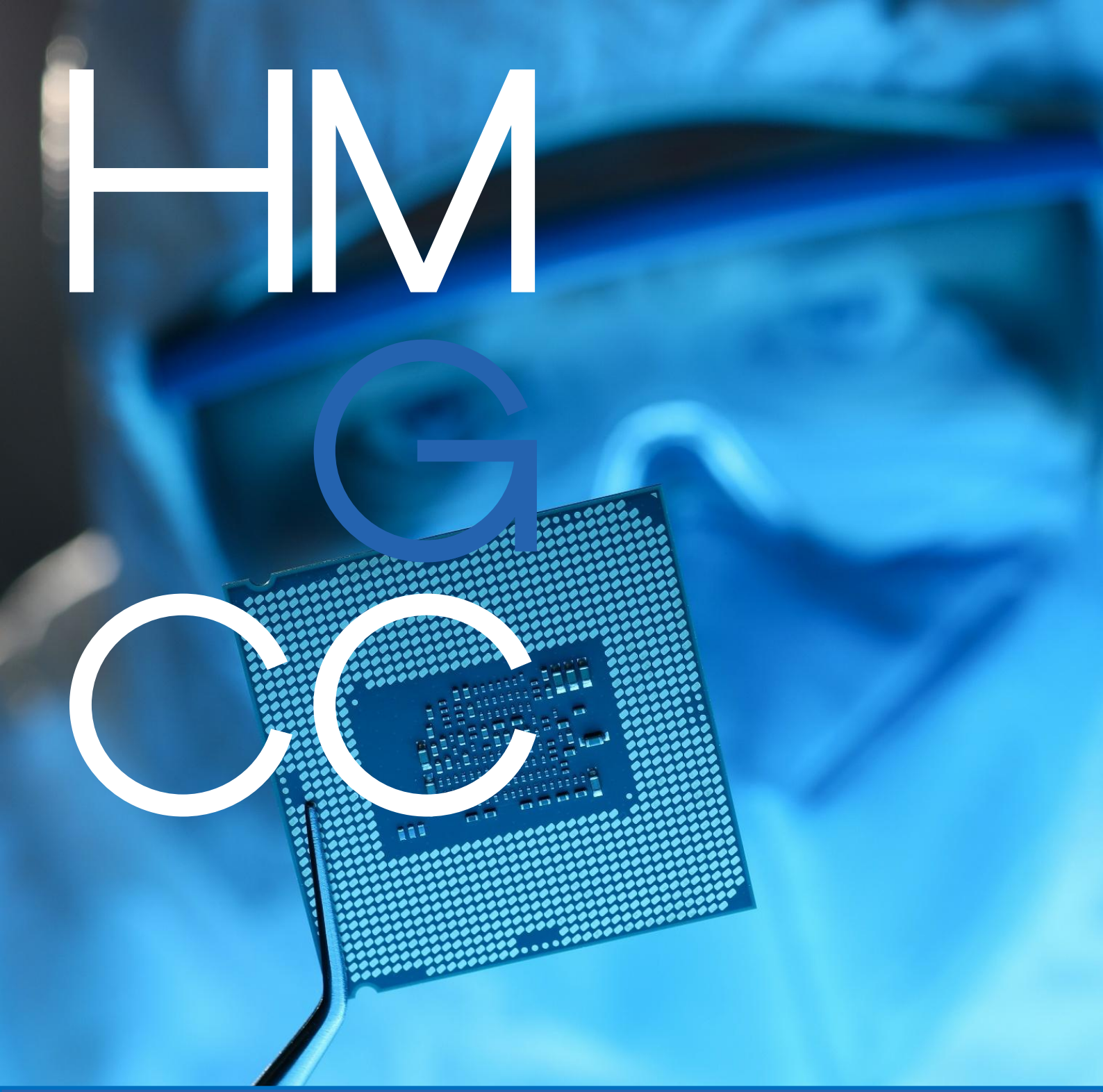

HMGCC Co-Creation

Synthetic environment tools to predict behaviour

Clarification questions and answers

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Document Details: Clarification Q&A in response to the call for proposals

