


Operational Technology Co-Creation Space

Phase One
Briefing Information

The Operational Technology Co-Creation Space which is part of the 'NSTIx' – National Security Technology and Innovation Exchange Co-Creation **Network** are seeking submissions for an Invited Design Competition from architect-led design teams with exceptional design skills for a new, sustainable Co-Creation Space at a site near Milton Keynes.



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Background to the Project

As part of NSTI's wider agenda of promoting Science and Technology for use in National Security we will cohere a network of cross government Co-Creation Spaces (CCS), each one focused on a different area. One such space, to be based near Milton Keynes, will support the provision of innovative "Operational Technology" solutions in support of a broad range of UK Government National Security partners. The site will become a public facing gateway and benefit from access to existing government engineering expertise and facilities in the local area.

Operational Technology (OT) is critical to delivering the National Security mission. It provides a unique capability through which HMG seek to "keep the UK safe". In practical terms OT requires the application of cutting-edge technology from various specialisms. These include, inter alia, advanced manufacturing, power sources, low-power/high bandwidth radio communications, digital identity management and edge device analytics.

OT is not really about either sectors or technologies. Instead, it is defined by constant innovation: it relies on specialist technology skills and know-how which can constantly translate a very wide range of technological advances into the 'operational' space with the aim, simply, of advancing capabilities.



Project aims and aspirations

The overarching aim of a Co-Creation Space is to speed up and diversify the development cycle of products for the National Security community. The aspirational vision is to achieve this aim through interdisciplinary collaboration and bringing together world leading SMEs, academia, research, industry primes and other related industry bodies within an inspiring series of spaces that nurtures deep collaboration.

The Co-Creation Space will create an 'environment' where all of the constituent parts come together to find solutions to the challenges facing our community, whether these be:

- responding to urgent or emerging threats to National Security (in the UK or overseas).
- pulling emerging technologies through evaluation, design and development and into operational use.
- identifying new technologies and innovations being created by SMEs in other sectors that could have applications to National Security.
- creating an exemplar whole life net zero carbon sustainable building that addresses the Government net zero carbon and social value aspirations.



A Co-Creation Space essentially should facilitate open innovation to provide solutions to National Security challenges, by bringing together Government, HMG experts, SMEs, academia, industry primes, and business support organisations to co-create in an environment that is open and so conducive to true innovation at pace.

The Co-Creation Space will provide:



Connectivity across the National Security supply chain



Secure, yet open innovation



Multidisciplinary teams in flexible spaces



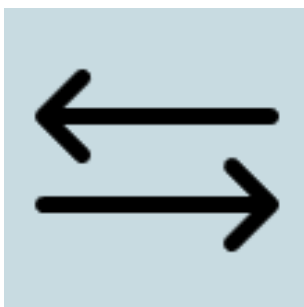
Focussed, challenge driven activities



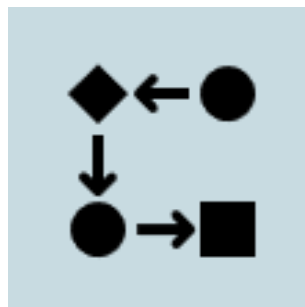
Time limited accelerated innovation development



Business growth and scale up support



Transformation in HMG development cycle through partnering with a wide range of innovators



Commercialisation of ideas for specific challenges that have horizontal and vertical application

Project Programme

It is essential the project is fully designed, constructed and completed prior to the end of 2024. A copy of the master programme will be provided to shortlisted teams.

Project Scale and Design Team Involvement

We are seeking an architect led design team to cover all aspects of the building design through both all pre and post contract RIBA stages of work (eg complete design of the building from architecture to mechanical, electrical and public health, structure, interiors/ space planning/ways of working, acoustician, energy and sustainability, the external car parking and landscaping etc). The structure of the team can be multidisciplinary or consortium led by a lead consultant, or with direct client appointment of the consultants individually. The Client will also directly appoint a Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor, Planning Consultant and Ecologist Consultant to work with the successful design team through the various stages of the programme.

It is envisaged that the cost of constructing the project is in the order of £7.0m +VAT (excluding fees). An outline brief of the key accommodation has been included below, but no target net or gross area has been established at this stage. The shortlisted teams will be required to creatively interpret the outline brief to create an efficient and flexible series of spaces.

