#### RAICO ROBOTICS AND AI COLLABORATION

# RAICo Supplier Event

Wednesday 5th July 2023





#### **Kate Canning**

Head of R&D Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

05/07/2023

RAICO Overview

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### **RAICo overview**







# Partnerse The NDA

Kate Canning Head of R&D Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

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Ensure NDA Group effectively exploits RAI technology to significantly improve the existing technical baseline for decommissioning the UK's civil nuclear legacy.

### NDA Group and RAICo





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# Partnerst

## Sellafield & University of Manchester

#### Rav Chunilal Head of Robotics and Al

Sellafield

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### NDA Group and RAICo







#### Address NDA's 'grand challenge'

"A 50% reduction in decommissioning activities carried out by humans in hazardous environments by 2030" and bring about **benefits of cost and schedule reduction** to the UK taxpayer.















### **UoM: REMOTE INSPECTION**





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### **UoM: ACTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS**





Dounreay



JET Reactor



Jozef-Stefan Reactor, Slovenia







Chernobyl

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# Partners: UKAEA

#### **Rob Buckingham**

Executive Director

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## UKAEA and RAICo



UKAEA's mission is to lead the delivery of sustainable fusion energy and maximise the scientific and economic benefit.

Solve problems, enable product, drive prosperity, create place, develop people.



All fusion powerplants will require intervention (refuelling, inspection, maintenance, upgrade)... not by people

"Robotics" is device defining and mission critical

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### **UKAEA** and **RAICo**





UKAEA Goals (5Ps)	Enabling Research	RACE	RAICo	JDR				
Problem	"Top 10 Research Challenges"	ESS ACF, STORM, RH-Core, IRTF, ITER HCC, WPRM	First uses of robotics and AI across NDA and at UKAEAFusion end of I (esp. de-tritiation waste processing)					
Product	Viable innovation pipeline for architecture, tools and processes to enable economic remote operations in fusion and beyond							
Prosperity	Essential R&D	Fusion: device defining HMG robotics	NDA, TEPCO, UKAEA: "Safer, Faster, Cheaper"					
Place	B1	B1, Lund, ITER	RAICo1 Whitehaven	Culham Campus				
People	Capability and capacity to deliver fusion powerplants, working with the supply chain							
People (2027)	50+	400+	100+	200+				
People (collaborations)	Academia (globally)	ITER, EUROfusion, TEPCO (LongOps)	NDA Group, UoManchester IED					

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#### **ENABLING RESEARCH**

Over its lifetime, a fusion plant will have a high potential for loss of efficiency and the chance that sub-optimal operations will drive up operating costs. These effects may be compounded over long lifespans where changing teams, technology obsolescence, and

> by-products of the fusion process or by parts being taken out of service and refurbished or by decontamination work. Disposal must be done safely and in compliance with regulations around the management of hazardous materials.

> > be productive enough to ensure sufficient return on investment by providing reliable, sustained electricity generation. This in turn relies on the high availability of the

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In any complex system there will be operational abnormalities. These abnormal events will be picked up through long-term and short-term monitoring and by periodic inspections, most often conducted remotely. When an issue is identified a decision must be made about the need for rapid and immediate intervention where there will not be an opportunity to transition to full shutdown.



#### RAICo Programme

- Initial 3-year programme: April 22 to March 25.
- Targeting 50% of the budget to be placed with the supply chain.



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## **RAICo** projects have applications across fission decom and fusion engineering







## **RAICo projects have applications across fission decom and fusion engineering**





## FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Speak to us this afternoon

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# Procurement

#### **Phil Perkins**

Strategic Procurement Business Partner

RAICo Procurements will be managed by UKAEA Procurement Team on behalf of our partners. Here is the information on our routes to market, form of contract and position on IP.

