



eSim reader for officer safety briefing call transcript

Date and time: Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 10:00am

Richard Wigley

Morning and thank you for joining us today on the briefing for HMGCCS eSim reader for Officer Safety Opportunity. My name is Richard Wigley. I am the SME innovation support lead at connected places catapults as you've just heard from the video there, we are EU KS Innovation Accelerator for City's transport and place leadership. As you can see on the slide in front of you, there is the ecosystems and sectors that we support are the built environments rated infrastructure ports of maritime air mobility, airports, rail and stations and also place leadership, creating places where innovation can thrive and grow.

Next slide please.

The SME innovation supports team are a team within Connected Places Catapult that supports small businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators from beginning of their journey through to through to global success as part of this, we support SMEs to be able to enter into competitions and also access opportunities for growth and for reaching new markets as part of that, we are working with HMGCC as a Co-Creation collaborator to promote and grow the application base for their challenges.

I'm going to hand over to the HMGCC team to brief further about the opportunity. Thank you.

Ian S

OK. Thank you very much.

Next slide please.

(Slide 1)

Good morning, everyone. Happy New Year to all. Welcome to this online briefing call, the latest from Co-Creation at HMGCC, His Majesty's Government Communication Centre.

This briefing call is for the eSim reader for Officer Safety. My name is Ian and I'm the agile delivery manager (ADM) for this challenge, on the call today. We also have Nigel, one of our ADMs from our partners, Dstl. With me in the room is our project sponsor, Karl, and from technical team we have Kelly, Angela, Mike and Rob, We've also got the key team from the Connected Places Catapult running this call today, like Richard said, just a reminder this call has been recorded for the benefit of those who can't make it today and a transcript will be made available, if you think of any questions, either while we're on this call or afterwards, please direct them to the cocreation@hmgcc.gov.uk mailbox.

A frequently asked question document will be published on the 22nd of January prior to the closing date.

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(Slide 2)

So I'll be going through a short presentation today. I'll give you a brief introduction of HMGCC Co-Creation, then I'll pass you over to Karl for the challenge overview, its requirements, scope and the chance for you to ask some technical questions. I'll briefly walk through the timescales involved in the challenge and then we'll quickly touch on the application process.

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(Slide 3)

So HMGCC works with the national security community, government, academia, private sector partners and international allies to bring engineering ingenuity to the national security mission, creating tools and technologies that drive us ahead and help us protect the nation.

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(Slide 4)

HMGCC Co-Creation is a partnership with Dstl. That's the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory created to deliver a new, bold and innovative way of working with the wider UK science and technology community. We work collaboratively, with industry, academia, government on national security and engineering challenges, and hope to accelerate innovation.

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On this slide, we see the eight different Co-Creation spaces, each specialising in a different aspect of delivering impact for national security.

NSTIx. That's the National Security Technology Information Exchange coordinates all the Co-Creation spaces and each of the spaces are sponsored by a different government department specialising in different areas.

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(Slide 5)

So what does HMGCC Co-Creation do? Well, we take operational challenges from the national security and through a network of collaborators publicise the opportunities to fund and collaborate with the best in class, in industry and academia.

(Slide 6)

Our aim is to work in a rapid and agile manner, offering our subject matter experts if applicable and sometimes facilities ensuring true collaboration and real-world operational impact. An

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important aspect to note is that you as the applicant contractually retain all the IP as we want to encourage exploitation and commercialisation within that process.

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(Slide 7)

We have a network of networks that help us reach the best in industry and academia. You may well have heard about this challenge through one of the Community collaborators on this slide.

Next slide please.

(Slide 8)

So what's the challenge we're going to talk about today, HMGCC has a requirement to read the IMSI number or numbers from phones and devices that utilise eSim technology. We're interested in developing a concept demonstrator within a three-month time period. As you can see the indicative budget for a single organisation is £60,000. The budget for a consortium of organisations is £120,000.

The competition opened on Monday the 4th of December, and the competition closes on the 1st of February 2024 at 5:00 PM. That's the date that you need to get your applications in by. I would now like to pass over to Karl who will talk about the challenge itself.

Karl

(Slide 9)

Hi. I'm Karl. I'm the project sponsor, thanks everybody for dialling in to get involved in this innovative and exciting opportunity and we hope you're able to help us going forward. So, let's talk about the user's journey. You can see there, Jennifer, a government employee used to be deployed overseas to a friendly country and as part of her checklist prior to deployment she's provided her mobile phone MC number to the security officer, Robert.

Next slide, please.

(Slide 10)

What they would like if Jennifer goes missing or if there's local disaster or situation, is the ability to track her down and ensuring that she's safe. So as part of the UK government's duty of care, they will do everything possible to locate Jennifer and locate any devices she's carrying. So, there'll be various methods to locate Jennifer in the worst-case scenarios. One of those is to work with the local friendly telecoms operators to use Jennifer's IMSI, which can be used to locate the last ping of her mobile phone from a cell phone mast.