The site chosen for this study is adjacent to a secure facility near Milton Keynes. The reference site is currently farm-land, but due to ongoing negotiations, this may not be the final location for the new facility. The teams should therefore assume that a new site will be chosen for the final project. However, the shortlisted teams should suggest an integrated landscape proposition that enhances bio-diversity as per RIBA Sustainable Outcomes guide, and provides discreet visual screening while maintaining a strong visual connection to the main access.

Building Specification

The vision for the building design is that it should be open and welcoming, should express its science use and embody exemplary sustainable architecture design principles. The expectation is the overall external and internal design should address issues of health and wellbeing and be inspiring to those living and breathing science, technology, creativity and innovation.

With regards to the core functions of the building, it is envisaged that the spaces will perform a variety of different functions, and whilst being both adaptable and flexible in design, these spaces should also be exemplary for new ways of working and provide a stimulating experience to all those who visit and use this new facility.

Anticipated Accommodation Requirements

The final schedule of requirements will be developed with the successful design team. However, at this early stage it is likely that the Operational Technology Co-Creation Space will be a two-storey building - the key strategic requirements of which are outlined below:

- a bespoke space that allows strategic partners to come together on a single platform to collaborate, knowledge share and encourage innovative thinking in a secure way.
- creative space which offers a light and airy feel providing excellent spaces to showcase products and ideas.
- be flexible in design to expand spaces into each other depending on the size of audience (e.g. events – exhibitions – presentations of different sizes).
- offer a café atmosphere enabling collaboration and informal networking opportunities whilst having the ability to breakout into more secluded areas for quiet and confidential discussions.
- it is expected that the facility will offer an inspiring experience that will assist in collaboration, resulting in thought provoking ideas.
- provide a flexible platform to enable innovation, whilst being functional and offer practical and development spaces to build prototypes and trial products with world class communication means.
- integrate exemplary sustainable design principles- Whole Life net zero carbon, and health & Wellbeing aligned with RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge, RIBA Sustainable Outcomes.

Although the definitive statement of requirements is yet to be defined, as a minimum the outline requirements are likely to include: a digital reception; various engineering workspaces; breakout venues; meeting facilities for a variety of forums; development/innovation laboratories; 50 seater flexible seminar and event space; 30 hot desk and drop-in stations; catering facilities offering a range of refectory (e.g. 50 seater restaurant, soft seating tea points clusters, grab and go coffee areas); ancillary spaces common to a facility of this scale and type.



Competition Conditions

Operational Technology
Co-Creation Space

This invited design competition seeks expressions of interest from design led teams for an opportunity to design a new Co-Creation Space for NSTIx (National Security Technology and Innovation Exchange). The competition will be held over two phases as follows:

Phase 1

Expression of Interest phase

Please complete the Selection Questionnaire available following registration.

Phase 2

Initial Concept Design Approach phase

It is envisaged that up to 5 practices will be shortlisted to proceed to the concept design approach phase of the competition. Shortlisted practices will be given further information and be required to outline their design strategy, their proposed approach to the site and an idea of the look and feel of the building and interior spaces in no more than:

- a) 3 x No. A1 boards
- b) a short design report – to explain the ethos behind your design submission in no more than 10 A4 single sided pages
- c) a statement on costs/appraisal of the headline budget
- d) submission of a fee proposal
- e) a 3D visualisation of the design

Please note this format is intended to select an architect-led design team for the Project, not to select a design, but an approach to the design will be required as part of the submission to demonstrate the design team collective experience and level of creativity, as well as an appreciation of the client aspirations of the project. It is important that the team describe the process of how alternative designs and technologies for structure, services etc. will be assessed and compared to select the final design.

The shortlist will be invited to present their proposals and answer questions from an Evaluation Panel at a final interview. The Evaluation Panel will select a winner based on both the submitted material and the final interview.

The shortlisted teams will each receive an equal honorarium of GBP £8,000 +VAT as a contribution towards the cost of developing their concept design approach and attending the final interviews. The honorarium will be paid within one calendar month of the conclusion of the competition. Invoices should be submitted to RIBA Competitions.



Budget

It is envisaged that the cost of constructing the project is in the order of £7.0m +VAT (excluding fees).