## **ROUTES TO MARKET**



Low value materials & services <£20K	<£20k, not under direct Procurement Management, typically subject to three quotes.				
Supplies and Services >£20K	Frameworks - Crown Commercial Services, LUPC, or UKAEA (Project Delivery Services, Embedded Engineering Resource, Engineering Design Services)				
	Dynamic Purchasing System - We are engaging with our partner organisations on a Robotics & AI DPS for RAICo requirements				
	Competitive Process (> £20K and < PCR Threshold) - Contract Finder Open Competition. We may utilize Reserved Contracts to restrict to SMEs and or Specific locations where justified and to meet specific RAICo objectives.				
	Competitive Process (> PCR Threshold) - Regulated Process (Open, Restricted, Negotiated – as appropriate to requirement). These may include Social Value criteria to support RAICo levelling up objectives.				
	Direct Award (where justified) - Negotiated Procedure Without Competition				
R&D Pre- Commercial	Pre-commercial procurement process - Utilising either UKRI SBRI, DASA, Digital Catapult or UKAEA platforms				

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### **CONTRACT FORM**





Procurement of standard of the shelf items UKAEA Standard PO Terms (based on NEC4 Supply Contract)



More Complex procurement of Goods NEC4 Supply Contract





Procurement of Professional Services NEC4 Professional Services Contract

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## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**



Foreground IP (FIP) arising from contract:

- Vests with Supplier
- Licence granted to Client, including rights to sub-license

Supplier Background IP (BIP)

• Limited licence granted to Client that is required for use of FIP

**Client BIP** 

• Licence granted to Supplier in order to provide the service





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## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

#### Supply Contracts:

Foreground IP (FIP) arising from contract:

- Normally vests with Client, any exceptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- Supplier Background IP (BIP)
  - No transfer of ownership
  - Licence granted to Client that is required for use of FIP

**Client BIP** 

- No transfer of ownership
- Licence granted to Supplier in order to provide the service





## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our Procurement & Supply Chain Booth Look up UKAEA's Procurement Webpage

Contact: phil.perkins@ukaea.uk

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# **RAICo Technology Themes**

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# Handling Technology

#### **Robert Howell**

#### Theme lead

Using robotics and AI in these hazardous environments will provide the step-change in capabilities needed to move towards a cheaper, faster, and less hazardous set of next generation decommissioning activities. There is currently a gap in robotics innovation pipeline – the set of these technologies. These deployments are primarily implemented to de-risk robotic operations and utilise appropriate technology developments to aid the trials phase.

Remote

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:





- Enhance end-user experience in nuclear decommissioning teleoperation context
- Raise Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of handling concepts or technologies
- Enable adaptable and extensible teleoperation capabilities
- Incorporate matured technologies into products for specific use cases
- Promote technology transfer and knowledge dissemination

### ROADMAP TECHNOLOGIES





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### Haptic Interface:

#### **Product & Design Services**





Interoperable between different local manipulator systems

 Force-feedback rendering and consideration of ergonomics





### HIL Digital Twin Digital Twin:



#### **Product & Design Services**



Hardware in the loop-based teleoperation with digital twin simulation



Haptic Rendering and Computer Assistive Technologies (CAT)



Enabling extendible and flexible teleoperation systems

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### **Autonomy Products:**

#### **Software and Hardware Products**



Perception Systems - sensors, cameras, and depth perception technologies.



Robot Automation and Guidance Solutions

Manipulation, Grasping, and Collaborative Robotics Products



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### **PROCUREMENT SUMMARY**

Procurement Title	RFQ Issue Date	Planned Contract Start Date*	Estimated Contract Length	Estimated Value Banding	Procurement Route
11.38 - Haptic Interface - Design & Supply	10/2023	12/2023	~12 months	£30k to <£80k	Contracts Finder Competition
11.39 - Hardware in the loop digital twin – Design & Supply	10/2023	12/2023	~12 months	£30k to <£80k	Contracts Finder Competition
11.40 - Autonomy products – Design & Supply (Potential)	10/2023	12/2023	~12 months	£30k to <£80k	Contracts Finder Competition

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Speak to me this afternoon

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# Reduction

#### **Rob Sharratt**

#### Theme Lead

Dismantling or cutting up components into pieces for safe storage or shipment is a common activity in decommissioning of nuclear and other industrial plants.

