



British Embassy
Washington

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US Prosperity Programme Fund **Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)**

We ask potential suppliers NOT to discuss this EOI externally

Purpose

The British Embassy in Washington, DC is soliciting expressions of interest from potential suppliers to undertake research examining conformity assessment procedures in the United States, culminating in a final report.

This document is to notify suppliers of upcoming potential requirements and establish levels of competence and interest. Note that this requirement may not lead to a formal tender but will help the Authority (British Embassy Washington DC) understand regional delivery capability.

Background

The US is the UK's largest single export market, accounting for around a fifth (18.2%) of all UK exports, worth around £100bn in 2016. The economic prosperity of both the UK and the US is enhanced by the depth of our trade, financial, cultural, and investment links.

Both the UK Prime Minister and US President have made clear a shared commitment to bilateral discussions, including a potential future trade negotiation, to ensure that UK and US businesses are able to trade easily, maintain protections on each countries' right to regulate on matters of public interest, and to identify where we can collaborate to promote further trade liberalisation around the world.

Her Majesty's Government (HMG) wishes to better understand the requirements in the US for assessing product compliance with standards and technical regulations, notably in a number of important sectors, to help inform this discussion.

Summary of Requirements

The project will assess conformity assessment procedures in the US, taking the definition of 'conformity assessment' from the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT); 'Any procedure used, directly or indirectly, to determine that relevant requirements in technical regulations or standards are fulfilled.'

The report will consider:

- how conformity assessment procedures are regulated in the US, including any significant recent trends and the separation between federal and state level regulation, where applicable;
- the underlying principles of conformity assessment in the US context;
- how conformity assessment procedures are met by manufacturers in the US market;
- the defining characteristics of existing US approaches to conformity assessment in international agreements;
- a literature review and annotated bibliography of information sources.



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Outputs/deliverables of potential projects:

The project will deliver a report from a consultant or group of consultants.

- The project will commence with a roundtable video teleconference (VTC) with the supplier, Embassy staff, and policy colleagues in London to clarify the scope of the project
- An interim draft of the final report is to be provided in early October after which policy colleagues in London will feed back thoughts on the work to date and points to be taken into account for the final report
- The project will conclude with a roundtable VTC presentation of the report to the Embassy and colleagues in London

Budget

The Embassy anticipates having a maximum of £60,000 to undertake this work. The final value of a potential contract will be the result of a public procurement process. Bids for potential work will be evaluated on proposed cost, among other criteria.

Qualification

Potential interested suppliers should respond via email to Matt Manousoff, Prosperity Programme Manager at matthew.manousoff@fco.gov.uk with a statement of interest of 200 words or less acknowledging that you have read and understood this request and can demonstrate that you can fulfil the requirements of this project.

The Authority by issuing this invitation is not bound in any way and reserves the right not to tender the whole or any specified part of the EOI.

A potential full project specification will be distributed via email to interested potential suppliers following completion of a non-disclosure agreement.

Deadline for response:

27 August 2018

If suppliers respond after the deadline the Authority reserves the right to not invite the suppliers to subsequent stages of a potential procurement process.