Timetable

The timetable for the competition (which may be subject to change) will be as follows:

Date	Activity
w/c 24 January 2022	Phase One Competition Launched
04 February @ 5pm	Expression of Interest question deadline
17 February 2022 @ 2pm	Expression of Interest submission deadline
w/c 28 February 2022	Evaluation Panel meeting to select shortlist
w/c 14 March 2022	Shortlist notified and issued with Phase 2 brief
w/c 21 March 2022	Site visit and briefing session for shortlisted teams
7 April 2022	Deadline for questions
14 April 2022	Issue responses to questions
26 April 2022 @ 2pm	Deadline for submission of design proposals
w/c 9 May 2022	Final interviews and presentations to Evaluation Panel
End May 2022	Result Announced

Eligibility

To be eligible to work on this project, every design team member will be required to participate in the national security vetting process and obtain a clearance level of security check (SC). To be eligible to apply for SC the individual will need to be a UK resident and hold a UK passport.

Architects should be registered with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) in the UK.

No member or employee of the promoting body, the evaluation panel, or any partner, close associate or employee of them is eligible to compete or assist a competitor.

How to register and enter

In order to be considered for the project, candidates must submit a duly completed SQ.

Candidates who intend to submit an SQ return must obtain an editable version of the SQ document together with a Unique Reference Number by completing the online request form available at: ribacompetitions.wufoo.com/forms/operational-technology-cocreation-space/

Registered applicants will be issued with a Selection Questionnaire and a secure link to enable them to upload their Expression of Interest via RIBA Competitions' digital submission portal (RIBASubmit).

Please note that this and all future correspondence will be sent to the email address entered into the online form.

Evaluation Panel

The Evaluation Panel includes Gary Clark, Regional Leader of Science + Technology at HOK acting as the RIBA Adviser. The rest of the panel comprises representatives from the client.

Submission method

This is a digital submission only and your Expression of Interest should be contained in a single PDF file of no more than 20Mb and submitted to RIBA Competitions' digital submission portal no later than 2.00pm on Thursday 17 February 2022.

The file name should consist of the allocated Unique Registration Number [CCS#] and also include the practice name, e.g. 'CCS#_Practice Name.pdf'.

A unique link for this purpose will be emailed to each practice that confirms its intention to submit an Expression of Interest for the project. Applicants are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with the submission portal and allow sufficient time for their Expression of Interest to successfully upload prior to the submission deadline. The portal will not accept any material to upload once the deadline has expired.

Disqualification

Submissions shall be excluded from the Competition:

- ⊗ If a Competitor shall improperly attempt to influence the decision;
- ⊗ If received after the latest time stated under Phase 1 Submission;
- ⊗ If, in the opinion of the Evaluation Panel, it does not fulfil the requirements of the Competition Brief;
- ⊗ If any of the mandatory requirements of this brief are disregarded.

Copyright

The ownership of copyright will be in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 – i.e. Copyright rests with the author of the submitted design.

Site visits

Site visits are not permitted at Phase 1 of the competition. A site visit and briefing session will be provided to the shortlisted teams.

Post-competition Commitment

The Client wishes to identify and appoint an architect-led design team for the design of their new Co-Creation Space at a site near Milton Keynes. The architect led design team will cover all aspects of the building design through both all pre and post contract RIBA stages of work (eg complete design of the building from architecture to mechanical, electrical and public health, structure, interiors/space planning/ways of working, acoustician, energy and sustainability, the external car parking and landscaping etc). The structure of the team can be multidisciplinary or consortium led by a lead consultant, or with direct client appointment of the consultants individually. The Client will also directly appoint a Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor, Planning Consultant and Ecologist Consultant to work with the successful design team through the various stages of the programme.

Notification of result/publicity

The competition results will be published after all competitors have been notified. Please note that any requests for feedback should be submitted to RIBA Competitions within one calendar month of a shortlist, or a result being announced. Competitors must not release any designs for publication to any 3rd parties until after the shortlist or result has been officially announced and permission has been granted from the RIBA. Competitors should note that by entering the competition they are expected to honour the request for confidentiality to prevent information of the shortlist or the winning team being leaked to the Press before any official announcement is made.

The RIBA reserve the right to publicise the competition, any design submission, and the result in any promotional activity, including all social media channels, they consider fit. Illustrations of any design - either separately, or together with other designs, with or without explanatory text - may be used without cost. Authors will be credited and recognised in all associated media and publicity. This information will be taken from the submission form so please ensure the details are accurate.

