



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

National Academy focused on Mathematical Sciences

Application guidance and requirements

May 2024



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at: mathsacademyuk@dsit.gov.uk

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Application guidance

1. Background

On 22 November 2023, the government announced its intention to support the creation of a National Academy focused on Mathematical Sciences (NAM). The proposal builds upon the recommendation of Professor Philip Bond's independent review 'The Era of Mathematics Review'¹ and was committed to as part of the government response to the independent Review of the Research, Development and Innovation organisational Landscape², led by Sir Paul Nurse. This work recognises the need to build mathematical capabilities in the UK and the importance of providing support to the sector in a long-term and sustainable way.

2. Funding details

Funding may be granted to a maximum value of £6,000,000 (six million), over a maximum of three years. Non-grant funded activities can continue beyond the funding period.

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) reserve the right not to award a grant and conclude the competition at any stage.

3. When to apply

The call for applications is open from 7 May 2024 until 4 June 2024 14:00. Applications will only be considered if they are submitted within this period.

Deadline for submission of applications: 4 June 2024 14:00.

Notification of outcome of stage 1: June 2024

Notification of outcome of stage 2: July 2024

4. Who can apply

The competition is open to applications from UK-based organisations that meet the eligibility criteria.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/the-era-of-mathematics/>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-development-and-innovation-organisational-landscape-an-independent-review>

5. How to apply

Read the guidance and ask any questions you have to mathsacademyuk@dsit.gov.uk. Responses to clarification questions will be published on gov.uk.

DSIT would be grateful if you could indicate to the team your intention to submit an application at the earliest opportunity via email, to support planning and resourcing of evaluation process. This should contain no details as to the contents of the application.

The following documents need to be completed, signed and submitted as part of your application:

- Completed Stage 1 ‘pre-selection criteria’ questions, as set out in ‘Application Approach’. This must include the following documents:
 - Pre-selection criteria (please use template provided)
- Completed Stage 2 evaluation questions, as set out in ‘Application Approach’. This should include the following documents:
 - Delivery plan
 - Risk Log (please use template provided)
 - Proposed spend forecast (please use template provided)

The submission must not exceed the maximum length specifications and only documents listed above will be considered at assessment. Incomplete applications may be considered ineligible and not assessed. DSIT reserves the right to ask for additional clarifications and correction following the submission deadline.

In evaluating your responses, we value brevity and the maximum word limit is fixed, but please give sufficient evidence to support your application. Tables will not be included in this word limit but should be only used where necessary.

Applications must be submitted via email to mathsacademyuk@dsit.gov.uk with the subject line ‘NAM: Application’. You will receive an email acknowledgement of your submission.

We strongly advise submitting well in advance of the deadline (i.e. days before) as there is always a risk that IT issues prevent you submitting promptly (e.g. issues sending large files).

6. Review process

Once we have received your submission, DSIT will review your application. There are two steps to the review process:

- The information provided in the first stage (‘pre-selection criteria’) will be reviewed against the eligibility criteria (see below) and a range of questions designed to determine whether DSIT is able to consider awarding a grant to your organisation. At

this point, in the event that the answers provided are insufficient, or we cannot be satisfied that government is able to award public money to your organisation your application will be considered unsuccessful and the full application will not be considered further. Therefore, we would suggest that you review these questions/criteria before deciding whether to apply. In answering these questions you are reminded that if you have any queries in relation to your application, you can contact mathsacademyuk@dsit.gov.uk.

- If your application passes the first stage, your full application will then be considered at the second stage by a panel of experts (including finance, policy and commercial and an independent panel member) using the evaluation criteria. You will be notified of the outcome of your application by email.

7. Evaluation criteria

All applications that pass the first stage will be considered against the evaluation criteria. See below.

8. Confidentiality

DSIT is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It may therefore become necessary for DSIT to release information in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Documentation may be retained by DSIT for reference, but information submitted will remain confidential and the names of any unsuccessful applicants will not be published.

