

Prison Leavers Innovation Challenge - Supplier guidance for phase 1

The Prison Leavers Innovation Challenge will be run as a two-phased [Small Business Research Initiative](#) (SBRI) competition.

Phase 1: Up to 10 selected companies will receive Government funding of up to £25,000 to prototype their solution, culminating in a closed pitch day.

Phase 2: Up to 4 selected companies will receive Government funding of up to £350,000, as well as mentorship support, to develop their solution and design a Pilot. Once set up, companies will run their pilots in 'steady state' for 1 year.

This supplier guidance is provided to help applicants understand the minimum requirements at application stage in **phase 1**, as well as the evaluation and selection criteria.

Suppliers who score highly at the application stage will be invited for an online interview. Those that progress through the interview stage will undergo a due diligence screening process prior to selection and contracting for phase 1.

Minimum application requirements

To be considered for phase 1 of the competition, applications must come from organisations that meet all minimum supplier requirements (or a consortium of organisations, where the lead organisation meets these requirements). These are detailed below:

Supplier requirements

- Suppliers must be incorporated in the UK or European Union;
- Suppliers must have a legal entity;
- Suppliers must have internal resources within their organisation that have experience of writing code on the technology for the potential solution;

- Suppliers need to be able to dedicate sufficient resource throughout the timeline of the competition;
- Suppliers must be able to immediately allocate the resources outlined in their plan for phase 1 in the UK;
- Suppliers' potential solution must be within the scope of the challenge;
- Suppliers must take reasonable precautions with regard to protection of data, including having a clear data protection policy in keeping with UK data protection laws/guidance;
- Suppliers must have CyberEssentials certification or equivalent certification when working with real data during phase 2, and must have at least a credible plan to be working towards that accreditation as a condition of being selected for phase 2.
- Suppliers should clearly identify their subject user group, outline how they will collect all required data, and establish an evaluation framework for any data points they collect themselves.

In addition to the above organisational requirements, applications must propose projects that meet the following project requirements:

Project requirements

- Applications must propose a genuinely novel solution. Novel solutions can include:
 - Development of new products, systems and platforms;
 - Development of new features within existing product environments;
 - Novel applications of existing products, systems and platforms where the application environment requires substantive customisation or new development.
- It does not include:
 - Commercial development activities such as quantity production, or building marketing or sales channels;
 - Supply to establish commercial viability or to recover R&D costs;
 - Integration, customisation or incremental adaptations and improvements to existing products or processes.

- Applications must cover solutions that are realistic within the project costs and timelines;
- Applications must outline a valid technical approach;
- Applications must outline a clear plan for establishing technical and commercial feasibility and the development of a working prototype;
- Applications must outline the skills, capabilities and experience they have to deliver the project;
- Applications must confirm that the budget is realistic and is justified in terms of the aims and methods proposed;
- Applying organisations should not have any existing or previous contractual arrangements relating to the solution proposed in this project with the Ministry of Justice or any of its subsidiary bodies, including HMPPS, HMIP, HMCTS.

Funding

A total of up to £25,000, including net VAT, is allocated to phase 1.

Evaluation of Applications

All suppliers must meet the required Supplier and Application criteria outlined above to qualify for this competition. Qualifying suppliers will then be evaluated according to the following technical criteria:

1. Skills and experience (20%)

Suppliers will be assessed against their technical skills and capabilities to deliver the proposed project, including experience of delivering relevant complex projects, and demonstrable technical and project management capabilities.

5: Excellent Response: suppliers have all the technical skills and the relevant experience to deliver the described project to a high standard

4: Very good response: suppliers have all the technical skills and the relevant experience to deliver the described project

3: Good response: suppliers have some technical skills and some experience to deliver the described project

2: Poor response: suppliers have limited technical skills and relevant experience to deliver the described project

1: Weak response: suppliers have no technical skills and no relevant experience to deliver the described project

2. Solution projected impact (Weighted 30%)

Suppliers will be assessed on the quality of their proposed solution, the strength of rationale behind it's believed projected impact, and its ability to improve outcomes linked to reducing reoffending. Return on Investment, long-term savings, scalability and digital inclusivity should be included in outlines of projected impact.

5: Excellent Response: the proposed solutions have a very tangible projected impact based on more than one measurable outcome linked to reoffending.

4: Very good response: the proposed solutions have a tangible projected impact on an outcome linked to reoffending.

3: Good response: the proposed solutions have a moderately tangible projected impact on an outcome linked to reoffending.

2: Poor response: the proposed solutions have some impact on an outcome linked to reoffending.

1: Weak response: the proposed solutions do not have a projected impact on any outcome linked to reoffending.

