

#	Question	Answer
1	As a result of this consultation process will the requirement change?	Unlikely, but possible. The Authority will be in consultation with all potential bidders and the final requirement will be included in the ITT.
2	What is the minimum leg height for the Patrol Boot?	This will be reviewed and the maximum and minimum height will be stated in the specification. The height limits for the boot leg are to ensure that the chosen boot will integrate neatly with the bottom of the trouser leg.
3	When will the samples be available?	Access to examples of the CBRN overboot and Yeti Gaiter will be provided early in the tender period.
4	How many samples are required?	The initial submission will require one male and one female pair of boots for each solution supplied. In addition, bidders will need sample boots in order to obtain laboratory results. Early indications suggest that SATRA have size limitations for laboratory tests which will mean only size 9 for male boots and size 7 for female boots can be provided.
5	Can we get a sample of the socks?	Yes. The socks are likely to be available at the Bidder's Conference (date to be arranged).
6	What is the Authority's definition of quick dry?	SATRA is currently in the final stages of developing a test. This will involve the full immersion of the boot. The boot will then be allowed to drain for a short period, before being weighed at pre-set intervals over an eight hour period.
7	Does the test have a name?	Not at this moment in time as it is currently being finalised. Once finalised, all of the current contracted boots will also be benchmarked against the test.
8	Has the Authority given any direction on the aesthetics of the Patrol boot?	The general feeling is for them to be smart, presentable and to all look the same. There also must be the ability to maintain them using polish.
9	What does the Authority mean by aesthetically pleasing?	It is for the bidders to decide on the style/design of the boot. The Patrol Boot shall be all leather and easily maintained e.g. be easily polished and have as few panels/seams as possible whilst maintaining comfort and fit.
10	When conducting User Trials, will there be a set system to size trialists feet?	Yes, a Podiatrist will be undertaking the sizing and will inform the trialists what size boot they should be wearing.
11	When conducting the quick dry test which is currently being developed by SATRA, is the boot going to be placed upright in the tank?	The exact orientation will be defined within the ITT. It is likely that water will be scooped into the boot filling it completely before it is immersed.

12	What temperature will the boot be drying at?	The standard temperature of 23 degrees will be used with the standard humidity.
13	It appears that the Authority are only temperature testing the Combat boot and not the Patrol boot. Does the Authority only need thermal testing for the Combat boot?	The decision is not yet final, but the current view is that we do not need thermal insulation test results for the Patrol Boot.
14	Is the requirement for Slip Resistance to BS EN ISO 20347 for the Combat HL, Desert HL and BCCW essential as this requirement may have a negative impact on the design of the sole?	We will review the requirement and the level of slip resistance required for each boot. This will be detailed in the specification.
15	If a branded boot is submitted, will it not be considered?	The Authority would prefer that branding is removed as far as possible. Points may be deducted for branding/logos, more detail to follow. This is an excellent topic to discuss during this consultation period. If potential bidders have any examples of areas that may be difficult to de-brand, please highlight them to us by 31 Mar 15.
16	Do the factories used need to be BS EN ISO 9001 accredited?	Subcontractors do not need to demonstrate ISO 9000 accreditation. Only the Prime Contractor needs to have the appropriate BS EN ISO 9001 accreditation. The name and address on the BS EN ISO 9001 certificate must be the same as the name and address of the Prime Contractor/Bidder. We need to consider our position regarding consortia bids.
17	Does the Authority require boots in half sizes?	Initial discussions with the User community indicates that half sizes will not be required. However, this decision is still to be finalised.
18	Does the Authority require UK sizes? Have EU sizes been considered?	The current thinking is to use UK sizing.
19	Is it going to be 72 pairs of boots for all lots? Are the 72 pairs of boots required going to be spread equally over the five lots?	It will be 72 pairs of boots over the five lots. It is almost certain that there will be an uneven split depending on the usage of each boot.
20	How will the current performance of the existing boot be measured?	The current range of boots is being subjected to the same laboratory tests we will use for the new competition. The performance attained by the current boots will inform the pass mark in the forthcoming competition.
21	Will the Gross Error Trial be held in the UK for all types of boot?	Yes, all boots will be trialled in the UK.
22	Is the Authority expecting suppliers to provide all boots for all trials free of charge or are you going to buy them?	Suppliers will be required to provide all boots for all trials free of charge.
23	Is there going to be a Gross Error Trial acclimatisation period?	No, the users will go straight into the boots.

