. Accordingly, we do not encourage any marketing type statements in the documentation or during discussions.

**Confidentiality**

All information submitted or communicated by Suppliers will be treated as confidential and only used to inform internal strategies, tactics and document creation.

**Inconsistencies and Omissions**

Suppliers should promptly advise CPS in writing of any inconsistencies or omissions they find in the Engagement Materials or their submission responses.

# 2. Background: Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

The CPS is responsible for prosecuting most cases heard in the criminal courts in England and Wales. It is led by the Director of Public Prosecutions and acts independently on criminal cases investigated by the police and other agencies.

We have more than 6,000 highly trained staff whose duty is to make sure the right person is prosecuted for the right offence, and that trials are fair so that offenders are brought to justice whenever possible. We are proud to be recognised as a leading employer, committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the community we serve.

The CPS:

* decides which cases should be prosecuted – every charging decision is based on the same two-stage test in the Code for Crown Prosecutors which;
* determines the appropriate charges in more serious or complex cases, and advises the police during the early stages of investigations;
* prepares cases and presents them at court; and
* provides information, assistance and support to victims and prosecution witnesses.

**How we are organised and operate**

The CPS operates across England and Wales, with 14 regional teams prosecuting cases locally. Each of these 14 CPS Areas is headed by a Chief Crown Prosecutor (CCP) and works closely with local police forces and other criminal justice partners.

CPS Areas deal with a wide range of cases. The majority are less serious cases and are heard in the magistrates’ courts, while the most serious cases are heard in the Crown Court. CPS Direct, with prosecutors based across England and Wales, provides charging decisions to police forces and other investigators 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

There are also three Central Casework Divisions which deal with some of the most complex cases we prosecute. They work closely with specialist investigators from a range of organisations, including the National Crime Agency, HM Revenue and Customs and the Independent Police Complaints Commission, as well as with police forces across England and Wales.

**Our Values**

**We will be independent and fair**

We will prosecute independently, without bias and will seek to deliver justice in every case.

**We will be honest and open**

We will explain our decisions, set clear standards about the service the public can expect from us and be honest if we make a mistake.

**We will treat everyone with respect**

We will respect each other, our colleagues and the public we serve, recognising that there are people behind every case.

**We will behave professionally and strive for excellence**

We will work as one team, always seeking new and better ways to deliver the best possible service for the public. We will be efficient and responsible with tax-payers' money.

**Equality and Inclusion**

The CPS commitment to inclusion and equality is at the heart of how we work, underpinned by The Equality Act 2010. It is important to us both as an employer and in the way we approach our responsibilities as a prosecuting authority. The two are closely linked – supporting a diverse workforce allows us to provide a better service to the public.

We also value the insight we get from engaging directly with the communities we serve, who provide welcome scrutiny of our work. This inclusive approach means that:

* Effective community engagement builds greater trust with the public, higher victim and witness satisfaction, and better-informed prosecution policy and practice
* The CPS has an inclusive culture, reflected in a diverse workforce, locally and nationally, and at all levels of the organisation
* By opening up the CPS and acting on input from diverse communities, we aim to inspire greater confidence in our work, in particular from witnesses and victims, resulting in improved prosecution outcomes.

## 2.1 Existing Product/Service/Solution

The CPS is reviewing its email services and looking for a secure email gateway to replace the existing gateway which expires in January 2024. We are aiming to have the new service fully implemented by October 2023.

The current solution is for Broadcom Email Safeguarding.

## 2.2 Existing Other Factors (Non Functional)

N/A

# The Requirement

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is currently seeking information from potential Suppliers active in the Marketplace with a view to qualify requirements and assess market supply opportunities for the provision of an Email Security Gateway.

The route to market will be via procurement framework, for which the framework and timeline are still to be determined, but interested parties will be informed of the decision. However, there is no obligation for the CPS to proceed to tender following this RFI.

This request for information asks for resellers to respond with a list of products which meet the requirements set out below along with an estimated indicative cost for 1 year service.