Challenge: Synthetic environment tools to predict behaviour

Deadline for questions: Tuesday 26th August 2025

#	Question	Answer
1.	When engaging with any Tool Vendors, does the Authority have any requirements, preferences, or stipulations as to whether or not to identify the Authority as the end customer? (In our experience, with some vendors this can make them more open to sharing information, as they can better understand the cost/benefit of sharing, and/or facilitate evaluations of their products in a timely manner (potentially even enabling free evaluations in some situations), though conversely it may also have a negative impact on some vendors if they are actively avoiding the national security space.)	HMGCC will provide the successful bidder with approved 'lines to take' that can be used when engaging with tool vendors. These will identify HMGCC Co-Creation.
2.	Does the Authority already have a collated set of requirements / use cases for the tools to drive the respective Workstream evaluations, or should the supplier plan to undertake such a requirements elaboration activity within the delivery, so as to better inform and steer it?	The evaluation criteria for tool assessments would be collaboratively developed between HMGCC and the successful bidder during project delivery.

	Further to the above, if it is expected that the supplier undertakes such a requirements capturing/elaboration activity, would that be deemed a Workstream 1 or 2 activity?	Please see guidance on Page 3 of the Challenge Form for information on the relevance of this criteria within Workstreams 1 & 2: Workstream 1 (Landscape Mapping): "This would be an iterative agile process between the solution provider and the challenge sponsors to provide insight into the evaluation criteria and will feed into workstream two." Workstreams 2 (Capability Testing): "This includes defining and executing the processes/procedures to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of up to five synthetic environment tools. We will work iteratively with the solution provider to detail testing scenarios and curate an easy/medium/difficult scenario and predictions, potentially based on historical events. The solution provider(s) from workstreams 1 and 2 are expected to work closely together, co-ordinated by HMGCC Co-Creation, to ensure feedback between both teams."
3.	Does the Authority expect or require both Workstreams to start at the same time? (We believe there would be benefit in slightly offsetting them, with Workstream 1 starting first, such that progress could be made on identifying and assessing at least an initial shortlist of tools, before starting Workstream 2)	There is no stipulation on this.

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4.	Are cloud based synthetic environment tools in or out of scope for consideration?	At this stage the hosting method of a tool is not a primary discriminating factor. The tool evaluation may include standalone and cloud-based solutions.
5.	If a supplier wishes to bid for both Workstreams, would the bids for each Workstream be evaluated individually, or as one? (e.g. would it be possible for a supplier to bid for both, but to also state that they are happy to only delivery one of the streams?)	Please see guidance on Page 4 of the Challenge Form: "We are seeking applicants to deliver workstream one, workstream two or a combination of both. Please make it clear in your application which workstreams you are bidding for."
6.	If a supplier wishes to bid for both Workstreams, should each Workstream be responded to in separate proposals, or one proposal of max. 6 pages?	Please make the scope of the bid clear in your submission(s) so that they can be assessed against the criteria listed on Page 6 of the Challenge Form. The competition allows for bidders to submit multiple bids each up-to 6 pages, for example: - Proposal #1: Workstream 1 only - Proposal #2: Workstream 2 only - Proposal #3: Workstreams 1 and 2 combined
7.	Could the Authority provide any further detail as to what they are anticipating the 'evaluation environment' within Workstream 2 would entail? (Whilst we understood the need for a 'cyber range' type environment for Workstream 2 within the previous 'AI / Novel Technology Red Agent Penetration Testing' challenge, here we are not sure what would be	The selected bidder would need to undertake end-to-end assessments in the environment, to include hosting, test governance, execution and reporting. Please see page 3 of the Challenge Form: "Organisations in this workstream would provide the evaluation environment and will undertake the performance assessments. This includes defining and executing the processes/procedures to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of up to five synthetic environment tools. We