24	What if the trialist's feet are already painful following the trial of a previous boot?	Once the trialist is finished a medic will inspect all feet of trialists to ensure there are no issues which would cause them pain. Everyone will have the same exposure as several boots will be run in all trials.
25	Is the Authority looking to place one Contract for all five lots.	No. It could be that a different supplier wins each lot (potentially seven different winners given that lots 1 and 2 require 2 suppliers each).
26	Will bidders be required to submit boots for every lot?	No. Bidders can submit bids for one or more lots if they wish.
27	Is it up to four types of boot for each lot?	Yes.
28	Are there any countries that cannot be used to manufacture Combat Footwear?	North Korea and Iran are currently Countries that should not be used to manufacture footwear.
29	Will the Gross Error Trial be done by Reservists?	No.
30	Will there be a mix of seniority in the trialists?	During the GET the trial troops are likely to be at Cpl Level and below. During the FUT the trial troops are likely to range from Private to Major.
31	Can the Authority advise as to estimated usage? What measures do you have in place to improve these?	It is difficult to predict usage. The Authority cannot guarantee numbers.
32	Will bidders be required to provide firm prices for the predicted seven years of the Contracts?	It is likely that a firm price will be required for an initial period followed by a period of Variation of Price for the remaining years.
33	Will there be a price cap on the Patrol boot?	This is a value for money proposition. There will probably be a capped price included in the ITT for the Patrol boot. It may be possible to defer the submission of the best and final price until later in the process.
34	What is the cost for the supplier for registering and using P2P?	Suppliers will have to decide the way in which they wish to connect to ePurchasing, various options are available and the investment will range from a few hundred pounds to several thousands, depending on the solution that is chosen. An indication of the costs associated with each connectivity option can be found on the following website: http://www.d2btrade.com/decs-services/p2p/connectivity/
35	Will Defence Clothing supply last data to the tenderer's?	No. Bidders are to provide last data for their submitted samples. We require the boots to fit the 9th to 95th percentile of the User population. Size and fitting will form part of the Gross Error Trial.
36	Apart from the CBRN Overboot and Yeti Gaiter is there any other equipment that the boots need to be compatible with?	The Patrol boot leg height must be compatible with the trousers.

37	Is the Tender return deadline of 14th July set in stone? This is a short timescale to develop a boot which is not off the shelf.	The Authority realises the tight timescales that have been put into place. SATRA are aware of our deadlines and are prepared for the influx of laboratory test requests they may need to fulfil.
38	Do the Patrol boots require a safety toe?	No.
39	Are there any standards for the mass gain?	Not at this moment in time, this is currently being evaluated.
40	Will the laboratory tests take into account the User walking, rather than just a static test?	Both the Gross Error Trial and Full User Trial will test each boot in a real-life scenario.
41	Under the Framework Agreement, will each Purchase Order be dealt with as a separate Contract?	Every warrant will be dealt with under isolation but covered by the Framework Agreement.
42	What is the Authority's average payment time?	Payments made through P2P are usually within 28 days of receipt.
43	Does the Authority require barcodes?	Yes, DEFCON 129J details all packaging and labelling requirements.
44	How much will the price be weighted in the tender evaluation criteria?	Weightings have not yet been decided. The detail will be clearly explained in the ITT.
45	Will each supplier have to apply again on the 5th May when the advert goes live?	Yes. An email reminder to all Expressions of Interest will be sent.
46	Will suppliers be able re-add information onto AWARD and see how they are scoring as they input details?	No. Once submitted, no further information can be added and bidders will not know how they're scoring. All calculations and prices are hidden until the end of the evaluations and all tender samples will be anonymous. However, the downselect process will probably allow the bidders to know the scored outcome of each stage before proceeding to the next stage.
47	How will the samples be evaluated if a technologically advanced boot is submitted over and above the Authority's pass mark?	After the initial pass mark, there will be a pre-determined scale where a bidder can be awarded additional merit for technically capable boots. This will be detailed in the ITT. That said, this competition is not expecting to stimulate any significant technological innovation.
48	Where is the maximum height measured from on each boot?	BS EN ISO 20344 Clause 6.2 "The height of the upper is the vertical distance between the lowest point in the insole/insock. i.e. between the heel breast and the back of the heel and the highest point on the upper"
49	What type of slip resistance testing is being used?	BCCW BS EN ISO 20347 SRC for the Patrol boots. Slip Resistance of Combat HL, Desert HL and BCCW will be evaluated during the trials.

