

Invitation to Quote

Invitation to Quote (ITQ) on behalf of Innovate UK

**Subject UK SBS PS17038 Collaborations between the UK and
Canada across the Agri-Food sector.**

Sourcing reference number PS17038

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

Registered in England and Wales as a limited company. Company Number 6330639.
Registered Office North Star House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 1FF
VAT registration GB618 3673 25
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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

Growing from a foundation of supporting the Research Councils, 2012/13 saw Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 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 Customers who have access to our services and Contracts are detailed [here](#).

Section 2 – About Our Customer

Innovate UK

The Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency – driving innovation to boost economic growth. It works with people, companies and partner organisations to find and drive the science and technology innovations that will grow the UK economy

Innovate UK is an organisation of around 300 staff, drawn mainly from business. It works across the UK, with a head office in Swindon.

With a strong business focus, Innovate UK drives growth by working with companies to de-risk, enable and support innovation. To do this, they work to:

- Determine which science and technology developments will drive future economic growth
- Meet UK innovators with great ideas in the fields they're focused on
- Fund the strongest opportunities
- Connect innovators with the right partners they need to succeed
- Help its innovators launch, build and grown successful businesses

Since 2007 Innovate UK has committed over £1.8 billion to innovation, matched by a similar amount in partner and business funding. They have helped more than 7,600 organisations with projects estimated to add more than £11.5 billion to the UK economy and create 55,000 extra new jobs

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	Innovate UK Polaris House North Star Avenue Swindon Wiltshire SN2 1FL
3.2	Buyer name	Jack Noden
3.3	Buyer contact details	Professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk
3.4	Estimated value of the Opportunity	Maximum contract value is £60,000.00 excluding VAT
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	01/03/2017 Contracts Finder
3.7	Latest date/time ITQ clarification questions should be received through Emptoris messaging system	07/03/2017 11:00
3.8	Latest date/time ITQ clarification answers should be sent to all potential Bidders by the Buyer through Emptoris	08/03/2017 14:00
3.9	Latest date/time ITQ Bid shall be submitted through Emptoris	15/03/2017 14:00
3.10	Date/time Bidders should be available if face to face clarifications are required	Not required.
3.11	Anticipated rejection of	21/03/2017

	unsuccessful Bids date	14:00
3.12	Anticipated Award date	21/03/2017
3.13	Anticipated Contract Start date	22/03/2017
3.14	Anticipated Contract End date	30/06/2017
3.15	Bid Validity Period	60 Days

Section 4 – Specification

Background to the Requirement

Innovate UK is organising an outward ‘scoping’ mission to Canada, in partnership with the Canadian High Commission, to better understand the Canadian agri-food sector and key challenges being faced. This will help to inform about key challenges facing the sector, and where there may be opportunities to collaborate for mutual benefit.

Importantly, this mission will initiate engagement with key Canadian stakeholders across policy / funding; the research-base and industry to raise awareness of UK interest in future collaboration opportunities across the agri-food sector when common priorities can be identified.

The activities described above are the next steps that would enable this process to be developed further, and key priorities to be mutually identified to establish where common challenges exist that may benefit from collaborations between the UK and Canada through new science and technology partnerships.

Aims

The aim of the tender exercise is to identify a service provider with the necessary skills and expertise to achieve the successful delivery of missions and strategic research agendas / roadmaps (including both virtual and physical ‘workshop’ activities). This will involve strong facilitation skills that can help to build and establish connections between key UK and international stakeholders across policy / Government, industry and the research-base. The contract will need to support key outputs; including reports from workshop activities and the publication of a UK / Canada roadmap with recommendations about short- medium- and long-term challenges facing the sector, and where bi-lateral collaborations will meet the challenges for mutual benefit.

Objectives

Development of a UK / Canada Agri-Food Strategic Research Agenda: Through a ‘virtual’ on-line facilitated event to identify short-; medium-; and long-term challenges facing the UK and Canadian sectors and where collaborations across industry and the research-base can help to address these challenges for mutual benefit.

Inward Canadian mission to UK and Workshop to develop UK / Canada Agri-Food Roadmap: Organisation and facilitation of c.12 Canadian delegates to UK and running workshop to build on Strategic Research Agenda; publication of Roadmap to detail key priority areas where collaboration for mutual benefit will address key challenges; recommendations to UK (and Canadian) policy makers / funders on next steps.

Scope and Requirements

Part 1: Establishing an Agri-Food Strategic Research agenda (Virtual element)

- Organisation, facilitation and delivery of 'virtual' (web-based) UK / Canada activity to identify key challenges in the short (0-24 month); medium (2-5 years) and long-term (5+ years) relevant to the Agri-Food sector.
- Publicising the event and selecting key participants from policy/funding; research-base; industry (SME and large corps); levy bodies sectors from the UK and CanadaRunning and facilitating the on-line event
- Publication of a draft Strategic Research Agenda as an output from the on-line event to act as a framework to structure a follow-on physical Bi-lateral Roadmap event in London.

Part 2: Developing a UK / Canada Agri-Food Roadmap

- Coordination of inward Canadian mission* (c.12 delegates) to the UK to participate in 'physical' workshop to develop an Agri-Food Roadmap. Activities to include:
 - Identification and selection of 12 Canadian delegates to attend UK workshop through consultation with Innovate UK
 - Organising and booking return flights from Canada to UK (Heathrow) to attend workshop
 - Organising transfers from Heathrow to London hotel through hiring mini-bus with driver for Canadian delegates, including journey back from London to Heathrow for return flight
 - Booking London hotel close to workshop venue (Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London) that include breakfast and evening meal for the 12 delegations.
- Developing 'physical' workshop programme in consultation with Innovate UK, to include breakout session to 'stress test' outputs from Strategic Research Agenda
- Leading the running and facilitation of workshop (over 2-days)
- Publication of workshops as a UK / Canada Agri-Food Roadmap; would include hard-copy glossy print run (250 copies) and e-publication format (costs included within this contract); may need to allow time for publication in draft-format for buy-in from policy / funding partners from UK and Canada.

Budget for venue hire and catering costs for the UK workshop do not need to be included in the tender bid – these are being provided through our collaborating partners at the Canadian High Commission in London who will provide use of their facilities at Canada House, London. Catering costs will be provided directly to Canadian High Commission by Innovate UK.

Timetable

- 'Virtual' on-line event towards end of April 2017
- Publication of Strategic Research Agenda (output from on-line event) mid-May 2017
- Inward mission from Canada June 2017
- Workshop to develop UK / Canada Roadmap June 2017; to be held in London at Canada House (to coincide with Canadian Mission)

- Publication of draft Roadmap for key UK / Canadian policy / funders end June (2 weeks following London Workshop)
- Publication of UK / Canada Agri-Food Roadmap (with recommendations) mid-July

Terms and Conditions

Bidders are to note that any requested modifications to UK SBS Terms and Conditions on the grounds of statutory and legal matters only, shall be raised as a formal clarification during the permitted clarification period.

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	SEL1.2	Employment breaches/ Equality
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	AW5.3	Maximum contract value
Quality	AW6.1	Compliance to the Specification

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%
Quality	PROJ1.1	Virtual workshop delivery	25%
Quality	PROJ1.2	Inward mission delivery	10%
Quality	PROJ1.3	Workshop methodology	25%
Quality	PROJ1.4	Project plan and resources	10%

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: 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.ukpbs.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](#)