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Jennifer and Robert discussed using apps to find their phone in an emergency, which are commercially readily available, but there's little assurance with what he's done with the data on those apps. So prior to departure, Robert is ready to record Jennifer's IMSI number, and normally in the current context, he will physically pop in the physical SIM card and place it into the reader, which will give us a simple reading of just the IMSI number and nothing else. But Jennifer has a mobile phone which uses a soldered on embedded SIM and therefore it cannot be removed.

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(Slide 12)

Robert hasn't got the kit to read the IMSI from an eSIM. He needs a secure and non-intrusive solution to easily and privately read the IMSI.

Next slide, Please.

(Slide 13)

Ian S

OK, so now we come into the scope of the project. So, we want to be able to read and display the IMSI numbers from a wide range of unlocked mobile phones and small devices that utilises eSims. The solution must be capable of reading multiple eSim's present within one device as there can be multiple. Only the IMSI number of the phone of interest should be displayed. No other data from this phone or other nearby devices should be gathered. The solution must not pose a risk of damaging the device that we're reading, and the solution should be easy to use, so a non-technical person can use it with little or no training. It is desirable for the solution to read and display numbers from conventional SIM cards and SAT phone equivalents.

OK, next slide please.

(Slide 14)

Question Time. So if anybody has any questions about this challenge please ask while our team is assembled here. If you want to ask, I know everybody isn't confident in speaking while all the people on the line, you can e-mail them into the HMGCC Co-Creation e-mail box (cocreation@hmgcc.gov.uk). So have we any questions?

Adrian Smales

I've got a question, if that's OK what kind of physical size are you looking for this particular device?

Ian S

Interesting question. Thank you. Without trying to fix your requirements, practical would be key. So small enough to be portable would be good. Potentially it could be app based as long as it's got the right sort of criteria around it. But yeah, we don't want it to be immovable, easily carried

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around, carried around by the person. So yeah, a mobile device that can be moved from location to location quite easily by user.

Adrian Smales

So it could be suitcase size?

Ian S

It could be ideally it would be smaller.

Adrian Smales

Well, that's what I'm asking. How small do you want this thing?

Ian S

How small could you make it?

Adrian Smales

Well, it really depends on the technology you deploy really.

Adrian Smales

I don't wish to go into any of that because obviously other people are listening and there are different ways of potentially managing this, but size and their portability is obviously. Potentially unspoken criterion, right?

Karl

We've tried not to fix that purposefully, so we don't sort of give too much of a narrow requirement, but if you worked off the premise, suitcase size, briefcase size would be as large as we'd want to be, I'd say, yeah, yeah. And if you can sort of like have a good guesstimate of what sort of size and put that down in your application, that is obviously something that we would bear in mind as well.

Adrian Smales

OK.

Ian S

OK, thank you. Any other questions at all?

Richard Wigley

We do have a couple of other questions.

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A question is 5G is out of scope? That's difficult to say this early in the morning.

Ian S

Who's best to answer this?

Mike

Yes, is out of scope.

Ian S

OK.

Richard Wigley

Thank you. And another question, can you confirm that Robert will have full access to the device interface, i.e., an unlocked phone that can be that can temporarily change the settings of?

Ian S

Yes, that's correct.

Richard Wigley

Fantastic, thank you.

Ian S

Are there any more questions online, Richard, or is that the only ones in the chat?

Richard Wigley

Those are the only ones in the chat at the moment, yeah.

Ian S

OK, just give you a minute more, sorry, Karl wants to add something.

Karl

So just to clarify, it'll probably come up in the FAQs, you know that the solution must be able to not be fixed to one particular device manufacturer, so it must go across the spectrum of the mainstream phone providers. So iPhone, Samsung, Google and others are available.

Ian S

Yeah, indeed.

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Karl

I don't want to limit that down at all, so any real device that carries any eSim, we want the ability to read without damaging that device, correct and again, I'll. I'll emphasise we don't want any collateral data recorded or sent anywhere, the IMSI numbers really what we need.

Ian S

Yep.

Richard Wigley

Couple of other questions. Just quickly, are there any red lines for example use of RF or anything else you definitely do not want any other technology, you definitely don't want?

Karl

So we we're just thinking about that now. We don't think there is as long as it fits the criteria that we've specified.

Richard Wigley

A comment. Can you talk about the disadvantages of having a device having on device apps to do the job?

Karl

So specific disadvantages about if it was an app, I mean it has to be likely downloadable. You know from the App Store and it potentially would need registering. And then there's some issues that come around that, but no we don't want to restrict that. I think some of the scenarios we may go through it may be that the person is deployed to an earthquake zone on short notice. So they may not be able to go to an App Store, and it may not be able to do that. So that might be a technical difficulty, but it might not. OK, there are changes potentially coming to the app stores and some of the ecosystems over the next couple of years, but as it currently stands, we don't really want to be a downloadable application main source.

Ian S

OK. Any more questions while we have everybody here?

OK. Again if anybody does think of any questions after this call, then please put them into the HMGCC Co-Creation e-mail inbox and we'll answer them with the frequently asked questions. Document the novel questions. Can we go on? Oh, is that one more question?