The contact details you provide will only be used for the purposes of this application and DSIT will not share your information with anyone else. Any personal data will be handled in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

9. Statement of Main Terms

Alongside this application pack, DSIT has produced a 'Statement of Main Terms'. This sets out a non-exhaustive list of key terms that will be included in the Grant Funding Agreement which the successful applicant must be able to sign and comply with in order to receive DSIT grant funding.

10. Grant Recipient Code of Conduct

All organisations in receipt of DSIT grant funding must abide by the [UK government Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients, where applicable](#).

11. Due diligence

DSIT will carry out due diligence on the successful applicant as required using internal and, where necessary, external subject matter experts. This will include assessing financial and commercial viability of the organisation, as well as overall suitability.

If the due diligence activity on the successful applicant results in insurmountable issues or concerns to the Authority on the successful applicant, including their ability to deliver or meet the Code of Conduct, then the Authority reserves the right to remove the successful applicant status of that organisation, remove them from the competition and then approach the organisation with the next highest scoring submission to undertake due diligence and deliver the Grant.

12. Queries and further information

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact the team via email at mathsacademyuk@dsit.gov.uk

Requirements

1. Purpose

This competition is being run to find an organisation capable of receiving a government grant from the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to support the establishment of an incipient National Academy focused on Mathematical Sciences (NAM).

DSIT is a UK central government department responsible for delivering on the government's ambition to be a global science, research and technology powerhouse. DSIT's mission is to drive stronger growth, better jobs and bold discoveries.

2. Background

The government has consistently emphasised how essential it is to build mathematical capabilities in the UK and the importance of providing support to the sector in a long-term and sustainable way. We have also seen the success that the existing world-class National Academies have had over many years in supporting their respective disciplines, and we recognise the potential value of a similarly dedicated institution for the UK mathematical community.

On 22 November 2023 the government announced its intention to support the creation of a NAM. The proposal builds upon the recommendation of Professor Philip Bond's independent review 'The Era of Mathematics Review'³ and was committed to as part of the government response to the independent Review of the Research, Development and Innovation organisational Landscape⁴, led by Sir Paul Nurse. This work recognises the need to build mathematical capabilities in the UK and the importance of providing support to the sector in a long-term and sustainable way.

Between 12 January and 25 February 2024, the government [ran a call for evidence](#) to capture views from the sector, and spoke to over 100 key people in the sector.⁵ There was a broad consensus of the value and impact such an organisation could have for mathematical sciences in the UK and led to the development of the objectives and requirements set out in this document.⁶

³ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/the-era-of-mathematics/>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-development-and-innovation-organisational-landscape-an-independent-review>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/national-academy-for-the-mathematical-sciences-proposed-focus-and-objectives/national-academy-for-mathematical-sciences>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/national-academy-for-the-mathematical-sciences-proposed-focus-and-objectives/outcome/national-academy-for-mathematical-sciences-government-response>

3. Objectives

The long-term objectives the government hopes a NAM will achieve are:

- Helping the sector to speak with one voice, encouraging and respecting diverse views, developing clear and coherent positions on how to promote and enhance mathematical sciences at all levels, and across all areas of society;
- Promoting mathematical sciences in ways which support economic growth and societal benefits, including through forging links between industry and academia;
- Convening, coordinating, and assessing views and evidence from across the mathematical community to provide high-quality independent advice to government and society;
- Strengthening the UK's mathematical sciences sector by working constructively with existing organisations and the wider UK R&D sector, expanding and diversifying the talent pool in the UK, and forging links across academia, industry, education, government, global partners and wider civil society;
- Promoting the benefits of mathematical sciences and developing strategies to support the public understanding, trust and proficiency in, mathematical sciences;
- Championing and providing expert advice to enhance mathematical sciences education at all stages, improving mathematical literacy and boosting uptake of skills, qualifications, and careers in all parts of the UK.

4. Outputs

The objective of this open competition is to find an organisation capable of receiving a government grant to support the establishment of an incipient NAM.

Based on the long-term objectives for a NAM set out above, DSIT expects the Grant Recipient to deliver the below outputs from the up to £6 million of funding that will be provided over three years (subject to business case approvals).

