



Ministry
of Defence



Defence Equipment and Support
Maple 0a, #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
FOI2015/00797

Date:
22 January 2015

Dear 


Your email dated 20th January 2015 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

Please could I have some information on the FTS/STS framework?

I work for a waste management consultancy and I'm wondering how the company I work for goes about joining the MOD FATS/STS Framework which allows suitably competent companies to provide amongst other services, environmental management consultancy services to the Department?

If possible could you also let me know what the criteria is for acceptance onto the FATS Framework and whether when the new Public Contracts Regulations enter into force whether the framework requirements will change under the 'Dynamic Purchasing System' Requirements?

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information relevant to your request. The current Framework Agreement for Technical Support (Specialist Technical Support) (FATS (STS)) commenced on 7th October 2013 with an expiry date of 4th October 2015. However, it is intended to extend the current FATS (STS) by six months, to align and merge with the new FATS Design & Engineering requirement (FATS D&E) in April 2016. The MOD has not yet implemented the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, which covers Frameworks and Dynamic Purchasing Systems, but there is an expectation that we will do so for FATS D&E in 2016.

I regret that your company () will not be able to join FATS until the new requirement in 2016, as it is against European and UK Procurement Regulations to join a Framework, such as FATS, in mid-term. In accordance with standard MOD tendering procedures, it is planned to publish the new FATS requirement on Defence Contracts Online (DCO) towards the end of summer 2015. Registration for the DCO is free and can be accessed at the link: <http://www.contracts.mod.uk/>. You are also able to register to receive alerts on forthcoming requirements.

The Defence Commercial Commands & Centre Technical Support team (Def Comrc CC-TechSpt) are happy to take enquiries from any potential suppliers regarding forthcoming opportunities. They will also provide an update on process progress at any time upon request. The contact details for Def Comrc CC-TechSpt are as follows:

Defence Equipment & Support

Defence Commercial
Commands & Centre Technical Support
Larch Level 0 #2017
Abbey Wood South
Bristol BS34 8JH

Tel: 030679 83244/83233

Email: DefComrciCC-TechSpt-Sup-Multi@mod.uk

In order to gain acceptance on to FATS, each supplier must pass the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) stage used to shortlist suppliers who are formally invited to tender. The use of the PQQ enables the MOD to determine whether an organisation's commercial, technical and financial competencies meet the minimum criteria for a contract. If suppliers are successful at the PQQ stage, they will be sent an Invitation to Tender (ITT).

The FATS requirement is not used for consultancy requirements but is task specific. Within FATS there are a number of Broad Capability Areas (BCAs), under which sit a range of Narrow Capability Areas (NCAs). It is against these NCAs that suppliers bid for on the ITT at the onset of the Framework. Currently, Environmental Management is one of the BCAs, but we are in the process of reviewing our taxonomy and this may change in the future.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