Size Reduction is a RAICo workstream with the aim of developing robotically deployed size reduction tools for nuclear decommissioning applications (both Fission and Fusion).

# INTRODUCTION





#### SIZE REDUCTION IS A KEY RAICO WORKSTREAM

Applying and demonstrating size reduction tools with robotic deployment systems

For nuclear decommissioning applications (both Fission and Fusion)





Demonstrate the application of robotic and AI systems combined with existing size reduction technologies



Develop the Next Generation Through Wall Manipulator and demonstrate the operational benefits

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Applying and Demonstrating "Ready to Go" Solutions

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### **PRIORITY TOPICS**



# PROCUREMENT PLAN







\*Dates are the earliest possible dates and are subject to change

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# 11.28 DESIGN & SUPPLY:





# Design and Supply of Test Cell for Through Wall Manipulator

A new through wall manipulator is to be delivered to RAICo1 in 2024

A flagship test cell to safely install, operate, test and demonstrate both the manipulator itself and associated size reduction tooling is required within the RAICo1 work hall prior to its arrival

- Contract to design and supply test cell equipment and operator station to the issued requirement specification and interfaces
- Installation of test cell in conjunction with RAICo Technicians
- Test Cell Estimated to be complete: July/Aug 2024

# 11.29 DESIGN & SUPPLY:





#### Robot Deployable Cold Cutting Prototypes

The following contracts are envisaged:

- Design and Supply of a Prototype, Quadruped Deployed, Cold Cutting Tool
- Design and Supply of an In Glovebox, Cobot Deployed, Cold Cutting Tool
- Design and Supply of a TWM Deployed Cold Cutting Tool

**Note:** Multiple contracts may be launched. Number of contracts and size of contract will vary depending on scope and budget available

For each of the contracts the following will be specified in the ITT:

- The specific cold cutting technology (Diamond Wire, Circular Saw etc...)
- The deployment system to be used (Quadruped, Cobot, TWM)
- The use case requirements (e.g. what is being cut and where)

Non-Active Trials performed asap through 2024 – March to December



# 11.30 DESIGN & SUPPLY:





Complete removal of rust layer

#### **Laser Ablation Prototype Tool**

RAICo have a concept design for an in-bore pipe laser ablation tool A prototype is to be designed to undertake initial non-active trials in RAICo facility.

- Design and supply of a prototype in-bore laser ablation tool and test rig
  - Optics Concept Design Package
  - High Power Laser Test Results
  - Drive System Test Results
  - Requirements Specification
  - Use Case and Test Specification

Contract Launch Jan 2024

Non-Active Trials – ASAP estimated start August 2024

**Capabilities Required** 

- Laser Optics Design
- Mechatronics
- System Packaging
- Pneumatics and Turbine Design

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### **PROCUREMENT SUMMARY**

Procurement Title	RFQ Issue Date	Planned Contract Start Date*	Estimated Contract Length	Estimated Value Banding	Procurement Route
11.28 - Design and supply of Test Cell for Through Wall Manipulator	01/02/2024	01/04/2024	<1 year	£100k to <£500k	Contracts Finder Competition
11.29 - Robot Deployable Cold Cutting Prototypes - Design and Supply	Between 01/10/2023 to 01/01/2024	Between 01/12/2023 to 01/03/2024	1-2 years	£500k to <£1M	Find a Tender Service
11.30 - Laser Ablation Prototype Tool - Design and Supply	01/11/2023	01/01/2024	1-2 years	£100k to <£500k	Find a Tender Service

\*Dates are the earliest possible dates and are subject to change

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# **FOR MORE** INFORMATION

Speak to me this afternoon

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# Robotics and Al Data: RAID

#### Salvador Pacheco-Gutierrez

#### Theme Lead

The goal is to create an enhanced suite of tools for merging legacy data with data collected by robot/sensor from fusion and fission decommissioning site locations.

Using robotics and AI in hazardous nuclear decommissioning environments will provide the step-change in capabilities needed to move towards a cheaper, faster, and less hazardous set of next generation decommissioning activities.