- Develop and implement the structures and processes required to provide a coherent and representative voice for the mathematical sciences community, by end of FY 27/28, and provide demonstrable examples and evidence of this on an ongoing basis.
- Collaboratively develop and publish a long-term strategy and delivery plan, by end of FY 27/28, setting out a clear vision for how the organisation will strengthen the mathematical sciences sector and support economic growth and societal benefits.
- Provide credible, expert and timely advice to government, industry and society on issues affecting and relating to the mathematical sciences, in FY24/25 – 27/28.
- Promote mathematical sciences and increase public support, trust and understanding of mathematical sciences through frequent public engagement and activities in FY24/25 – FY27/28, with evidence of impact.

5. Scope

DSIT may provide one organisation up to £6 million grant funding over three years to establish an incipient NAM. The incipient NAM will be based in the UK and operate across the whole of the UK.

The applicant will need to consider the [UK government Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients](#) and obligations under law, including the Modern Slavery Act and the Equality Act. These requirements will form part of the Grant Funding Agreement.

Any organisation whose application is successful acknowledges that there is no guarantee of any further funding from DSIT. The organisation will need to demonstrate evidence of success against the objectives, outputs and in both the short and long term requirements to establish itself and be recognised as a National Academy alongside the existing four UK National Academies. This is as dependent on the actions of the incipient NAM and the wider sector, as it is on action taken by government.

6. Detailed requirements

Short-term requirements (three years, grant funding)

Put in place the structures and processes required to provide a leading, coherent voice for the mathematical sciences community: The government expects the successful applicant to quickly establish the organisational structures required to ensure they can listen to and amplify the broad range of views in the mathematical sciences community. The successful applicant should establish a team of experts, across academia and industry, appoint key members of leadership staff and establish policy and engagement functions, including with a view to establishing a representative fellowship body. Recognising the diversity of individuals and organisations in mathematical sciences the successful applicant should be careful to define its work and functions in a way that complements the existing activities and work of organisations already operating in the sector.

Publish a strategy setting out a clear vision for the mathematical sciences sector in the UK: In the first three years the successful applicant should lead the development of a strategy to strengthen the mathematical sciences sector and support economic growth and societal benefits in the UK. Engaging voices from across the breadth of the community, the strategy should map the sector and consider approaches to strengthening the evidence base. The strategy should be forward looking, considering not only the skills and expertise needed now, but anticipating the future needs of the UK economy.

Provide credible, expert and timely advice on mathematical sciences: The government expects the successful applicant to be proactive in providing advice to government, policy makers and industry, helping to shape the agenda on mathematical sciences. Recognising that improving mathematical capabilities in the UK will be a continual process, initially the successful applicant should focus on developing a policy engagement function capable of

bringing together views from the sector, complementing the work of others and articulating the most important issues for the sector coherently and effectively.

Increase public support and engagement in mathematical sciences: A core ambition should be to support the existing sector in continuing to advocate for and build mathematical capabilities in the UK. In the first three years, government would expect the successful applicant to develop an underpinning, integrated communications strategy and build a strong evidence base that can demonstrate the value and impact of mathematical sciences to the economy and society as a whole. As the UK moves forward with its ambition to become a science and technology super-power, improving the public understanding of mathematical sciences will be an important driver for successful policy making. An incipient NAM would need to help the sector modernise the way it communicates and promotes mathematics to the UK public, helping the public to understand key mathematical concepts and appreciate the value of mathematics and the critical part it plays in underpinning our modern world. The successful applicant should also establish a dedicated engagement team to galvanise public support for mathematical sciences, working closely with industry to achieve this. This could include outreach activities, in schools/academic institutions, as well as events to engage the broader public, showcasing the practical applications and exciting career opportunities in mathematical sciences and proactive social media content.

