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Statement of Requirement for the R-Cloud Human Capability Research Strategic Capability

Introduction:

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), which is part of the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), is refreshing its commercial agreement for Science and Technology (S&T) research contracts, known as R-Cloud (Research Cloud).
MOD places extensive fundamental, experimental and applied research with industry and academic suppliers and wants to broaden access for this supply base, reducing the cost of trading with MOD and enabling agile contracting. R-Cloud complements MOD's other contracting mechanisms and academic and industry suppliers of S&T research are now invited to apply to join MOD's research supplier community within the Human Capability Research Strategic Capability.

This statement of requirement relates to suppliers joining R-Cloud within Human Capability Research capability area. R-Cloud provides a low barrier to entry for potential suppliers and offers direct access to MOD's current and future research requirements. Academic and industrial suppliers of Human Capability Research are invited to apply to R-Cloud if you are a supplier of Science and Technology Research in this area.

The human component is a central element of defence and security capability; it is hard to identify any system that can operate without an appropriate human contribution. Human and Social Sciences (HSS) capability ensures that MOD's future human capability continues to outpace and outthink our adversaries and continues to protect our people. The capability provides thought leadership to drive research, deliver advice and evaluate S&T that safely and ethically augments, enhances and optimises human physical and cognitive capabilities in defence and security contexts. It provides thought leadership to drive research, delivers advice and evaluates S&T that safely and ethically augments, enhances and optimises human physical and cognitive capabilities in defence and security contexts.

MOD's research in these areas is predominantly delivered externally by placing contracts with industry and academia through a range of commercial contracting mechanisms – including R-Cloud. These agreements have been developed to delivering agile, timely and effective human science research, through a robust supply chain, with an emphasis on scientific excellence, building partnerships to champion and exploit research, skills and capabilities. These

agreements support partnerships and exploitation routes to channel innovative and novel solutions to address current and emerging problems.

MOD is seeking research suppliers with expertise in the following sub-capability areas to partner with other suppliers to form multi-disciplinary teams in order to answer some of defence and securities most challenging problems:

- **Personnel** – S&T to provide evidence to shape and underpin novel interventions and approaches to support delivery of a sufficient, capable, motivated and cost-efficient workforce and address future workforce challenges and opportunities
- **Training** – S&T providing evidence to underpin effective, efficient and future-proofed learning analysis, design, delivery and assurance, and optimising training systems development to reduce cost and improve capability, for now and into the future.
- **Human Factors Integration – To support integration of people, technology, organisations for the design, development and operation of efficient defence and security systems.**
- **Understanding and influencing human behaviour –** Understand human behaviour to support the analysis, planning, execution and assessment of information activities for defence and security objectives.
- **Health and medical sciences –** Understand and mitigate health impacts of environment, equipment and [military] service.

Ministry of Defence Policy for Research Involving Human Participants

All potential suppliers of human sciences research to MOD are reminded that MOD is fully committed to operating to the highest national and international ethical research standards. Research involving human participants undertaken, funded or sponsored by the MOD must meet acceptable ethical standards, and comply with the policy set out in JSP 536, "Ministry of Defence Policy for Research Involving Human Participants" Version 3.0, March 2020 (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-research-involving-human-participants-jsp-536)). These instructions are founded in nationally and internationally accepted principles (including those in the Declaration of Helsinki) and guidance. Further information can be found on the MOD Research Ethics Committee (MODREC) website (https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/ministry-of-defence-research-ethics-committees).
MOD operates the process of ethical scrutiny and approval via an independent committee to ensure that decisions on acceptability are independent of the MOD.