**DETAILS OF QUESTIONS/ANSWERS RAISED AT THE SPECIALIST PPE CLOTHING – EARLY ENGAGEMENT EVENT – 15TH FEBRUARY 2019**

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| 1. As part of the Marauding Terrorist Firearm Attack (MTFA) Lot will there also be a requirement for firefighting PPE? | Over the top of this MTFA kit we will need oversized Firefighting suits in certain circumstances without hi viz markings. We would need to explore existing contractual arrangements further in order to determine whether they are suitable or not. |
| 1. The Urban Search And Rescue (USAR) Lot does not detail Technical Rescue (TR) suits. Where will this be covered? | This may be covered under the Generic Lot. |
| 1. Will Fire Investigation Rescue Technician (FIRT) suits be included in this procurement? | If it crosses a number of environmental specifications and can be done as a one item coverall, then it may be included within the generic specification. |
| 1. Performance related products – how are you going to define this? | We have not decided what this is yet. We will need to consider what we need the kit to do and what standard is applicable to making the accessory on the kit. We will need to engage with and understand stakeholders’ requirements more fully to inform any decision. |
| 1. Will there be a requirement in the specifications for the winning bidders to maintain a record of wearers and trace and track assets? | This is a crucial part of the regulations; Some Authorities may manage this themselves, others may need suppliers. We shall seek feedback from Stakeholders as to what/how we track these items over their service life then add a shelf life to this, and include details within Specifications if appropriate. |
| 1. With regards to the proposed generic Lot and holding mini competitions, would that impact compatibility between garments offered by having multiple suppliers per sub-lot? | We would need to consider this more thoroughly when finalising proposed procurement strategies for each Lot and test the compatibility issue with stakeholders. |
| 1. Would you also consider adding a sub-lot to each Lot that provided an ensemble solution? | It is something we would consider. |
| 1. How would you handle innovation when evaluating bids? If a company develops something that is patented they may have a garment that gives them an innovation advantage. | We would need to ensure that outputs against specifications clearly define the needs, not the wants of users, and try to avoid situations whereby innovation offered unfairly prejudices other bidders or leads to a monopolistic supplier situation. We are happy to encourage innovation as long as it meets the needs of the services.  Technical refresh within the final contract may also allow for innovation provided it remains within the original scope of the requirement. |
| **Question** | **Answer** |
| 1. Regarding the CBRN Lot, will you be looking at feedback as to whether limited life or continued life suits will be required and how will you choose which option is best? | We will engage with the relevant sector about their usage of current provision and how cost effective this is, and discuss whether a single use or multi use suit better meets their requirements. We would refer to National Operational Guidance (NOG) and seek stakeholder feedback. If the suppliers have thoughts on this please let us know. |
| 1. The CBRN Framework with Crown Commercial Services (CCS) comes to an end shortly. Further Frameworks are being set up that could allow Blue light services to establish 3 years of further contracts. Would this impact on this project? | Although there are other frameworks being set up for items within this Lot by other Departments (such as the Home Office, West Midland’s Police Authority) these have had limited engagement with the Fire sector to ascertain whether items offered under these framework fully meets their requirements. |
| 1. Is decontamination of CRBN garments included within the CBRN Lot? | If we decide to purchase reusable suits, then this service may be required if not already delivered in-house. |
| 1. What happens if Authorities do not wish to collaborate with this Project? | The Fire sector may have different requirements to other blue light services, so we need to be conscious of that. Ideally it would be great to use a singular product, but this may not be possible across sectors. However, there will be a standard requirement in Fire sector. We want to be a better customer to suppliers, and the NFCC are keen to encourage collaboration between FRSs. Kent lead in the clothing sector under the NFCC Fire Commercial Transformation programme. We can only encourage Authorities to participate in the framework by highlighting the benefits of doing so. Authorities may still set up their own frameworks and contracts, but will need to justify their reasons for doing so. We will be reviewing lessons learned with regards to previous and current frameworks to understand why these were not fully utilised to their full advantage, by engagement with framework users and suppliers. |
| 1. Will CBRN suits, including those for Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM) and Counter Terrorism (CT) work be conscious of the latest DSTL threat model? | We will be ensuring that we speak with National Fire Resilience to ensure our CBRN subject matter experts have the most appropriate and up to date information. |
| 1. It may be worth speaking with the militaries Tactical Response Force (TRF) to learn experiences from recent high profile incidents. | We have links into TRF through National Fire Resilience and ensure we follow this up.  We recognise that the requirements for CBRN are distinctly different to those of Gas Tight and Chemical Protection suits. We will ensure through National Fire Resilience that we engage with the relevant stakeholders. |