



**UK Research
and Innovation**

Metascience Call off Contract

**RAND Europe Community Interest Company
Eastbrook
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8BF
United Kingdom**

Attn: FOIA Section 40 Personal Information

By email to: FOIA Section 40 Personal Information

Date: 11/11/2024

Your ref: Metascience call off contract –
Project A

Our ref: UKRI-3994_01

Dear Sirs,

Award of call-off Contract for the supply of Metascience Technical Support relating to interdisciplinary research, under framework Agreement dated 13/09/2024 made between RAND Europe Community Interest Company (the “Supplier”) and United Kingdom Research and Innovation (“UKRI”) (the “Agreement”)

As you know, the Agreement anticipates that UKRI may from time to time agree call-off contracts with you.

This letter (“**Contract Award Letter**”) sets out the basis on which we propose to award a call-off contract to you. By signing and returning this Contract Award Letter on behalf of the Supplier, you will be entering into a call-off contract on its terms and conditions (which is a “**Contract**” for the purposes of the Agreement).

The Contract is made under the Agreement and the entirety of the Agreement’s provisions and Schedules are hereby incorporated in the Contract in full. Without limiting the incorporated provisions, all terms in the Contract shall have the meanings given in the Agreement unless otherwise provided. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the Agreement and those of the Contract, the provisions of the Contract will prevail.

The Contract and the Agreement are the entire basis on which UKRI proposes to contract with the Supplier. Please do not attach any Supplier terms and conditions to this Award Letter as they will not be accepted by UKRI and may delay conclusion of the Contract.

For the purposes of the Contract, UKRI and the Supplier agree as follows:

Term

- 1 Contract Commencement Date: 30/10/2024
- 2 Contract Expiry Date: 31/10/2027
- 3 NOT USED

Description of Goods and/or Services

- 4 The Goods and/or Services to be delivered are as per Specification in Annex 1.
- 5 The Specification of the Goods and/or Services to be delivered, and any applicable Deliverables, is as set out in the Annex to this Contract Award Letter.

Charges & Payment

- 6 The Charges for the Goods and/or Services shall be as set out in Annex 2 of this Contract Award Letter.

Special Terms and Conditions

Notices, Liaison and Key Personnel

- 7 The address for notices of the Parties shall be as set out in the Agreement.
- 8 The Key Personnel shall be as set out in Schedule 4 of the Agreement and shall also include the following individuals:

9 Key Personnel	Role in the performance of this contract
FOIA Section 40 Personal Information	Provide oversight and input into high level design
	Oversees the CRCRM and will be a key point of contact in UKRI for this contract
	Point of contact for RAND and will facilitate interactions with the project team
	Project leader and lead researcher on observational component
	Project manager and lead analyst on observational component

- 10 For general liaison your contact will continue to be FOIA Section 40 Personal Information or, in their absence, FOIA Section 40 Personal Information
- 11 Disputes shall be escalated for resolution as set out in the Agreement.

We thank you for your co-operation to date, and look forward to forging a successful working relationship resulting in a smooth and successful supply of the Goods and/or Services. Please confirm your acceptance of the award of this Agreement by signing and returning the enclosed copy of this letter to FOIA Section 40 Personal Information at

FOIA Section 40 Personal Information

No other form of acknowledgement will be accepted. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications relating to this contract.

Yours faithfully,

Signed for and on behalf of **United Kingdom Research and Innovation**

Signature:

FOIA Section 40 Personal Information

Name:

Position:

Procurement Manager

Date:

17/12/2024

We accept the terms set out in this Contract Award Letter

Signed for and on behalf of **RAND Europe Community Interest Company**

Signature:

FOIA Section 40 Personal Information

Name:

Position:

Finance Director

Date:

16 December 2024

Annex 1 – The Specification

1. The Supplier shall provide the Goods and/or Services in accordance with this Annex 1 and Schedule 2 of the Agreement.
2. This requirement is for scoping, data collection, framework implementation and surveys relating to interdisciplinary research.
3. Full details of the requirement are contained in the Specification below and the Supplier's proposal submitted on 24/10/2024:

Specification

The Metascience Unit would like to procure a research project studying the CRCRM grantee cohort, with the following objectives:

1. To explore and understand what behaviours, processes, infrastructure, culture, and incentives lead to the success of interdisciplinary collaborations.
2. To propose interventions to improve interdisciplinary collaboration.