3. Solution deployment and feasibility (20%)

Project long-term cost (10%)

Suppliers will be assessed against their solutions' ability to establish technical and commercial feasibility through the development of a working prototype, against a reasonable and justified budget. Projected long term costs for the solution should be clearly identified and outlined across the length of the project.

5: Excellent Response: the proposed solutions are highly feasible and meet the challenge requirements to a high standard. The suppliers have developed an excellent plan to achieve a working prototype, within a fully justified budget.

4: Very good response: the proposed solutions are highly feasible and meet the challenge requirements. The suppliers have developed an excellent plan to achieve a working prototype, within a justified budget.

3: Good response: the proposed solutions are feasible and meet the challenge requirements. The suppliers have developed a good plan to achieve a working prototype, within a justified budget.

2: Poor response: the proposed solutions are not wholly feasible and meet some of the requirements of the challenge with significant omissions. The plan to achieve a working prototype is not clear, and the budget hasn't been fully justified.

1: Weak response: the proposed solutions are infeasible and/or do not meet any of the requirements of the Challenge. The plan to achieve the working prototype is unreasonable and the budget has not been justified.

4. Price (10%)

What are we looking for

The maximum marks available for this part of the application will be 10% and will be awarded to the supplier submitting the lowest price. Long term costs and savings will be considered in the earlier feasibility and impact sections. The remaining suppliers will receive marks on a pro rata basis from the lowest to the highest price.

The net price calculation used is the following, and is marked at 10%

Score = Lowest Tender Price / Tender Price x 20 (Maximum available marks)

For example, if three tender responses are received and Tenderer A has quoted £3,000 as their total price, Tenderer B has quoted £5,000 and Tenderer C has quoted £6,000 then the calculation will be as follows:

Tenderer A Score = (£3000/£3000) x 20 (Maximum available marks) = 20%

Tenderer B Score = (£3000/£5000) x 20 (Maximum available marks) = 12%

Tenderer C Score = (£3000/£6000) x 20 (Maximum available marks) = 10%

5: Excellent Response: Suppliers receive a percentage score of 10%

4: Very good response: Suppliers receive a percentage score of 8%

3: Good response: Suppliers receive a percentage score of 6%

2: Poor response: Suppliers receive a percentage score of 4%

1: Weak response: Suppliers receive a percentage score of 2%

5. Measurability of impact (20%)

Suppliers will be assessed on their ability to measure the impact of their solutions on a set of outcomes. Suppliers must clearly outline the key data points they will focus their impact assessment on, their target user group, and how they intend to measure the impact of their solution's delivery.

SMEs will be required to collect data relevant to their solutions, which will be reported back to the MoJ and an external evaluation partner to evaluate. SMEs will still be expected to evaluate some aspects of their solution where relevant to measuring impact.

5: Excellent Response: the proposed solution will clearly identify their user group and control group, outline how they will collect all required data as outlined in the Additional Challenge Context Pack from both groups, identify any other relevant metrics and how they will collect them from both groups.

4: Very good response: the proposed solution will clearly identify their user group, outline how they will collect all required data as outlined in the Additional Challenge Context Pack from the user group, identify any other relevant metrics and how they will collect them from the user group.

3: Good response: the proposed solution will clearly identify their user group and will outline how they will collect all required data as outlined in the Additional Challenge Context Pack.

2: Poor response: the proposed solution does not clearly identify their user group or clearly outline how they will collect all required data as outlined in the Additional Challenge Context Pack.

1: Weak response: the proposed solution fails to identify their user group and fails to outline how they will collect all required data as outlined in the Additional Challenge Context Pack.

Any supplier who scores 3 or less in any one or more criteria will not be shortlisted for interview.

A maximum of 10 suppliers will be awarded a Prison Leavers Innovation Challenge contract of a maximum of £25K to develop a prototype. This contract will be awarded by the Ministry of Justice.

In light of the potentially wide scope of solutions being presented for consideration, the Ministry of Justice reserves the right to call on subject matter experts outside the core evaluation teams to ratify and inform the evaluation teams' assessments of projected impact, solution feasibility and price of any proposal. These additional resources will be under the same obligations of confidentiality as the core evaluation team.

Moreover, the funding available for proposals is finite. As such some otherwise feasible ideas may not achieve funded status due to price or limited potential for return on investment. The decision for funding or otherwise where a proposal has passed evaluation with an acceptable degree of technical merit or potential benefit will be considered as part of the wider affordability decision (total cost of ownership) and with the aim of maximising the overall benefit across the whole programme.

Key Dates:

Competition Launch: May 10th

Briefing event for applicants: May 10th

Deadline for applications: June 13th