Enquiries

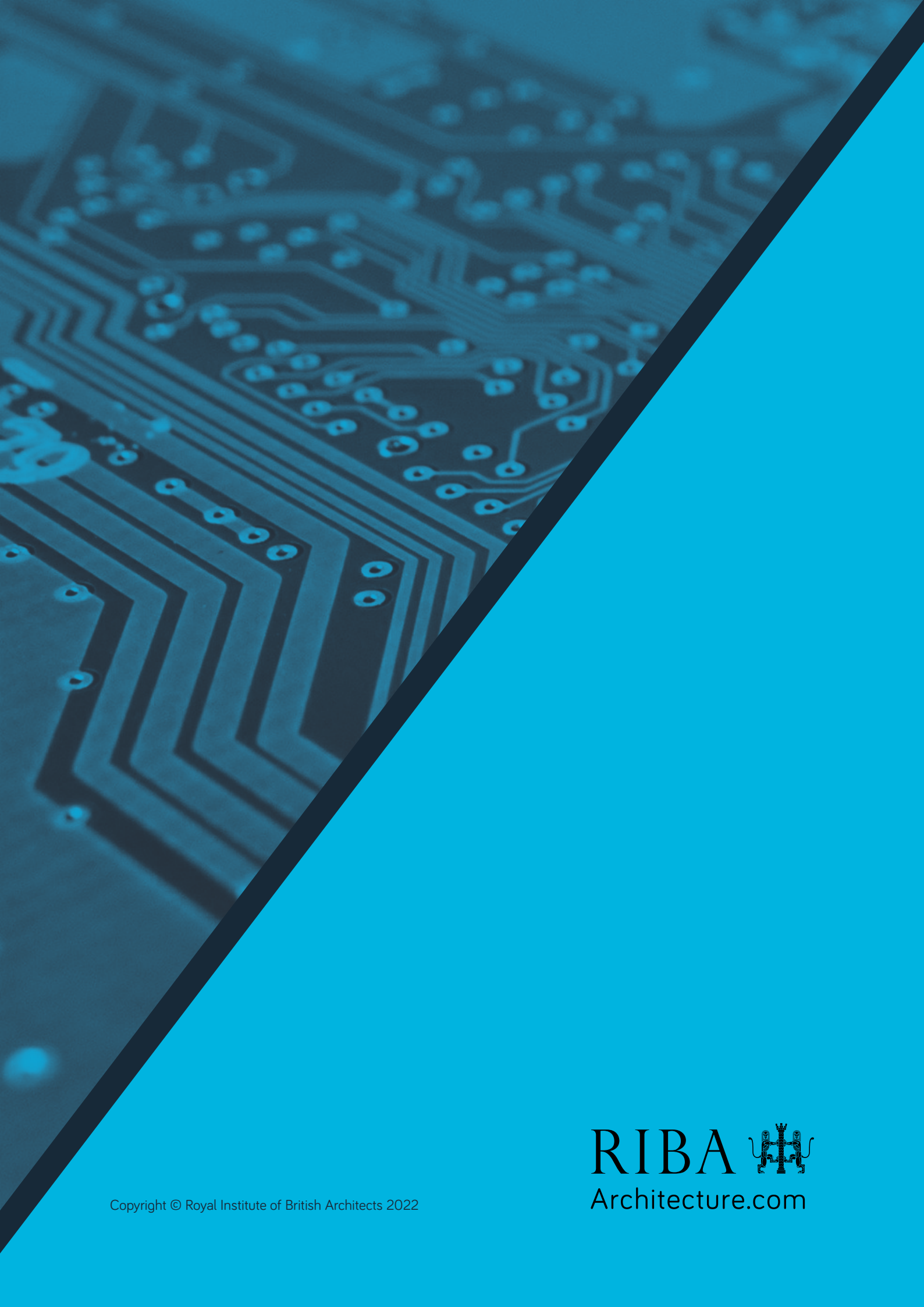
All enquiries regarding the competition should be made to RIBA Competitions in the first instance:

riba.competitions@riba.org

0113 203 1490

Evaluation Panel members and client representatives should not be solicited for information, as this could lead to disqualification from the competition.





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