### INTRODUCTION





Data is crucial during the planning and execution of decommissioning activities. Having the right information at the right time can save time, money and more importantly, lives

### Robotics and AI Data (RAID) Theme focuses on:

Applying BIM technologies to centralise data and support the planning, tracking and management of the nuclear decommissioning process

Robot-assisted data collection from hazardous locations including remote health physics data

Developing an intuitive and interactive data visualisation tool

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# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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#### **OBJECTIVES**

To demonstrate the capabilities and potential of BIM for nuclear decommissioning planning

To develop visualisation and inspection tools for nuclear decommissioning data

To deploy sensor-enhanced robotic platforms (e.g. quadrupeds, drones) for data collection to evaluate, plan and forecast decommissioning scenarios

To support remote health physics data collection using robotic systems

Prepare the foundational data systems for next gen AI for decommissioning



#### AIMS

To create an enhanced suite of digital tools for leveraging existing data and newly collected data using robots

To support decommissioning activities by supporting planning and decision-making, and to leverage the potential of Al in nuclear decommissioning applications









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### **PROCUREMENT SUMMARY**

Procurement Title	RFQ Issue Date	Planned Contract Start Date*	Estimated Contract Length	Estimated Value Banding	Procurement Route
11.32 - Nuclear BIM (Phase 1)**	Jul/Aug 2023	Oct 2023	3 months	£50k to <£100k	Digital Catapult – Future Scope Decommissioning Data Challenge
11.33 - Nuclear decommissioning data viewer (Phase 1)**	Jul/Aug 2023	Sep/Oct 2023	4~6 months (possible extension)	£100k to <£200k	Find a Tender Service
11.31 - Autonomous data collection	Oct/Nov 2023	Jan 2024	1 year	£150k to <£200k	Find a Tender Service
11.34 - Remote health physics	Jan/Feb 2024	Apr 2024	9 months	£100k to <£200k	Find a Tender Service

\*Dates are the earliest possible dates and are subject to change

\*\* Potential extension to Phase 2 depending on outcome of Phase 1

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### NUCLEAR BIM (Phase 1) :





Development and demonstration of a nuclear BIM suitable for supporting nuclear fusion and fission decommissioning:

- Importing existing CAD
- Connecting related textual records, maintenance logs, and capture data from inspection robots and sensors.
- Ability to include radiological and contamination data

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### NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING DATA VIEWER:







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VR-enabled decommissioning site

To develop an intuitive visualisation interface to collected data (e.g., data stored in a BIM), allowing

- Multiple types of user access,
- 3D modelling visualisation and

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- Inspection while easily interacting with the data (e.g. overlaying radiological data, annotating features of interest, adding metadata, etc).
- This shall include VR/AR representations of the 3D data for off-line exploration purposes.
- Data analytics related to trends, patterns and potential risks
- Dashboards to analyse and visualise the potentially large amount of information generated throughout the decommissioning process.

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### **AUTONOMOUS DATA COLLECTION:**





### Deployment of robotic platforms (quadrupeds, drones, ROVs, etc) for:

- Routinely and autonomously exploring and inspecting large complex regions
- Novel sensing devices capable of capturing geometrical, physical and radiological data suitable for the BIM
- Mapping, semi-autonomous navigation, sample retrieval

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### **REMOTE HEALTH PHYSICS:**





KUKA Glovebox - Remote Handling demonstration



- Improve safety of workers during decommissioning operations
- Deploy remote platforms to complete some of the monitoring tasks remotely

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# FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Speak to me this afternoon

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# Digital for the second second

#### **Ronan Kelly**

#### Theme Lead

The goal of this theme is to demonstrate the application of modern **digital tools** to support remote operators of handling and size reduction equipment. We require these tools to provide a common thread throughout the lifecycle of an operations, from concept design, planning, and training through to rehearsal and execution – hence *infrastructure*.

