

R-Cloud (version 5)

Quick Start Guide for Suppliers



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1 What is R-Cloud?

R-Cloud is the MOD's dynamic gateway for S&T research and development (R&D) contracting, within the defence and security environment. Managed by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), R-Cloud offers an efficient and effective route for a large and diverse community of R&D suppliers to connect with UK government buyers.

Key Features of R-Cloud:

- Flexible – R-Cloud spans the full range of research capabilities used by defence and security customers (as identified by MOD)
- Dynamic – suppliers can apply to join at any point in the R-Cloud term and approved suppliers can update their registered capabilities and skills at any time
- Low barrier entry – single application managed via the online Portal
- Targeted - suppliers receive targeted invitations to opportunities based on their selected capabilities and skills
- Direct contracting - with the supplier delivering the research (not via a Prime)
- Online system – R-Cloud is wholly managed via the R-Cloud Portal
- Standard terms and conditions – applicable to all R-Cloud contracts

This Quick Start Guide is intended for both:

- Existing R-Cloud suppliers migrating to version 5
- New suppliers applying to join R-Cloud for the first time

2 Joining R-Cloud (version 5)

As part of the transition to R-Cloud (version 5), all suppliers must:

- Review and accept the updated R-Cloud (version 5) Terms and Conditions
- Re-select capabilities using the revised R-Cloud taxonomy
- Review, validate and update organisational information
- Provide any new information required by the R-Cloud (version 5) application process

Completion of these steps is required for continued participation in R-Cloud (version 5).

If your organisation was previously registered on R-Cloud, your account login credentials, basic company information and technical narrative have been migrated to R-Cloud (version 5). You will still need to review, validate and update your application, and submit for approval. Applications to join R-Cloud are welcomed from UK and International organisations providing relevant research and development services, including:

- [Small and Medium Enterprises \(SMEs\)](#)
- Academic institutions
- Large organisations
- Non-traditional defence suppliers
- Sole traders

Applications can be submitted through the R-Cloud Portal at any time and are assessed by Dstl Commercial Services.

3 Supplier Profile Attributes

As part of your supplier profile, you can review and manage a number of attributes that describe the types of opportunities you wish to be considered for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intellectual Property – IPR Supplier Vesting• Intellectual Property – IPR Authority Vesting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urgency – Urgent Tasks• Academia – PHD contracts• Data classification handling |
|--|--|

Attributes act as additional matching criteria within R-Cloud. When a Buyer creates a Tasking Procedure, they may apply one or more attributes to help identify suppliers that are suitable for the requirement. Suppliers with the corresponding attributes will then be considered for those opportunities.

All attributes are opted in to by default. Once your application has been approved, you can review the attributes available through your supplier dashboard and amend them as appropriate to reflect your organisation's preferences. If you opt out, opportunities associated with that attribute will not be displayed or made available for participation. This provides greater flexibility to focus on the opportunities most relevant to your organisation.

Your attribute selections can be updated at any time if your circumstances or preferences change.

4 How R-Cloud Tasking Procedures Work

Once approved, suppliers can participate in R-Cloud Tasking Procedures. Application approval can take up to 2 weeks.

4.1 Opportunity Matching

R-Cloud uses a structured capability, skills and attribute-based matching approach to identify suppliers that may be suitable for a requirement.

When creating a Tasking Procedure, Buyers define the capability, skills and attributes relevant to the work being procured. These criteria are then used by the Portal to identify suppliers with matching profiles.

Only opportunities that match your selected capabilities, skills and attributes will be visible within your account.

The capability and skills criteria used for each Tasking Procedure will vary depending on the nature of the requirement. Buyers may select one or more Strategic Capability Areas and associated Broad and Narrow Skills, including combinations that span multiple capability areas.

As a result, suppliers should ensure their capability profile accurately reflects the full range of expertise within their organisation. Selecting only a limited number of relevant skills or attributes may affect the opportunities for which your organisation is identified.

Important: Matching is assessed against the specific criteria defined for each Tasking Procedure. The number and combination of capabilities, skills and attributes used will differ between requirements.

4.2 Task Publication

Tasking Procedures are created and published by commercial buyers via the R-Cloud Portal.

When creating a Tasking Procedure, buyers define the capability, skills and attribute criteria relevant to the requirement. Buyers will also provide the information and documentation required for suppliers to understand the requirement and prepare a response.

Once published, the Task will be made available to suppliers whose profiles match the criteria defined by the Buyer.

4.3 Receiving Notifications

When your organisation is identified for an opportunity, a notification will be issued through the R-Cloud Portal.

- Notifications will be available within your supplier dashboard and via email.
- Relevant task documentation will be provided by the Buyer.
- Notifications may also be issued when updates are made to the Tasking Procedure.

Suppliers should regularly monitor the Portal and review any notifications received to ensure they remain aware of new opportunities and requirement updates.

Important: Only opportunities that match your supplier profile will be visible within your account.

4.4 Clarification Questions

If additional information is required, suppliers may submit clarification questions through the R-Cloud Portal during the Tasking Procedure.

Questions will be reviewed by the Buyer and responses will be provided through the Portal. To ensure a fair and transparent procurement process, clarification responses will be made available to all suppliers participating in the Tasking Procedure.

Important: Clarification responses form part of the procurement information provided for the Tasking Procedure and should be considered alongside the original task documentation.

4.5 Task Submission

Suppliers wishing to participate in a Tasking Procedure must submit their response through the R-Cloud Portal.

Task responses should be prepared in accordance with the instructions, requirements and submission deadlines specified within the Tasking Procedure documentation. Suppliers are responsible for ensuring that all required information is completed and submitted before the closing date and time.

Once submitted, responses will be made available to the Buyer for evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the Tasking Procedure.

4.6 Contract Award

Following evaluation of submitted responses, the Buyer will determine the outcome of the Tasking Procedure.

Suppliers will be notified of the outcome through the R-Cloud Portal. Contract award documentation and, where appropriate, related information will also be made available through the Portal.

Suppliers should regularly monitor the Portal for updates relating to opportunities they have participated in.

5 Security and information handling

Suppliers are responsible for ensuring that information is handled, stored and shared in accordance with the applicable security requirements.

Further information on security requirements and information handling arrangements can be found within the [Security guidance](#) via the R-Cloud Portal. Suppliers should review this guidance before participating in R-Cloud opportunities.

Important: Security requirements may vary between Tasking Procedures. Suppliers should ensure they review the requirements associated with each opportunity before submitting a response.

6 Need Help?

For technical issues with the Portal, account queries or general guidance relating to R-Cloud, please contact:

Dstl R-Cloud Management Team

Email: dstlrcloud@dstl.gov.uk

For questions relating to a specific opportunity, suppliers should contact the relevant buyer using the details provided within the task documentation.