**Early Market Engagement Questionnaire**

**Explanatory Note**

Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority (“Authority”) is seeking to engage with the market for the purpose of identifying suppliers who are interested and capable of providing and implementing a fully electrically fuelled smoke filtration system within a non-containerised Live Fire Training (LFT) building. Suppliers must have experience in delivering comparable systems within the Fire Sector and can demonstrate successful implementation with tried and tested solutions.

The delivery of a Live Fire Training Facility **forms part of a wider redevelopment project on the Authority’s Wholetime Ashford Fire Station Site** (Henwood, Ashford TN24 8DH). The Authority is currently undertaking a procurement process with the view of appointing the primary contractor (“Primary Contractor”) who will be responsible for the delivery of the Pre-Construction Phase activities (RIBA Stages 3 and 4).

The procurement process is due to be completed in early June 2022 with an anticipated contract commencement date around the end of June 2022.

For the avoidance of any doubt and in accordance with the published Pre-Construction Services Agreement, the appointment of the Live Fire Specialist will be made by the Primary Contractor, upon a recommendation by the Authority’s Project Team.

The primary purpose of the market engagement process is to enable the Authority to establish the following:

* What is the supplier base for the provision and delivery of a fully electricity-fuelled smoke filtration solution for a Live Fire Training Facility?
* What is the capacity of the market to deliver the technical deliverables within the key project programme milestones?
* What are the key cost lines and pricing considerations to be taken into account when assessing the estimated overall whole lifecycle cost of the Live Fire Training Facility?

In order to enable suppliers to respond to this Market Engagement Questionnaire (“Questionnaire”) in a robust, accurate and comprehensive manner, the Authority will release the following supporting documentation.

These are attached as appendices or provided as separate documents *(N.B some documents will be provided following completion of a Non-Disclosure Agreement – please refer to the ‘Instructions for Completion’*):

* Authority Background Information on the Ashford Fire Station Refurbishment and Live Training Facility Project (including technical requirements related to the Live Fire Specialist deliverable and key milestones);
* Redacted Ashford Site Plans and Live Fire Training Facility Floor Plans

**Notices**

The publication of this Questionnaire document in no way commits the Authority to commence any subsequent procurement exercise to award any contract and the Authority reserves the right not to proceed with a procurement process at any time.

All suppliers are solely responsible for their costs and expenses incurred in connection with participating in this engagement exercise including in completing the Questionnaire. Under no circumstances will the Authority (or any of its advisers or agents) be liable for any costs or expenses borne by the participants (or any of its advisers or agents) in this market engagement process.

The Authority (and its advisers and agents):

* do not make any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of information provided in this Questionnaire and supporting documents as part of this market engagement process (including any other subsequent documents, communications or information provided as part of this process);
* do not accept any responsibility for the information contained in this Questionnaire and supporting documents as part of this market engagement process (including any other subsequent documents, communications or information provided as part of this process) or for its fairness, accuracy or completeness; and
* shall not be liable for any loss or damage (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation) arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication.

Nothing in the Questionnaire (or any other subsequent documents, communications or information provided as part of this process) is, or should be, relied upon as a promise or a representation as to Authority's ultimate decisions in relation to the scope of requirements which may form the specification for any subsequent commissioning exercise.

**Instructions for Completion**

In order for the Authority to gain a better understanding of the market and to assist the Authority in making an informed recommendation to the Primary Contractor, we ask that you take the time and respond to the questions below by providing us with as much detail as possible no later than **17:00 Thursday 26th May 2022**.

For the purpose of enabling you to address the Authority’s requirements in a comprehensive manner, we will be **able to make available to you redacted site and floor plans** relating to the Ashford Refurbishment and Live Fire Training Facility Project **upon completion and submission of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (“NDA”)** in the form contained in Appendix B of this Questionnaire.

As stated within the published Contracts Finder Early Engagement Notice, this process will be exclusively undertaken via the Authority’s electronic tendering suite (Kent Business Portal – ProContract) and as such you are **kindly requested to submit your completed NDA and Early Market Engagement Questionnaire electronically using ProContract**. Instructions on how to submit documents and how to do so correctly can be found within its ‘Help’ facility.

We would like to take this opportunity and thank you in advance for your participation and input in the market engagement process.

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| **Authority Core Minimum Technical Requirements (BINARY COMPATIBILITY ASSESSMENT)** | |
| **This section contains the Authority’s minimum technical requirements. Suppliers who are unable to confirm their ability to deliver any one of the requirements listed below are strongly advised not to proceed with the completion and submission of this Questionnaire, as their responses will be deemed incompatible and as such will not be read or further considered** | |
| **Q.1** | Please confirm compliance with all core minimum technical requirements listed below: |
| **Requirement** | **Supplier Response** |
| **Please confirm that you are able to deliver a smoke filtration system that is a fully electricity fuelled solution** | **Yes / No** (delete as appropriate) |
| **The LFT building will be a non-containerised solution, constructed by the main contractor. Please confirm your system can be designed and coordinated to be incorporated into a multi-storey (five floors) masonry building of this nature** | **Yes / No** (delete as appropriate) |
| **Please confirm you are able to provide an emergency evacuation system as part of your solution** | **Yes / No** (delete as appropriate) |
| **Please confirm you are able to provide a case study example where a system has been provided to the fire sector, delivered within the last five (5) years and operating in Business As Usual (BAU) for a minimum of twelve (12) months, and a system installed on a building of no less than three (3) storeys.**  **If yes, please provide details of the case studies under Q2 below.** | **Yes / No** (delete as appropriate) |
| **Please confirm you have capacity to deliver a solution within the timescales set out in Appendix A of this Questionnaire** | **Yes / No** (delete as appropriate) |