# **INTRODUCTION:**

- Digital tools to support decision making and execution throughout the Ops lifecycle
  - Continuity of data
  - Transferability of tools between contexts
- In practice this means generic tools for:
  - Structured planning
  - Asset tracking
  - Visualisation
  - Simulation
  - Reporting



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# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### AIM



Deploy digital tools to support R&D and deployment across RAICo use cases



#### **OBJECTIVES**

Support RAICO deployments

- Robotic glovebox high usability UX / UI
- Quadrupeds digital tools to support training and operation
- JET Decommissioning –
  asset tracking
- NDA Decommissioning -TBD

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# **UX / UI:**

### Context

Aim: pivot existing DI systems (RHOVR & OMS) to increase accessibility and support broader use cases

### Scope

Design services for reworking existing software UX

- Participation in user workshops
- Agile delivery of UI designs for new features

Excluded: implementation of design





### **QUADRUPED DIGITAL TOOLS:**





#### CONTEXT

Quadruped robots being deployed for inspection, size reduction, clean up

#### SCOPE

Digital tools to support remote operators with:

- Training
- Planning
- Operations

# **DATA PIPELINE:**

#### Inputs

- CAD data
- Point Cloud Data
- Documentation and knowledge
- Physical material





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#### Outputs

- Digital media
- Interactive 3D models
- Digital Simulations
- Datasets for ML





### **PROCUREMENT SUMMARY**

Procurement Title	RFQ Issue Date	Planned Contract Start Date*	Estimated Contract Length	Estimated Value Banding	Procurement Route
11.37 - UX / UI - Design Services	10/2023	01/2024	1 year	£100k to <£200k	Competitive Process
11.36 - Quadruped Digital Tools – Design & Supply	11/2024	05/2024	~6 months	£100k to <£300k	Competitive Process
11.35 - Data Pipeline – Design & Supply	09/2023	11/2023	~1 year	£100k to <£300k	Competitive Process

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# FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# Kemole Handling Deployments

Lipika Naidu Deployments Lead

#### Lipika Naidu

#### **Deployments Lead**

The RAICo Programme has an objective to demonstrate a **series** of **deployments** to incorporate and showcase the development and growth of technologies across all themes. The primary deployment streams being robotic gloveboxes, quadruped deployments and automated cells. These deployments are mainly implemented to **de-risk robotic operations** for specific use-case while utilising appropriate technology developments to aid the trials phase and optimise user experience.

# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To de-risk robotics operations.
- To de-risk AI integrated solutions.
- To provide a testbed for various technology theme developments.

- To reduce human intervention in hazardous areas.
- To implement Industry capability and improve collaboration.
- To maximise impact in Post Operational Clean Out (POCO) in NDA group facilities.







AI COLLABORATION

# **ROADMAP:**





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### PROJECTS AND PROCUREMENT NEEDS:

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#### Glovebox

### Integration and commissioning services.

- Mechanical, EC&I, Safety and/or Software.
- From concept design to final delivery.
- UKCA marking and technical file generation.
- Potential for all streams of deployment.



### PROJECTS AND PROCUREMENT NEEDS:

#### Quadruped Deployments:

Interface design & manufacture.

- Tool-changers.
- Grasping interfaces.
- Portability.

#### Rad hard testing

- Test critical components.
- Identity solutions in maintaining containment.
- Potential across all deployment streams e.g.UR10e, Cameras etc





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### PROJECTS AND PROCUREMENT NEEDS:

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Automated solutions : JDP tile disassembly/MRF small object picking

- Automatic grasp identification
- Sort & segregate
- Pick & place.





### **PROCUREMENT SUMMARY**

Procurement Title	RFQ Issue Date	Planned Contract Start Date*	Estimated Contract Length	Estimated Value Banding	Procurement Route
11.26 - Design, build and supply of Representative Glove Box No.2	10/2023	12/2023	~12 months	£80k to <£150k	Contracts Finder Competition
11.41 - Radiation Hardness component testing (Potential)	07/2024	09/2024	~6 months	£30k to <£80k	Contracts Finder Competition
11.42 - Interface design & manufacture (Potential)	09/2024	11/2024	~6 months	£30k to <£80k	Contracts Finder Competition
11.43 - Automated solutions (Potential)	09/2024	11/2024	~6 months	£30k to <£80k	Contracts Finder Competition

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Speak to me this afternoon

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