50	If the BS EN ISO 9001 Certificate details that we manufacture PPE and specialist clothing, will we have to go back to ISO and get this changed or is this within the scope?	Combat boots do not fall within the scope of general PPE. The certificate should include a scope appropriate the requirement i.e. must state footwear/boots etc e.g. "design and manufacture of footwear" to "supply and distribution of footwear". A scope of "PPE and specialist clothing" is not acceptable.
51	Does the Authority require spacers to be included with each pair of boots?	Spacers are not to be provided with each pair of boots, but are to be provided separately. There will be a separate NSN for the spacer.
52	Once in Contract, will boots be branded or unbranded?	Once the Contract is let, the branding may be let back onto the boot.
53	Can you confirm which Yeti gaiter the Authority will be using for the trials for the CWW boot?	Berghaus Yeti Attack Gaiter 2
54	Please can the Authority clarify whether ISO 14001 is a pass/fail criteria?	BS EN ISO 14001, or equivalent, or in house procedures that mirror BS EN ISO 14001 showing progress toward achieving certification will be required.
55	Is there a draft SRD document for each of the boot variants you require? Or are we to work from the key requirements listed in the powerpoint presentation?	The Authority will detail the full requirement in the tender documentation when it is released.
56	Will details of the initial samples required (delivery address etc) be supplied in tender documentation when it is released?	Yes.
57	The weight limit of the Patrol boot being 1.5KG per pair. My concern is the weight threshold limit means that you can only achieve the weight limit by using an EVA midsole.	We have reviewed this and will be increase the maximum allowed weight for the patrol boot to 1.7kg. Also the maximum weight of the Boots Desert CHL will now be 1.75kg and the Jungle boot to a maximum of 2kg.
58	Please can you clarify if the FR BS7971 requirement for the boot is just for the upper and lace materials? The standard asks for an Heat Resistant Outsole and be tested for both Heath and Cold Insulation.	Only the upper leather will be tested.
59	Can you advise the requirements on the desert high liability as the copy of the presentation notes suggest samples in Sand Colour, please can you clarify.	Sand colour for the Tender samples and boots for the Gross Error Trials and possibly mid brown for the Full User Trials. The contract will be for Mid Brown boots as per the existing contracts.
60	Do you know when exact specifications and test methods will be confirmed so we can progress effectively?	Exact specifications and test methods will be detailed in the Invitation to Tender. The Advert for this will be released on 5th May 2015.
61	Do the sample boots need to be boxed and if so does that need to be blank?	Exact packaging instructions will be detailed in the Invitation to Tender. The Advert for this will be released on 5th May 2015.

62	Will the Authority hold pallets of stock in reserve?	Yes. Stock held approximately 3 months to one x lead time quantity in advance, this can vary dependant on the items demand/need rate.
63	Previously, how have the lots been compared in the amount of boots that have been ordered?	The High Liability brown boot has been around 11,000-12,000 pairs per order on one variant of the boot. The black High Liability boot has been around 1,000 pairs per order. There is a large variance with order amounts between the styles and colours of boots .Orders placed are dependant on customers demand/consumption patterns – order quantities can vary in size.
64	It is assumed that the weight and height requirements mentioned in the Industry Day slides refer to Men's Size 9. Please confirm.	Yes. The weight and height requirements mentioned in the Industry Day slides refer to Men's Size 9.
65	With regard to Quick Dry requirement and Drying Time after immersion; are these two requirements the same or are they different? On the slide on page 4, the Quick Dry Out is valid for Cbt HL, Des HL and Jungle whereas on page 5 the Drying Time after Immersion is only valid for Cbt HL and not for the others.	The Authority is seeking industry's best solutions for boots that are considered to 'dry out' to an acceptable level within a given timescale to enable the User to continue their duties comfortably. The most up to date information we can provide is that testing will be necessary on Combat High Liability Boots and Cold Wet Weather Boots as part of the essential criteria to be assessed at tender stage technically. A standard performance level for maximum weight gain and weight loss with timescales will be made clear in the ITT. Please note that this area is still being worked on internally and details and affected 'lots' may change.
66	During the industry day there was a comment re hooks and lacing system not to be a catch hazard; i.e. open hooks not being permitted. Which lots will this be valid for?	This will be valid for all lots.

67	<p>We believe that the tender return date of 14 Jul 15 gives insufficient time for tenderers to design and manufacture innovative high performance products given that definitive technical information will not be available until after 5 May 15. Although the Authority seeks "COTS" products, it also has some fairly specific requirements of its own. To meet these takes time and at the moment there is insufficient firm information from the Authority to enable a tenderer to start definitive work now without a high degree of risk. We submit that, in order for tenderers to submit the best products, the tender return date should be extended by 6 weeks. Will the Authority agree to this?</p>	<p>Due to the timescales involved with the boot trialling, we will not be considering an extension at this time.</p>
68	<p>Would the Authority reconsider conducting a Reverse Auction? In our view this would enable tenderers to submit their best performing products knowing that competitive pricing would be determined at a later stage.</p>	<p>We will not be conducting a reverse auction for this requirement.</p>
69	<p>Will there be any consideration for the environmental aspects of the bid? For example the leather tanning.</p>	<p>Yes, environmental aspects should be covered under the Sustainability Regulations.</p>