Become an established, independent organisation: Although the successful applicant will be funded by the government to up to £6 million initially, it will not be a government body or agency and should therefore seek complementary sources of private and third-sector funding. The organisation must establish a governance and management framework, as befitting an incipient National Academy, setting out decision making roles and rules, financial management, degrees of autonomy, assurance needs, reporting structure, accountabilities and roles and the appropriate management practices and associated documentation. The organisation should adhere to the UK Corporate Governance Code, Charity Governance Code or follow equivalent good corporate governance principles underpinned by robust processes. While we expect the incipient NAM would build a strong relationship with government departments, it must develop and maintain its own views and policy positions.

Publish a delivery strategy setting out a clear plan for the Academy: In the first three years the successful applicant should publish a strategy and delivery plan that will enable it to fulfil the longer-term requirements that government would expect a National Academy to be able to fulfil. This will mean putting in place plans for establishing any self-governing fellowship, securing non-government sources of funding, developing a long-term organisational strategy, a communication strategy and developing strategies to develop mathematical skills across the UK in the long-term.

We welcome views on other short-term requirements that the applicant has identified as critical to achieve the objectives of a NAM. However, please note that these will not be assessed under the evaluation criteria.

Longer-term requirements (three years+, post-funding period⁷)

Have an established self-governing fellowship: An incipient National Academy would establish a credible fellowship, representing a diverse and broad range of outstanding people from across the full mathematical sciences community that the government and wider sector can connect with.

Leverage private and voluntary sector funding: An incipient National Academy would seek to take advantage of appropriate external funding sources. These might include private donations, sponsorships, or subscriptions amongst other sources. In doing this the organisation must though be careful to safeguard its independence and to avoid harmful competition with its partners. The government also hopes that over time an incipient National Academy would be attractive to private philanthropic investment.

Work to improve and develop mathematical skills across the UK: An incipient National Academy would identify areas of potential improvement between advanced level maths education and the requirements of employers and the wider economy. Particular focus should be given to supporting the UK's competitiveness in advanced mathematical skills that support industries that will underpin future growth, including areas with a strong interrelationship with mathematics, such as Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, including the governments critical technologies⁸. Given feedback received regarding the challenge in ensuring that expertly trained mathematicians can use their skills in the applied setting that growth industries require, an incipient National Academy should find ways to facilitate and assist this, such as delivering tailored programmes and facilitating knowledge exchange. An incipient National Academy should also consider as part of this requirement how to promote a mathematical sciences workforce in which all, regardless of background, can participate. An incipient National Academy should find ways to strengthen and broaden the UK talent pipeline by boosting participation and supporting progression.

Collaborating internationally: Recognising that the mathematical sciences community stretches overseas and plays an essential role in global challenges, an incipient National Academy should begin to establish its international presence, identifying synergies and areas where international collaboration can be forged. In the future, an incipient National Academy could play a role in raising the international profile of the UK's mathematical community and demonstrate the value of mobility in the sector.

Develop options for programmes that support the objectives set out above: The Academy could seek funding for these programmes from a variety of sources, including but not limited to applying for government funding where appropriate.

⁷ Further government funding is not guaranteed

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-science-and-technology-framework/the-uk-science-and-technology-framework>

7. Key performance indicators (KPIs)

The Grant Recipient will be expected to demonstrate progress towards the objectives over the lifetime of the grant funding, and as part of an independent evaluation commissioned by DSIT in the final 12 months of the grant funding period. Further information on monitoring and evaluation is set out in the ‘statement of main terms’.

As part of monitoring progress, KPIs will be agreed with the Grant Recipient, based on a finalised delivery plan. Potential KPIs could include, but are not limited to:

- Number of publications (e.g. policy, evidence, research).
- Number and nature (e.g. type of organisation) of those engaged in the development of the strategy setting out the vision for the mathematical sciences sector.
- Quantitative and attitudinal measures of reception to the strategy (e.g. downloads, coverage and responses) from mathematical sciences sector and the wider public.
- Quantitative and attitudinal measures of reception to incipient NAM from mathematical sciences sector and the wider public.
- Website and social media traffic volumes and media coverage of the incipient NAM.
- Numbers, focus and seniority of staff devoted to Academy activities.
- Transparent (published) structures and regular meetings.
- Measures of public attitude towards mathematical sciences (e.g. Number of people in a general survey agreeing statement e.g. “maths is important.”)

