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Statement of Requirement for the R-Cloud Human and Social Sciences Strategic Capability

Introduction

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), which is part of the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), is refreshing its commercial agreement for Science and Technology (S&T) research contracts, known as R-Cloud (Research Cloud).

MOD places extensive fundamental, experimental and applied research with industry and academic suppliers and wants to broaden access for this supply base, reducing the cost of trading with MOD and enabling agile contracting. R-Cloud complements MOD's other contracting mechanisms and academic and industry suppliers of S&T research are now invited to apply to join MOD's research supplier community within the Human and Social Sciences Strategic Capability.

This statement of requirement relates to suppliers joining R-Cloud within Human and Social Sciences capability area. R-Cloud provides a low barrier to entry for potential suppliers and offers direct access to MOD's current and future research requirements. Academic and industrial suppliers of Human and Social Sciences Research are invited to apply to R-Cloud if you are a supplier of Science and Technology Research in this area.

The human component is a central element of Defence and Security capability; it is hard to identify any system that can operate without an appropriate human contribution. Human and Social Sciences (HSS) capability ensures that MOD's future human capability continues to outpace and outthink our adversaries and continues to protect our people. The capability provides thought leadership to drive research, deliver advice and evaluate S&T that safely and ethically augments, enhances and optimises human physical and cognitive capabilities in Defence and Security contexts.

MOD's research in these areas is predominantly delivered externally by placing contracts with industry and academia through a range of commercial contracting mechanisms – including R-Cloud. These agreements have been developed to deliver agile, timely and effective Human and Social Science research, through a robust supply chain, with an emphasis on scientific excellence, building partnerships to champion and exploit research, skills and capabilities. These agreements support partnerships and exploitation routes to channel innovative and novel solutions to address current and emerging problems.



Human & Social
Sciences

MOD is seeking research suppliers with expertise in the following sub-capability areas to partner with other suppliers to form multi-disciplinary teams to answer some of Defence and Security's most challenging problems.

Human and Organisational Effectiveness

Provide evidence, tools and guidance through conventional and innovative multi-disciplinary research to enable Defence to realise the potential of and support its future workforce.

Understand the implications for the future force of game-changing technologies and the application of these technologies to ensure MOD has sufficient capable, motivated and trained personnel. This work aims to:

- Address how Defence can better strategically and tactically use technology and management systems to identify, recruit, assign, and retain the right people.
- Understand people issues related to the Future Operating Environment.
- Evidence how to support people's wellbeing and create an inclusive environment.

Humans in systems

S&T to embed human-centred approaches through delivering research, analysis, and advice to ensure people are appropriately integrated into processes, and technology in an ethically, safe, and legally compliant manner. This could include:

- Investigating optimising the interaction between humans and technology within complex systems and the challenges presented by the Future Operating Environment.
- Identification of potentially disruptive human machine interaction technologies.
- Developing the new knowledge, guidance and tools required to optimise the integration of the human component within Generation After Next Capabilities.
- Understanding the future impact of AI and data science.

Understanding and influencing human behaviour

S&T to harness insight into the diverse biological, environmental and socio-cultural influences on human behaviour in both online and offline settings and identify potential cognitive / behavioural interventions. This could include:

- Identifying and understanding potential behaviour change interventions relevant to Defence and UK Influence.
- Developing methods to monitor the impact of influence interventions.

Human Performance Advantage

Research, expert advice, and specialist trials to sustain, optimise, and enhance the physical, cognitive, and psychological performance of individuals and teams. S&T aims to strengthen physical and psychological capability while improving the development, retention, and application of skills, enabling personnel and teams to operate effectively within and beyond



Human & Social
Sciences

natural limits. This requires consideration of the ethical, legal and social aspects with regards to research and implementation. This could include:

- Research and trials to understand the benefits, opportunities and threats associated with emerging Human Augmentation technologies.
- Understanding the societal and behavioural aspects around the application of Human Augmentation technologies in Defence.
- Generating evidence to support developing anticipatory Human Augmentation policy.
- Generating evidence and insight to ensure health, resilience, protection, and effectiveness across operational stressors.
- Developing solutions that enable the detection, prevention and treatment of injuries caused by Defence occupational, environmental and workplace stressors.
- Using science, technology, data, and analytics to mitigate operational stressors, maintain and restore human function and health

Ministry of Defence Policy for Research Involving Human Participants

All potential suppliers of human sciences research to MOD are reminded that MOD is fully committed to operating to the highest national and international ethical research standards. Research involving human participants undertaken, funded or sponsored by the MOD must meet acceptable ethical standards, and comply with the policy set out in JSP 536, "Ministry of Defence Policy for Research Involving Human Participants" Version 3.0, March 2020 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-research-involving-human-participants-jsp-536>). These instructions are founded in nationally and internationally accepted principles (including those in the Declaration of Helsinki) and guidance. Further information can be found on the MOD Research Ethics Committee (MODREC) website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/ministry-of-defence-research-ethics-committees>). MOD operates the process of ethical scrutiny and approval via an independent committee to ensure that decisions on acceptability are independent of the MOD.