	expected beyond a hosting environment for any installable 'on-premises' tool.)	will work iteratively with the solution provider to detail testing scenarios and curate an easy/medium/difficult scenario and predictions, potentially based on historical events.”
8.	Should the evaluation of tools within Workstream 2 solely be quantitative and technical in nature, or should it also be qualitative, assessing relative ease of use of the User Interface, potentially even assessing its accessibility, etc.?	We envisage the assessment criteria to include quantitative and qualitative attributes. These would be collaboratively defined during the project.
9.	With regard to the £30k for "Workstream two call-off to support third-party charges for selected tools", is that solely to cover any and all charges from synthetic environment tool vendors as incurred for the evaluation, or should/could it also cover any additional environment/hosting costs associated with the evaluation? (Given the tools are currently unknown, what system/support requirements they will have are also unknown, and therefore impossible to adequately plan for. It is therefore possible that one or more of the tools may require additional specific hardware/software to support the trial and thus present additional hosting costs.)	The £30k call-off can be used for additional reasonable costs. This could include additional licensing and hosting costs where these could not have been reasonably foreseen.
10.	This would be our first time applying for a HMGCC Co-Creation Challenge and we have a commercial question. The challenge summary mentions that funding will be provided for time, materials, and other	Proposals should be fully costed and submitted on a fixed, firm price basis. The selected supplier will be required to

	expenses. Reading the challenge terms and conditions linked on techUK's page, I can see there are no restrictions on invoicing for T&M or fixed price contracting. Please can we clarify how the challenge customer would like to see the work costed and invoiced?	invoice a fixed amount per sprint, with payment milestones to be agreed during the contracting stage.
11.	It is unclear to me how I should apply for the current call. I would be interested in performing evaluation however I am keen to find new avenues to demonstrate my software's capability. Does expression of interest from tool vendors provide funding to work with the evaluation team (work stream 2). The nature of the tool requires some model building and design which although can be undertaken by anyone can benefit from our experience of agent based modelling.	We will be sharing expressions of interest with the successful bidder for Workstream 1 (Landscape Mapping), so that information from these vendors can be assessed prior to a subset of tools being recommended for further practical evaluation in Workstream 2 (Capability Testing). The £30k call-off under Workstream 2 will be utilised for additional reasonable costs. These will be assessed through dialogue with selected vendors during the project's delivery. This could include additional licensing, configuration and hosting costs so that the tool can be assessed against our use case, where these could not have been reasonably foreseen. In order to maintain fairness within the competition process, we are unfortunately unable to advise on whether specific organisations should bid - however please do review the evaluation criteria (page 6) and routes to apply (page 7) of the Challenge Form for the below opportunity.

		Alternatively please submit an expression of interest to cocreation@hmgcc.gov.uk if you are interested in having a product evaluated as part of the project. There is also a public briefing call scheduled for 26th August at 1000 (details on Page 5) that may be of interest.
12.	If you have relevant expertise and experience for above OS projects, is there a way to confirm this with a challenge bid?	Please note that the challenge delivery will not go above Official Sensitive. The provision of security cleared personnel will not be a differentiating factor as this is not in the evaluation criteria.
13.	Are you looking for tools more designed/specialised for the national security domain, or open to tools maybe for other domains, e.g. advertising?	We are open to all types of tools.
14.	Would the Authority wish any of their personnel to be directly involved with the evaluations (workstream 2)? (as in 'hands on' using any of the tools)	We are open to collaboration – including the potential involvement of Authority personnel in evaluation activity if this forms part of the proposed approach within the proposal.
15.	We are a vendor. What information do I need to include as part of the EOI?	Please send an email to the Co-Creation inbox (cocreation@hmgcc.gov.uk) stating your organisation name, contact details, UK companies house registration number (if available), company address and info about the tool (e.g. product flyer or similar short overview, if available).

16.	Is there an extant list of tools that 'must' be evaluated?	No mandatory list.
17.	If WS1 is feeding directly into WS2 within a Co-Creation dynamic, how are intellectual property considerations being managed? For example, where WS1 provides foundational IP that WS2 relies on, what mechanisms are in place to govern ownership, licensing, and future use?	Co-Creation contracts are managed through our contacting partner – Cranfield University. If successful, Cranfield will share T&C's (including IP clauses) during the final stage of the competition process. By default, IP is owned by the Solution Provider and appropriate protections are in place to support sharing of information across workstreams but in a way where IP ownership is acknowledged and protected.
18.	Should applications for workstream 2 identify the specific tools that they will utilise within delivery?	Information on the configuration and set-up of the environment would be helpful in order to enable the team to understand your approach. Nb; Workstream 2 includes a call-off of up-to £30k to be used for additional reasonable costs. This could include additional licensing and hosting costs where these could not have been reasonably foreseen.
19.	As a vendor expressing interest, should we just email cocreation@hmgcc.gov.uk?	Yes.
20.	Is the limit 6 pages total or 6 pages per workstream being bid for? In particular if indicating we are happy for a single workstream to be selected?	The limit is 6 pages per bid. Please make the scope of the bid clear in your submission(s) so that they can be assessed against the criteria listed on Page 6 of the Challenge Form. The