The project would have the following parameters:

- The contractors will be given access to observe a cohort of CRCRM projects where grant holders have given their consent. Access could include observing lab meetings; interviewing and surveying project participants; and/or collecting qualitative and quantitative data about the projects and teams involved.
- The study would last for the duration of the interdisciplinary projects, with observations taken at various points during and after the projects. Projects are funded for up to 2 years. Round 1 projects will start from August 2024 to February 2025. Round 2 projects will start from around March 2026. UKRI anticipates awarding 36 applications in each round.
- We emphasise usage of robust social scientific qualitative and quantitative methods, and specifically, innovative methods to assess the quality and productivity of research collaborations that go beyond traditional metrics.
- The metascience unit will work together with the CRCRM team and the winning contractor to consider how to minimise burden on the interdisciplinary research teams being studied. Recipients of CRCRM pilot scheme funding will be able to opt-in/out to being part of this metascience project.
- There will be a key opportunity to shape the project in collaboration with the grantholders at a CRCRM cohort meeting on 14th November 2024 at Birmingham ICC. The meeting will feature participants from all round 1 CRCRM funded projects, who will have just started or be just about to start their projects. The afternoon session is reserved for the metascience project where the contractor will introduce this study and can use the time with the grantholders to gather preliminary data, refine the project scope, brief participants on the forthcoming study and respond to feedback and questions from the grant holders to ensure their participation in the study.

Supplier's Proposal

Proposed work plan for 'Metascience call-off contract Project A: Understanding the optimal conditions and approaches for successful Interdisciplinary Research'

In 2023, UK Research and Innovation launched the UKRI Cross Research Council Responsive Mode Pilot scheme (CRCRM) to support highly interdisciplinary projects that would not routinely be funded through other UKRI schemes. Projects are funded for up to 2 years, with round 1 projects starting between August 2024 and February 2025 and round 2 projects starting between January and June 2026. UKRI expects to award 36 applications per round to a total of 72 projects receiving funding, providing a set of highly interdisciplinary projects that would enable a cohort study to be conducted to understand the factors that underpin successful interdisciplinary research. For the purpose of this study, and underpinning the proposed approach, we consider success of the interdisciplinary projects studied to be increased cohesion on a number of dimensions, including social and cognitive dimensions, in a way that maximises the diversity of project members. This draws on the 'Diversity Approach to Research Evaluation' (DARE) described in further detail below, which offers a framework for assessing and explaining successful collaborations across diverse (including disciplinarily diverse) teams. DARE will be the conceptual and analytical approach used for this study.

The DARE framework

For this project we propose the adaptation of the tried and tested approach to studying interdisciplinary research collaborations 'The Diversity Approach to Research Evaluation (DARE)' developed by colleagues at SPRU ([see Bone et al. 2020](#)) who will be leading on its implementation. DARE was developed through the Medical Research Council's "economic impact" programme and the Wellcome Research on Research Programme - with the core aim to address the gap in evaluation for team-level collaborations before outputs are published. DARE has been applied in six studies which included analysis of ~25 small project teams (teams with roughly £500K awarded) and two studies where the evaluation was of a multi-million GBP grant.

DARE was developed to study collaborative research efforts in real time, to support understanding of how collaborative research can be supported by teams, their host organisations and research funders. DARE is a mixed quantitative-qualitative method that quantifies diversity in research teams across five dimensions that are known to be crucial for knowledge creation (geographical, institutional, organisational, social and cognitive). It provides maps and metrics to show both how diverse a collaborative project is (in terms of team contexts and experience) and also the extent of the bridging efforts which support cohesiveness (see Figure 1 for definitions and diagram). This is accompanied by a narrative that relates research processes to outcomes, thereby giving insight into the underpinning factors of successful collaboration.

ANNEX 2 - The Charges

1. The Charges for the Goods and/or Services shall be as set out in this Annex 2 and Schedule 3 of the Agreement.
2. The Charges shall be as per the Price Schedule submitted by the Supplier on 19 August 2024.

Price Schedule

	RAND	SPRU	KCL	Vitae	Total	
	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Cost
FOIA Section 43 Commercial						
Total (cost)						365,900

3. The Total Charges shall not exceed £365,900 (excluding VAT).
4. Travel and subsistence costs shall be invoiced at cost in accordance with Schedule 3 of the framework Agreement.
5. The Payment Schedule is detailed below:

Milestone		Date
1	Email progress update	Jan 2025
2	Email progress update	April 2025
3	Email progress update	July 2025
4	Formal Progress report 1	October 2025

5	Email progress update	FOIA Section 43 Commercial	Jan 2026
6	Email progress update		April 2026
7	Email progress update		July 2026
8	Formal Progress report 2		October 2026
9	Email progress update		Jan 2027
10	Email progress update		April 2027
11	Email progress update		July 2027
12	Final report/publication		October 2027