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Richard Wigley

No, we're good to, good to. Good to move on.

Ian S

Another question?

Can you move on to the next slide, then please.

(Slide 15)

OK, so challenge timescales. So as I said before the competition was launched on the 4th of December. We're here today 9th of January for a briefing call. There will be a clarification questions document, the deadline for that is Friday the 19th of January. If you get your questions in by then, then hopefully we'll get a response ready and we'll issue the response document, frequently asked questions document and circulate that by the 22nd of January.

Then deadline for your applications is 5:00 PM on Thursday the 1st of February, we aim for a quick pace, turn around to let everybody know, so by the 16th of February we should be in a state to let the successful people know, that go through to the pitch day. The pitch day is held on the Thursday the 22nd of February. So please pencil that in and assume some level of success. The pitch day is effectively the opportunity for our panel of experts to go through your proposals and ask you questions and for you to ask the panel questions as well, then we will decide on the criteria provided which solution or solutions go through to actually be made, budgets, as I've mentioned before £60,000 per single organisation £120,000 per consortium.

Next slide please.

Adrian Smales

Just on that, sorry I've got a bit of a question.

How many consortiums are you thinking of taking forward or is it a case of if your solution is good enough, you know you have scope to accept as many as you think is necessary?

Ian S

There are obviously financial limits, but we've got no fixed targets at this point. If there are lots of really good solutions, we may well fund a couple, we may well just have one because we've got no fixed target at this point in time.

Adrian Smales

OK. Thank you.

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Ian S*(Slide 16)*

Right. How to apply, so you can submit a proposal via the Community collaborators platforms which hopefully you've heard about on this call from today. Alternatively, you can send your applications to the cocreation@hmgcc.gov.uk mailbox. That's the same mailbox for asking questions, and include the challenge title in the email. It's very important. We have various other challenges out there. So please include that in your headline for your mail. Please add a note on which Community collaborator was where the challenge was first viewed, because we'd like to get that information. Proposals must be no more than 6 pages or six sides in length. Page limits exclude personal CV's and organisational profile criteria. There's no prescriptive application format, however, if you please look at the slide below, which gives you an indication of the type of areas that we'd like to know about. So application details, contact name, organisation, registration number, scope, describe how the project aligns with the challenge, scope, the innovation that's included in that and the technology intended to deliver the project along with new IP that will be generated or existing IP that can be used and the deliverables, describe the project outcomes and their impact. Timescales - detail how a minimal viable product would be achieved within the project duration, which again I remind you is 3 months. Please provide your budget against the deliverables within the project duration. Our teams would like to know a little bit about your team's key personal CV's and expertise, your organisational profiles if applicable.

So again, if you want to apply or when you apply, please go through one of the community collaborators or the cocreation@hmgcc.gov.uk mailbox.

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(Slide 17)

Evaluation criteria. So this is how we evaluate your proposals, we score between one to five on the following criteria. Time scales - will the proposal meet the minimal viable product within the time period defined by this challenge. Does the proposal fit with the challenge scope taken into consideration costs and benefits? Is the organisation/delivery team credible in this area? Is the technological solution credible as well? Will a proposal meet a full or partial solution. Has the proposal, identified collaborators as a partial solution, or are you willing to work with collaboratively with others? And lastly, is it initiative?

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(Slide 18)

OK, if there are any further questions. Please could we have them now? OK, Richard, I'm going to hand back to you. I believe that's it from us here today.

Richard Wigley

The final question that's come through.

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Ian S
Oh, OK.

Richard Wigley

Do you have any opinions on expected price per unit when the solution is refined to higher TRLs in later phases at all.

Ian S
Have any expectations on that?

Karl

Obviously if you have any costings put them in your proposal that will be fantastic, but no, we've got no expectations at this point in time.

Adrian Smales

I have a follow up, on that particular line of questioning, theoretically, how many numbers of this device would you be looking for?

Karl

So it's very scalable. So the Minimum Viable Product (MVPs), that's very much what we focus on, one or a couple but going forward at scale. It depends how successful it is and it's very difficult to say, but it could be anywhere to the hundreds to potentially thousands. And again, as you retain the IP for this. If you find other organisations that might be interested in the same sort of product then that's you know, up to you to you, to make that leap into industry.

Adrian Smales

OK. Thank you for that.

Ian S
No worries.

Richard Wigley

Right. Thank you very much.

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Ian S

Finally, any more questions? OK, Richard, over to you.

Richard Wigley

Thank you. So thank you for joining us today and thank you to the HMGCC Co-Creation team for outlining the eSim reader for Officer Safety Challenge and the application process. We will be posting the transcript of this briefing event up through the HMGCC Co-Creation collaborators in the next few days. We will also be collating the questions asked here and making sure that the HMGCC Co-Creation team are able to add to an FAQ document. We, along with all the other Co-Creation partners, will be promoting over the remainder of the application window if anyone has got any questions, post this webinar or any questions from watching the webinar recording, please get in touch through the e-mail addresses that the Co-Creation collaborators are have on their websites and through their application portals. Thank you very much for attending and look forward to hearing from you again soon.

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