8. Key dates

- Start of grant: Financial year 2024 to 2025
- End of funding period: Financial year 2027 to 2028

9. Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be a UK-based organisation. We will not accept applications from individuals applying under their own legal identity.
- Applicants must be a single entity. We will not accept group or consortium applications.
- Applicants must be able to enter a legally binding and enforceable agreement with the Crown.
- Applicants must be able to accept the minimum terms set out in the Statement of Main Terms.

10. Payment

The exact payment breakdown of up to a maximum of £6 million funding would be agreed with DSIT in the Grant Funding Agreement, based upon the spend forecast included in the grant application. Funding will be paid monthly against the agreed forecast.

11. Funding period

It is expected that the grant will run for up to a maximum of three years (36 months) of operation from the start of signing the Grant Funding Agreement. DSIT expects, upon successful completion of the competition and due diligence process, to start the grant funding in financial year 2024 to 2025.

All grant funded activities must be completed by three years from the start of the funding period. Non-grant funded activities can continue beyond this date.

Application approach

The structure for applications is as follows:

- Stage 1: Pre-selection criteria questions
 - Part 1 Questions (General Information - not assessed)
 - Part 2 Question (Grounds for exclusion)
 - Part 3 Questions (Economic and financial standing and compliance)
 - Part 4 Declaration + Signature
- Stage 2: Evaluated questions

1. Pre-selection criteria (Stage 1)

The pre-selection criteria template can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), alongside further guidance provided in the template.

The information provided in the first stage ('pre-selection criteria') will be reviewed against the eligibility criteria (see above) and a range of questions designed to determine whether DSIT is able to consider awarding a grant to your organisation. At this point, in the event that the answers provided are insufficient, or we cannot be satisfied that government is able to award public money to your organisation, your application will be considered unsuccessful and the full application will not be considered further.

2. Evaluated questions (Stage 2)

Responses to the evaluated questions will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria set out below.

Scores for each question will be weighted by the percentage indicated against each question (i.e. 25%). Your application's total score will be the sum of the weighted scores.

1. Provide a description of the proposed delivery approach over the three year funding period and the activities which will be undertaken to meet the outputs and short-term requirements (25%, 2000 word limit, excluding delivery plan). Responses should include a delivery plan outputs and demonstrate understanding of the short-term requirements and what the Grant Recipient is expected to deliver.
2. Please demonstrate your relevant experience and expertise that are essential to the successful delivery of the outputs and short-term requirements (25%, 2000 word limit)
3. Provide a description of the proposed delivery approach beyond the three year funding period, meeting the long-term requirements. (10%, 1000 word limit)
4. Please detail your processes, systems and approach to project management, specifically for delivering this project. (20%, 2000 word limit, excluding risk log). Responses should include a risk log (please use template provided).

5. Please provide a breakdown of the amount of Grant funding you are applying for over the three year funding period, in order to deliver the outputs and short-term requirements. Please justify the amount with an explanation as to how it was derived, evidenced with a spend forecast (see template). Please detail how your approach is value for money with evidence to justify your propositions. (20%, 2000 word limit, excluding spend forecast). Responses should include a breakdown of expenditure through a spend forecast (please use template provided).

3. Evaluation criteria

	Criteria	Scoring criteria	%
1	Understanding, activities and approach	<p>All proposals will provide an overall summary of knowledge of the project, how the deliverables for each activity and/or stage of work will meet the short-term requirements/outputs for the incipient NAM. High scoring applicants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a delivery plan setting out the proposed delivery approach over the three years of the funding period. This should include details of the activities which will be undertaken to meet the outputs, and appropriate timelines and milestones. • Provide a description of how the delivery approach meets the outputs/short-term requirements, including any rationale for the prioritisation and timing of the activities. • Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate monitoring and reporting. • Demonstrate an understanding of the role an incipient NAM would play in supporting mathematical sciences across the whole of the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). • A clear explanation of how you would promote equality, diversity and inclusion within your organisation, and how you will promote it in the wider mathematical sciences sector. • Demonstrate a breadth of activity across the whole of the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). 	25

