- AWE20 Agile Command, Control & Communication (Agile C3) Request For Information

The Requirement

The Army has established a Capability Spotlight to focus on the question 'how can the Army exploit developments in the Agile Command, Control and Communication space?' which was identified as one of the 'nine fundamental deductions and insights judged most critical to guide strategic, joint and command force development [which offer] the best prospect of making the joint force fit for the challenges of the future operating environment.

AWE20 seeks to leverage emerging technology able to operate in complex and dangerous environments where an enemy might seek to deny use of normal channels of communication. Technology may apply to the individual soldier or to an entire Division (35000) but should have an applied human element for use by soldiers.

In order to explore this area, the Army has developed a number of questions that submissions should seek to answer:

- How can technology improve data exploitation for situational awareness and understanding?
- How can technology enable us to make faster and better-informed decisions (Not just speeding up the cycle)?
- How can technology reduce the detectability and improve the resilience of HQs at all levels in order to enhance their survivability and agility?
- How can your product enable more efficient deployment and employment of our HQs on operations?
- How can technology improve command on the move and facilitate dispersed HQs?

The Project

The Spotlight aims to identify specific capabilities for rapid exploitation (<15yrs). A core component of this is a large-scale experiment and demonstration in 2020. It will connect industry technology suppliers with Army front line users, drawing on the successful models offered by the Army Warfighting Experiment (AWE) and Unmanned Warrior (undertaken by the Royal Navy).

The Trial

The activity will occur within an operational scenario to test and evaluate the utility of commercially available systems It will be multinational, multi-location and will take place over 4 weeks; it is likely to be connected through a common scenario within a synthetic environment most likely pitched at a brigade operating within a divisional context. It will offer industry a genuine platform to interact with senior and working level military.

Systems will be tasked by military staff in support of operations but may be operated by either uniformed staff or industry. The Army, supported by DE&S Technology Office, is keen

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to hear from Industry who have related technologies that could offer military benefit. Experimentation and demonstration events will then be designed to gather some evidence as to how they might deliver capability. The Army would also welcome any other suitable ideas and technologies that may provide military benefit.

Respondents are invited to indicate, without commitment or prejudice, where they might be willing to contribute resources (e.g. people and equipment). Participation in AWE20 will be at Industry's expense, noting that it provides an opportunity to showcase their capabilities to a wide range of stakeholder and the opportunity to receive military user feedback. However, it is not the intent of AWE20 to limit opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) participation and as such, the Authority will consider requests from SMEs for limited funding on individual merit, and where it can be shown that to provide their services for free puts them at a disadvantage.

Proposed Estimated Timeline

Jul '19 Advert Out

Mid Sep '19 Industry Day #1

End Sep '19 Advert Closes – submissions in

Early Oct '19 **Down select / Paper sift**

Oct '19 Authority Decision & Framework Release

Late Oct '19 Industry Day #2

Nov-Dec'19 Lv.A - 'Dragon's Den'

Jan-Mar '20 Lv.B – Preliminary Trials with TDUs

Late '20 Lv.C – Trial period

Application Process

To be considered for the AWE20 project please:

- Please send an Expression of Interest to DES-AWE@mod.gov.uk
- We will reply with a 'White Paper' and 'Quad Chart' attached to be completed and returned to The Authority
- Involvement in the project will be judged on this submission

The deadline for submissions is 30th September 2019

Once the paper sift / down select has been completed the framework agreement will be released to successful candidates which will need to be returned before being able to participate in Level B – Dragon's Den

Contact

The AWE activity will be circulated through a number of communication routes but this DCB advert is the definitive document.

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All queries can be sent to the AWE mailbox: DES-AWE@mod.gov.uk

Key Words:

Data flows, Meta Data, Data Modelling, Data Flow, Data Visualization. Data Exploitation, Data Searching, Big data, Orders Generation, Planning, Estimating, Information Generation, Cyber, Cyber resilience, Electronic Camouflage, HQ Deception, Improving Agility, Improving Survivability, Deployed Infrastructure, Rapid Deployment, Deployed Secure Wireless, Strike, Data Synchronisation, Multimodal Antennas, Bearer Networks, Cloudlets.

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