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| **No.** | **Authority Questions and Supplier Responses – Technical and Environmental** |
| **Q.2** | Please provide as a minimum one (1) case study example relevant to the fire sector. The chosen example/s must be a system that has been delivered within the last 5 years and operating in BAU for a minimum of 12 months and a system installed on a building of no less than 3 storeys. The case study must include:  i. The site location  ii. Installation value  iii. An explanation of contractual relationships, roles and responsibilities.  iv. Lessons learned from previous case studies |
| **Q.2 Supplier Response** |  |
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| **Q.3** | Please provide details relating to the method of smoke capture, supported with illustrations to demonstrate how the system works through the burn to output process |
| **Q.3 Supplier Response** |  |
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| **Q.4** | Please advise what (if any) by-products and any other waste material is generated as an output of the process including waste classification and any handling requirements and health & safety considerations. |
| **Q.4 Supplier Response** |  |
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| **Q.5** | Please provide details on the life expectancy of the system/s you have previously implemented |
| **Q.5 Supplier Response** |  |
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| **Q.6** | Please detail your current defects management process and how this is managed within the organisation with the view of minimising system downtime. Your response must include, but not limited to, information on the:   * Locality of engineers for on-site support and maintenance activities; * Response and Rectification times; and * Availability of remote diagnostics |
| **Q.6 Supplier Response** |  |
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| **Q.7** | Please provide detailed information on the Servicing and Maintenance Regime of the proposed system over a twelve (12) month period detailing service packages which can be made available to the Authority |
| **Q.7 Supplier Response** |  |

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| **No.** | **Authority Questions and Supplier Responses – Contractual and Financial** |
| **Q.8** | Please advise what is the minimum warranty period to be offered to the Authority, such warranty period to commence upon successful implementation of the solution (including rectification of any snagging items) |
| **Q.8 Supplier Response** |  |
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| **Q.9** | Accepting market volatility and changing market conditions, please describe how these are monitored and managed by your organisation. |
| **Q.9 Supplier Response** |  |
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| **Q.10** | Following on from Question 9 above, please provide current lead times on core component parts of the system, listing out any known supply issues and current / anticipated cost increases |
| **Q.10 Supplier Response** |  |
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| **Q.11** | On the basis of the system’s anticipated life expectancy as described in your response to Question 5 above, please kindly list all cost lines that the Authority and the Primary Contractor must include in the pricing schedule for the Live Fire Specialist for the purpose of ascertaining the whole life cost of the solution, including but not limited to the following considerations:   1. Frequency of servicing and maintenance and associated maintenance costs; 2. Frequency and cost of the replacement of core component parts; 3. Estimated annual running costs – energy consumption, waste disposal, and ancillary items (please itemise). |
| **Q.11 Supplier Response** |  |

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| **No.** | **Authority Questions and Supplier Responses – Additional Project Specific Questions** |
| **Q.12** | Please provide information on your experience of collaborating with key partners in a major construction project (including but not limited to the Authority, the Primary Contractor and other key sub-contractors such as the design team). Please advise what level of support and expertise you will be able to offer with the view of enabling the Authority to successfully complete the planning process. |
| **Q.12 Supplier Response** |  |
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| **Q.13** | For information purposes, is your solution in its entirety available to be commissioned under an existing Framework Agreement or any other similar procurement system? |
| **Q.13 Supplier Response** |  |

**Appendix A – Authority Background Information**

The redevelopment at Ashford Fire Station will provide a multi-storey (five floors) Class A Carbonaceous LFT Building (LFT) with training tower to offer a realistic training environment allowing firefighters to experience fire in various stages of development.

The LFT will be a non-containerised solution, which will be constructed by the Main Contractor. The primary structure will be formed using a structural concrete frame and finished with a brick external envelope. There will be an independent external galvanised steel gantry wrapping around the LFT at each floor level, offering direct entry into the different fire compartments.

The LFT has a total of seven carbonaceous burn rooms set over ground, first and fourth floor levels. Openable vents are built-in allowing smoke permeation up through the building into other carbonaceous smoke-filled rooms. Cold smoke (water based) generation will also be used.

There is a requirement for the LFT to be fitted with a specialist smoke filtration system and emergency evacuation system. The system must effectively manage smoke generation and limit the amount of smoke discharged to atmosphere during and after controlled live burns and other training scenarios.

The LFT will be a fully electricity fuelled solution to assist the authority in its reduction in gas usage across the county and support the Authority’s commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. This will support the Authority’s movement towards Green Energy Sources.

**LFT Proposed Use**

Of the seven proposed burn rooms, no more than two burn rooms will be running at any one time. Typically, instructors will use two burn rooms on each training day, with 4-6 burn cycles per room per training day.

The Authority’s current guidance states that temperatures at 1.5M height from floor level shall be no more than 250oc. Flaming combustion is required at ceiling level to ensure firefighters can react and control rollover conditions. Flaming combustion is achieved at temperatures above 600oc.

To achieve the conditions described above, burn materials used are heat treated pallets, kindling and non-flame retardant OSB.

**Project Programme – Key Milestones**

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| **RIBA Stage** | **Anticipated Start Date** |
| **RIBA Stage 3b** | **Mid-May 2022** |
| **RIBA Stage 4** | **Early August 2022** |
| **RIBA Stage 5 (LFS – Lead Time)** | **December 2022/January 2023** |
| **RIBA Stage 5 (LFS - Installation)** | **July/August 2023** |
| **RIBA Stage 5 (MC – Mobilisation)** | **December 2022/January 2023** |
| **RIBA Stage 5 (MC – Construction)** | **January/February 2023** |

**Appendix B – NDA Template (separate document)**