2	Experience and expertise to deliver	<p>All proposals will demonstrate your knowledge of the skills and expertise that are essential to the successful delivery of the incipient NAM. High scoring applicants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a strong understanding of the mathematical sciences sector. • Include examples of relevant previous experience to establishing or managing an organisation or multistakeholder group, across academia, industry, charities and/or government. • Include examples of relevant experience to delivering a high-profile project, including references/testimonials (if relevant/appropriate) attesting to your competence. • Include examples of relevant grant management, including reporting and monitoring. • Evidence any support from external organisations and existing networks that would be needed, in order to undertake and complete this project. • Explain how your experience and expertise supports the approach set out in the delivery plan. • Provide details of the proposed team structure including, if possible, identified members that have the required skills and expertise to achieve the outputs and short-term requirements. Provide detail as to how you will identify and recruit experts and qualified staff to the team structure as required. • Include explanation of the suitable contingency measures that will be used should the team unexpectedly change. 	25
3	Long-term strategy and benefits to the UK	<p>All proposals will need to demonstrate that they will achieve benefits to the UK beyond the lifetime of the grant. High scoring applicants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a high-level description of the proposed delivery approach for the long-term requirements and overall NAM objectives after the three-year funding period. 	10

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show commercial understanding, knowledge and viability, setting out approach to long-term sustainability and independence of the organisation. • Demonstrate that proposed activity over the long term would generate a realistic and impactful addition to the UK R&D sector. 	
4	Governance, management, planning and risk	<p>All proposals will need to demonstrate that they will have an effective structure in place for managing the administration of the grant and demonstrate that they have a sound approach to planning to achieve the outputs on time and within budget. High scoring applicants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an approach to risk and programme management that is aligned with best practice. • Demonstrate robust approach to governance and accountability. • Describe all challenges and risks you expect to be relevant to delivery alongside effective plans for mitigation, management, and contingency. • Provision of the top risks with justification as to why you consider these to be the most important. • Resource requirements to enable delivery (including, where possible, the indicative seniority and expertise of each staff member) and the delineation of clear project management roles and responsibilities. 	20
5	Value for money	<p>All proposals will need to demonstrate that they represent value for money for the taxpayer. This is demonstrated by providing appropriate budgets allocated to appropriate activities providing significant outputs with excellent value for money.</p> <p>High scoring applicants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide detailed spend forecast with a breakdown of expenditure, by activity, over the three-year funding period, with explanation as to how it was derived. • demonstrate a cost-effective proposal. 	20

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate the added value that the grant funding will bring to the UK. • show that the proposed resource is sufficient to deliver in the proposed timelines. • demonstrate operational efficiency by showing that the proposed work, level of proposed effort and overall expense is fair, reasonable and will deliver a cost-effective outcome. • make good use of existing networks/partners to maximise value for money and speed of delivery. 	
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4. Scoring

1-7 Scoring Range

Individual responses to each question will be scored in line with the following scheme. The assessors will score your answers to the evaluated questions. Each question will be given a score 1-7:

1 - Serious concerns: for example, does not meet requirements, and/or raises serious concerns.

2 - Some concerns: for example, meets some requirements but with gaps and/or some concerns

3 - Moderate confidence: for example, meets most/all requirements, but lacks sufficient detail in some areas.

4 - Adequate confidence: for example, meets most/all requirements and provides a response that demonstrates a good understanding of the requirements.

5 - Good confidence: for example, meets most/all requirements and provides a response that demonstrates a good understanding of the requirements.

6 - Very good confidence: for example, meets all requirements and provides a detailed response that also exceeds expectations in some areas and/or demonstrates a strong understanding of the requirements.

7 - Outstandingly good confidence: for example, meets all requirements and exceptional detail that exceeds expectations in many areas and demonstrates excellent understanding of the requirements.

This publication is available from: www.gov.uk/dsit

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