

Announcement of Opportunity
Space for Smarter Government Programme (SSGP)
Open Call Competition
Date 19/12/2017

The UK Space Agency (UKSA) invites proposals for feasibility and demonstrator projects using satellite applications and data to support the work of government and the public sector.

1. INTRODUCTION

This SSGP Open Call Competition aims to provide funding to support the development of innovative satellite enabled applications for the UK Public Sector. Project proposals are sought for both feasibility studies (TRL 3-4) and mature demonstrator ideas (TRL 5-7). This competition will be run under a “De Minimis” grant funding arrangement. Applicants can apply for any percentage up to the total project value but will be required to give assurances that the SSGP grant will not exceed the De Minimis limitations.

2. CRITERIA

Proposals should address SSGP’s goals of helping the public sector to embrace space and increase the uptake of satellite data and sustainable services to enable smarter, more efficient operations, reduce risk and enhance policy making, whilst also enabling wider growth in line with the UK Space Agency’s stated targets for the space sector.

SSGP encourages proposals which use any of the three satellite enabled application technologies:

- Satellite Communications
- Position, Navigation, Timing (PNT)
- Earth Observation

In order to demonstrate the breadth of what satellite applications can do for the public sector, address new challenges and to attract new public sector stakeholders who are committed to exploring how satellites could be used within their organisations, additional weighting will be applied to proposals that:

- Can evidence active end-user involvement, engagement and sponsorship
- Make use of technologies, or address topics, which are currently under-represented in SSGP case studies (i.e. satellite communications or PNT)

Applicants can choose the duration of their feasibility or demonstrator project from between 2 to 9 months. As SSGP is an annually funded programme, we would particularly welcome applications from those who can mobilise quickly and maximise the use of existing allocated funding in FY17/18.

3. FUNDING

Proposals can be up to 100% funded (noting De Minimis limitations will apply). Applications are welcomed from those who are also willing to commit their own resources to maximise project outcomes. It is anticipated that funding for feasibility proposals will be up to a maximum of £60,000 (VAT exempt), and demonstrator proposals will be up to a maximum £200,000 (VAT exempt).

Subject to existing in-year (FY17/18) funding and provisional FY18/19 budget allocations, this competition is looking to fund the maximum number of projects that are deemed to pass the marking criteria threshold and sit within the Agency's overarching funding and affordability envelope. It is anticipated that the overall competition envelope will be circa £700k, noting this is subject to 2018/19 budgetary approval for those projects which span financial years.

Payments will be monthly with final payment on completion and acceptance of project reports. Projects will need to complete a project accruals declaration for work which has been undertaken, but has not been invoiced by 31st March 2018, to assist the Agency staff complete its end of year accounts.

4. TIMELINE

This competition is open from 19th December 2017 and closes at 9am on Thursday 1st February 2018. Terms and conditions for this competition are non-negotiable.

Applications will be reviewed by a selected panel of experts shortly after the competition close date. Successful applicants will then be notified and contracts awarded shortly thereafter with summary feedback then provided to the unsuccessful applicants.

Successful proposals will be expected to commence on February 19th 2018.

5. ELIGIBILITY

This Call is open to UK Higher Education Institutions, other research organisations, SMEs and industry as well as (not for profit) government research institutes who are not involved in the provision or delivery of SSGP.

As this competition is being run under De Minimis grant funding arrangements applicants will be required to evidence that they are eligible to receive their proposed funding (see Annex A Application Guidance and Annex D State Aid Letter of Evidence). Where part funding is sought, the percentage of other contributions should be clearly stated in your proposal.

6. ASSESSMENT

Applications will be reviewed by a selected panel of experts. The assessment criteria, totalling 100, is shown in the following table:

Assessment Criteria		Weighting
1	Relevance to Requirements How well does the proposed idea/solution/technologies meet the competition objectives as detailed in the criteria at section 2?	15
2	Technical Objectives How valid is the technical approach that will be adopted?	15
3	Innovation How innovative is this project? To what extent does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or technologies for this area?	10
4	Project Management To what extent does the applicant appear to have the right skills, capabilities and experience to manage the project? <u>For feasibility studies:</u> To what extent does the proposal show a clear and realistic plan for establishing technical and commercial feasibility <u>For demonstrator projects:</u> To what extent does the proposal show a clear and realistic plan to deliver a working prototype?	10
5	Technical Capability To what extent does the applicant appear to have the right skills, capabilities and	10

	experience to deliver the intended benefits?	
6	Financial Viability How appropriate is the proposal financially? Is the overall budget realistic and justified in terms of the aims and methods proposed? Are the costs appropriate and justified?	10
7	Market and Public Sector Potential <u>For feasibility studies:</u> Is there evidence of an emerging need in the Public Sector for this application? What evidence has been provided to support this? <u>For demonstrator projects:</u> Is there a clear route to adoption of this solution by the public sector? Does the solution offer a clear benefit to the public sector over existing methods?	15
8	Additional Weighting Does the proposal make use of technologies, or address topics, which are currently under-represented in SSGP case studies? To what extent are public sector end users engaged and committed to exploring/ embedding any solution? Does the approach expand the network of SSGP public sector stakeholders	15

7. OTHER

Suppliers for each project will be selected by an open competition process and retain the Intellectual Property (IP) generated from the project, with certain rights of use retained by the contracting Authority. By applying, companies are consenting to the terms and conditions contained in the contract (Annex F).

If successful, applicants will be expected to provide information relevant to their SSGP funded project to support ongoing benefit evaluation of the programme (Annex F).

Applications must have at least 50% of the contract value attributed directly and exclusively for Research and Development (R&D) Services. R&D can cover activities such as solution exploration and design, prototyping, up to the original development of a limited by volume of first products or services in the form of a test series. "Original development of a first product or service may include limited production or supply in order to incorporate the results of field testing and to demonstrate that the product or service is suitable for production or supply in quantity to acceptable quality standards". R&D does not include commercial development activities such as quantity production, supply to establish commercial viability or to recover R&D costs, integration, customisation, incremental adaptations and improvements to existing products or processes.

8. CONTACT

Clarification questions are very welcome while the competition remains open. Questions on this funding call should be addressed to SSGP@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk with SSGP COMPETITION QUERY in the title. Once the competition is closed, no further dialogue will be entered into.

Late entries will not be considered.

9. ANNEXES

Annex A	Application Guidance
Annex B	Application Form
Annex C	End-User Letter of Support
Annex D	State Aid Letter of Evidence
Annex E	FAQs
Annex F	Contract Terms and Conditions
Annex G	New Supplier Form
Annex H	Monthly Project Report Template
Annex I	End Report Template