



Home Office

Early Engagement Notice for:

C23801 Software Defined-WAN Services

sourced either from (RM1557.13) G-Cloud or from (RM3808) Network Services 2.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

This notice is for suppliers on both the Crown Commercial Services (CSS) Frameworks **G-Cloud 13 (RM1557.13)** and **Network Services 2 (RM3808)**, **Lot 1**, only. This notice is part of early market engagement to support the Home Office objective of sourcing a single call-off contract, delivered by one supplier, as a single Direct Award against one of these two frameworks.

The aim is to procure a contract that provides continuity of network encryption services protecting police and law enforcement community network communications from criminal, hostile state or terrorist penetration.

The driver for this opportunity is the expiry in October 2024 of a G-Cloud 11 contract with Fujitsu for a Cisco-based Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) service, awarded in 2020.

EXCLUSIONS:

Replacement of the law enforcement community's network connectivity.

LIMITATIONS:

The Home Office reserves the right not to proceed with any procurement described in this notice; the right to revise the approach and timelines; the right to withdraw or revise this notice and other information issued to the market, all without obligation.

The Home Office will not contribute in any way to meeting production costs of any response to this notice.

INDICATIVE TIMELINE:

1. **FEB-JUNE 2023:** Market engagement through clarification questions, Request(s) for Information and updates to this notice; in parallel with refinement of requirements and visits to reference sites
2. **JULY 2023:** Evaluation of offerings on CCS catalogues for RM1577.13 and for RM3808, Lot 1
3. **AUG 2023:** Direct Award of one contract
4. **SEPT 2023:** Mobilisation of successful supplier
5. **OCT 2024:** End of transition (ie 13 month transition window)

SOLUTION DELIVERY:

The selected supplier will deliver the continuity solution into the Law Enforcement Community Network (LECN) programme. The LECN programme is progressing a Business Case to spend a 7-figure (GBP) budget on the contract over a minimum three-year period from calendar year 2023.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT:

The LECN programme's main engagement with the autonomous and diverse law enforcement community takes place through a Business User Group (BUG). Representatives on the BUG include policing, other law enforcement agencies, National Police Technology Council (NPTC), other government departments, Arms-Length Bodies, incumbent suppliers to law enforcement agencies, and Home Office product owners of national policing applications.

RISK APPETITE:

All data is OFFICIAL.

The Home Office expects to consult Police and National security authorities when considering the suitability of solutions, given the sensitivity of network communication across the law enforcement community.

The LECN Programme has a low appetite for solution development because of the risk to continuity and the risk of business disruption. The expectation is that the Home Office will buy a verifiable Cisco-based SD-WAN solution already being delivered in a secure context.

SCALE / GEOGRAPHY:

Nearly 100 law enforcement organisations (policing and suppliers) and approximately 50 other government departments / Arms-Length Bodies are in scope for receipt of contract services. These organisations operate from about 160 sites within the UK and offshore. All data-centres are in the UK.

CONSTRAINTS:

Transition to the SD-WAN solution should complete by October 2024 (twenty twenty-four).

EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS:

Fujitsu provides a Cisco-based SD-WAN service:

<https://www.digitalmarketplace.service.gov.uk/g-cloud/services/319976427300466>

REQUIREMENTS SCOPE:

This requirements statement illustrate what may be key areas for the LECN programme's examination of service providers' published offerings on applicable CCS catalogues. It is not a comprehensive statement and it is subject to development. Requirement scope used in procurement may differ from what is indicated here.

- 1) Cisco SD-WAN Managed Service
- 2) ISO 27001 Certification
- 3) Cloud Security Principles
- 4) Candidate Control Set for Services
- 5) Public Services Network (PSN) Certification
- 6) PSN Underlay
- 7) SD-WAN Edge Device automation
- 8) Service and Security Management
- 9) ITIL 4
- 10) 2nd Line Support
- 11) 3rd Line Support
- 12) Protective Monitoring
- 13) IT Operations Centre (ITOC)

- 14) Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC)
- 15) Disaster Recovery
- 16) Business Continuity
- 17) IT Health Check (ITHC)
- 18) Service Levels
- 19) Data Centres and Support location
- 20) Critical National Infrastructure
- 21) Real time network monitoring
- 22) Joiners, Movers, Leavers (JML)
- 23) Logistics
- 24) SD-WAN Estate
- 25) High Level Designs
- 26) Low Level Designs
- 27) Service Operating Manual
- 28) Approval to Operate
- 29) Usage based billing
- 30) Change Requests
- 31) Pre-Production Environment
- 32) Model office / Lab
- 33) SD-WAN Resilience
- 34) Azure and AWS

TO NOTE:

This notice relates to procurement from CCS frameworks with established and unchanging memberships, using Cabinet Office tools which are available to the framework members. There is no supplier registration process.

Procurement will be by compliant Direct Award, based on a review by the LECN programme of service offerings accepted by CCS and published on a

relevant CCS catalogue. Please do not send the LECN programme any pricing material or proposals.

At this time we are not providing contact details because, for now, all information about the procurement will be provided as updates to this notice.

NEXT STEPS:

If you believe you have a service (or services) on the relevant CCS Frameworks that may meet the Home Office requirement, you are encouraged to review your service descriptions and to ensure that they are up to date, reflective of your capabilities, and available on the relevant CCS platforms.

You may also want to return to Contracts Finder from time to time, to check for updates to this notice. A suggested search, to obtain the latest version of this notice, is:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search> with tick-boxes "Early Engagement Notice" "Open" and keywords "LECN" and "C23801".