		competition allows for bidders to submit multiple bids each up-to 6 pages, for example: - Proposal #1: Workstream 1 only - Proposal #2: Workstream 2 only Proposal #3: Workstreams 1 and 2 combined
21.	What is the baseline for data used, e.g. floorplans, Ordnance Survey data, lidar, etc. What level of fidelity? Resolution. Are there any schema or standardised inputs already used or to be aligned to? Esri interactions? Or as a partner. Is there any spec on end user device / desirable? For edge based or on-prem use. Also, is mobile access desirable?	No established baseline of data is being mandated - however, whilst the question lists a range of 'geographic' data sources, it is also important for legal 'human' data sources to also be considered. Nb; Workstream 2 includes a call-off of up-to £30k to be used for additional reasonable costs. This could include additional licensing and hosting costs where these could not have been reasonably foreseen. At this stage, we are more interested about the usefulness/accuracy of tools as opposed to specifics around end-user devices or mobile access.
22.	Can tool vendors apply for WS2 as a mechanism to tailor tools for assessment?	WS2 needs to be an agnostic environment that enables the testing of a variety of tools, shortlisted via Workstream 1 (Landscape Mapping). It is important that testing in the environment is fair. If you are a tool vendor, please make it clear how these tests will be kept impartial.

23.	Are there any commercial use cases that are similar to the security one?	Yes - for example, from the change management or marketing sectors. We are open minded about what tools may help.
24.	[As a tool vendor] The initial query I have is in relation to how the findings of the evaluation will be used. I was unable to find any details about this on the website. Specifically, I would like to better understand if research findings will be shared in the public domain and how intellectual property will be protected during the evaluation and (potential) publication process.	Results of the assessments from both workstreams can be shared with each tool provider for their specific tool, on request. We will not be cross-sharing specific evaluation results between tool providers or in the public domain without seeking prior permission.
25.	Does HMGCC have any pre-existing environments in mind? If yes, could we be provided with details?	No pre-existing environments in mind.
26.	Which scenarios will the synthetic environments cover, there has been a focus on disinformation, but will others be covered too?	The evaluation criteria for tool assessments would be collaboratively developed between HMGCC and the successful bidder during project delivery.
27.	Are Workstreams 1 and 2 due to start at the same time?	There is no stipulation on this.
28.	If we choose to only undertake Workstream 1, could we begin sooner to prevent dependencies for Workstream 2 creating blockers?	Yes – we envisage that Workstream 1 activity will commence on day 1 of delivery, and that this will be co-ordinated with the Authority so that dependencies with Workstream 2 are appropriately managed. Both

		workstreams would need to fully complete within the 18 week delivery timeframe.
29.	Are there any existing government frameworks to consider in our approach?	This work will be contracted under Co-Creation T&Cs via our contracting partner (Cranfield University).
30.	Will this opportunity/project feed into future opportunities? If so, could we be provided with details?	There are no confirmed future opportunities associated with this Challenge at this stage.
31.	Are there any plans (such as scheduled workshops) to facilitate knowledge sharing between suppliers?	The solution provider(s) from workstreams 1 and 2 are expected to work closely together, co-ordinated by HMGCC Co-Creation, to ensure feedback between both teams. We envisage that Workstream 1 activity will commence on day 1 of delivery, and that this will be co-ordinated with the Authority so that dependencies with Workstream 2 are appropriately managed. As a minimum, we envisage joint attendance by the WS1 and WS2 Solution Providers at each 4-weekly Sprint Planning and Review sessions. These sessions are 90-minutes per workstream during each sprint.
32.	Are there restrictions or requirements regarding work-from-home arrangements or client site arrangements?	Please note that all work will be up to a maximum classification of Official-Sensitive. The Authority will make an accredited MS Teams and SharePoint environment

