



Identity Cards: Questions and Answers for potential suppliers

General scope and timing

Can you provide us with an update on the scheme?

The vast majority of what has been agreed is in the legislation consultation document. This can be viewed and downloaded from www.identitycards.gov.uk. Summary background is outlined below:

- On 11 November 2003 following a public consultation under Cabinet Office guidelines, the Home Secretary announced that the Government intends to build the base for a compulsory national identity cards scheme. The details are set out in the publication "**Identity Cards - The Next Steps**". A separate publication sets out the Summary of Findings from the consultation exercise and demonstrates substantial public commitment to some form of identity card, a term the public preferred to 'entitlement card'.
- On 26 April 2004, the Government published "Legislation on Identity Cards: a Consultation". This set out for consultation the Government's plans for legislation on identity cards and includes the draft clauses of an Identity Cards Bill.
- The Government envisages identity cards will provide every person legally resident in this country including foreign nationals with an easy and secure way of demonstrating their right to be here and of asserting their place in the community. The identity card being proposed will be linked to the person to whom it is issued by a unique biometric identifier, thus providing a proof of identity which cannot be fraudulently used by somebody else. It will create a secure form of personal identification that will help individuals in their day to day dealings with private and public sector organisations, including proving their entitlement to free public services. The scheme will also provide better protection to the UK community from terrorists and organised criminals, and from those who seek to abuse immigration rules and public services.
- Identity cards will be linked to existing documents such as passports and driving licences and will incorporate biometric information such as fingerprints or iris image. The introduction of identity cards on a phased basis will on current plans start from 2007/2008.
- On 24 May 2004, the Home Office appointed PA Consulting Group as its Development Partner to help determine the best way of designing and implementing the scheme.

What is the scale of the programme in financial terms?

It is envisaged that a combined passport/identity card will cost £77 and a combined driving licence/identity card will cost £73.

What is the structure and capability of your team?

The Home Office programme team is a mixture of career civil servants and ex-private sector staff with experience of technology start-ups, systems implementation & integration and management consultancy. Complementing them is the Development Partner (PA Consulting) team that provides additional specialised skills (particularly for solution design) that are required from time to time by the programme, bringing the total on the programme to between 60 and 70.

Can you outline key milestone dates?

The key phases are:

- A **programme definition** phase, focusing on the design of the scheme, feasibility, procurement requirements and legislation, running from early 2004 to 2005;
- A **procurement phase**, focusing on procuring the delivery partners who will implement the scheme, starting in 2005, and ending on the signing of contracts with delivery partners in 2006;
- An **implementation phase**, from 2006 to 2007;
- A volume end-to-end **testing phase**, from 2007;
- On current plans leading to the **first cards being issued** towards the end of 2007-08.

Sourcing and procurement

When will you provide us with information on your sourcing and procurement strategy?

We anticipate being able to issue an update to this brief by early autumn.

Can you outline key procurement dates?

Procurement is planned to start sometime in 2005. A more definite date will be announced once the programme has confirmed the detailed procurement timetable.

How will the Identity Cards programme be tendered?

The procurement strategy and packages of work that might be tendered have not yet been agreed. But we will run a competitive process in accordance with EU directives. Government policy requires that all procurement must be

transparent and non-discriminatory and that contracts must be awarded on a value for money basis.

Who will be the contracting authority?

The Home Office is responsible for running the programme and co-ordinating the procurement.

Can we approach the Identity Cards Programme team? If so, how and when?

We encourage potential suppliers to contact the commercial team.

Email: commercial.identitycards@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

We also welcome written submissions to:

Commercial Workstream
Identity Cards Programme
Allington Towers
Allington Street
London SW1E 5EB

What if a Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) meets technical criteria but does not satisfy all the usual government procurement requirements?

We want to encourage SMEs as we recognise that SMEs have unique technologies and capabilities, particularly in smartcards and biometrics but also in other key areas, so we are working on ensuring that the needs of SMEs are included in our procurement approach.

What form will security accreditation take? Who will accredit the system?

The Cabinet Office Central Sponsor for Information Assurance will be responsible for security accreditation.