The CPS is not looking to setup meetings with potential suppliers at this stage of the process, however we will be in touch should we require any further info.

We have already reviewed several vendors including Fortra, Sophos, Mimecast & Proofpoint. Whilst we expect these to be included in responses, we would like to ensure that all possible options are considered and the best solution for the CPS is selected.

The requirements the Email Security Gateway solution must meet is as follows:

1. **Proprietary and standards-based security functionality to reduce the risk of email borne threats such as: spam, business email compromise, viruses, ransomware, advanced persistent threats and browser exploit kits.**
2. **Standards-based security functionality to reduce the threat from email spoofing and content modification, including compliance with: DKIM (RFC6376), DMARC (RFC7489), SPF (RFC7208), SMTP (RFC5321), TLS 1.2 (RFC5246), TLS 1.3 (RFC8446), standards-based email structure support (RFCs: 2045, 2046, 2047, 2231 and 5322)**
3. **Support for new encryption standard MTS-STS (RFC8461) – must already be part of the product or have a release date of prior to October 2023.**
4. **Support for TLS-RPT (RFC8460) – must already be part of the product or on the vendors development roadmap.**
5. **Document sanitisation capabilities including removal of macros from office documents prior to delivery, removal of JavaScript/ActiveX from PDFs, removal of document properties (such as author and change history).**
6. **Deep content inspection and sandboxing capabilities.**
7. **Support for multiple domains.**
8. **Store and forward functionality.**
9. **Fully managed service hosted in the UK with geographical diversity.**
10. **Support for quarantining messages that are not forwarded.**
11. **Flexible and granular policies which can target different scenarios and different groups of users.**
12. **Ability to track & trace.**
13. **Role based access with ability to set different permissions for different groups of administrators.**

**For indicative pricing, there are currently 8000 users across the CPS.**

# Instructions to Respondents

Suppliers are required to submit responses to all questions contained within this RFI document and must be submitted to the Commercial Software Inbox (commercialsoftware@cps.gov.uk) by no later than 17:00 on Friday 5th May 2023.

CPS may use this information to identify a short-list of potential suppliers who may be given the opportunity to be included in a subsequent Invitation to Tender or Request for Pricing. Any requests where you are unable to offer a response should be clearly marked as “No response to this request”.

CPS will not be responsible for any expenses incurred in the preparation of your response.

You are advised to check the accuracy of your response prior to submitting, nor does this information constitute an offer capable of acceptance.

Please note that the information provided does not constitute any contractual binding or impose any obligations on either the Supplier or the CPS.

# Appendix 1: Supplier Questionnaire

This questionnaire has been designed to obtain the following information:

1. To achieve an understanding of your company its’ objectives and policies to evaluate the common areas of understanding for the formation of a positive working relationship.
2. To establish your company’s capabilities to meet our needs, business requirements, quality, service, and cost.

Please ensure that any additional documentation is appropriately titled as it is referenced within the below responses.

|  |
| --- |
| A - Supplier Information |
| A1.1 | Supplier Name**:** |
|  |
| A1.2 | Name and contact details: |
|  |
| A1.3 | Brief Organisation description and overview: |
|  |
| A1.4 | Please confirm whether your company is on a framework either directly, or through a partner (please state the partner company). |
|  |
| Please state any further frameworks you supply through: |
|  |
| B – Mandatory Standard Questions |
| B1 | Please provide a general overview of your understanding of what the CPS wants to deliver. |
|  |
| B2 | Please provide an overview of your solution/product and how this can deliver CPS’s requirements, including any additional services/functionality. |
|  |
| B3 | Have you made any assumptions from our requirements? Can you identify requirements that need further analysis and understanding? |
|  |
| B4 | Would you be willing to demonstrate your solution/product to representatives in CPS should this be required?  |
|  |  |
| C – Requirements Questions |
| C1 | Provide a list of products which meet the requirement details listed on page 4 and 5, alongside an indicative estimated cost for 1 year of service for 8,000 uses |
|  |