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>available to the successful bidders to enable collaborative remote working.</td></tr>
<tr><td>33.</td><td>Should applications for Workstream 2 explicitly identify the specific tools that will be utilised during delivery or is a high level approach sufficient?</td><td>Information on the configuration and set-up of the environment would be helpful in order to enable the team to understand your approach. Nb; Workstream 2 includes a call-off of up-to £30k to be used for additional reasonable costs. This could include additional licensing and hosting costs where these could not have been reasonably foreseen.</td></tr>
<tr><td>34.</td><td>Can you confirm whether price forms part of the scoring criteria, and how that is calculated if so?</td><td>All proposals, regardless of the application route, will be assessed by the HMGCC Co-Creation team. Proposals will be scored 1–5 on the following criteria:<table><tr><td>Scope</td><td>Does the proposal fit within the challenge scope, taking into consideration cost and benefit?</td></tr><tr><td>Innovation</td><td>Is the technical solution credible, will it create new knowledge and IP, or use existing IP?</td></tr><tr><td>Deliverables</td><td>Will the proposal deliver a full or partial solution, if a partial solution, are there collaborations identified?</td></tr><tr><td>Timescale</td><td>Will the proposal deliver a minimum viable product within the project duration?</td></tr></table></td></tr>
</table>

		Budget — Are the project finances within the competition scope? **Team** — Are the organisation / delivery team credible in this technical area?
35.	[As a tool vendor] We are currently looking into the vendor option and may be interested to provide our tool for evaluation. However we did have a few questions. It would be great if you could provide more information on the following: Could you elaborate on the type of tools you are looking to evaluate please? In other words, would a pedestrian simulation tool be able to provide value? Could you expand on the type of scenarios you would be testing? For example, would it be evacuation scenarios to see how people would exit a building, how first responders should respond, etc.? Could you expand on the scope of how much vendor would be involved if their tool is selected?	At this stage we are interested in a broad spectrum of tools that contribute to achieving outcomes associated with use cases 1 & 2 in the Challenge Form. The evaluation criteria for tool assessments will be collaboratively developed between HMGCC and the successful bidder during project delivery as part of the 'identify' and 'assess' capability elements of the Workstream 1 – Landscape Mapping activity. Vendors who have their tool recommended for testing in Workstream 2 (Capability Testing) will be put in contact with our selected Solution Provider, so that an impact assessment of scope, cost and time can be provided against the £30k call-off (where appropriate), prior to the commissioning a tool evaluation.
36.	Can the Authority confirm the nature of what a 'minimum viable product' should (ideally) consist of? For example, a reusable, operational environment in which to host synthetic population data sets, or some other aim?	Please refer to the Workstream 1 and 2 outcomes on page 3 of the Challenge Form for achievement within the 18-week timeframe for this specific challenge: **Workstream one: Landscaping mapping** HMGCC Co-Creation seeks diverse expertise in synthetic environments, digital twinning, software, AI, psychology,

		sociology, behavioural science and potentially other disciplines. This workstream is to identify current and future synthetic environment solutions and to develop an assessment framework which will be used to evaluate these capabilities on paper. This would be an iterative agile process between the solution provider and the challenge sponsors to provide insight into the evaluation criteria and will feed into workstream two. **Workstream two: Capability evaluation** Organisations in this workstream would provide the evaluation environment and will undertake the performance assessments. This includes defining and executing the processes/procedures to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of up to five synthetic environment tools. We will work iteratively with the solution provider to detail testing scenarios and curate an easy/medium/difficult scenario and predictions, potentially based on historical events.
37.	Is it possible for the same vendor to bid for Workstreams one and two, and to simultaneously propose its own tooling for evaluation?	WS2 needs to be an agnostic environment that enables the testing of a variety of tools, shortlisted via Workstream 1 (Landscape Mapping). It is important that testing in the environment is fair. If you are a tool vendor, please make it clear how these tests will be kept impartial.