



# Working with us

An introduction for suppliers



## Introduction

AWE plays a crucial role in the defence of the UK, by providing and maintaining the warheads for the country's nuclear deterrent.

We are a centre of scientific, engineering and technological excellence, with some of the most advanced research, design and production facilities in the world. Our unique expertise also assists the UK Government in developing and delivering a range of innovative and integrated support services, including national nuclear security and counter-terrorism solutions.

AWE is contracted to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) through a Government-owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) arrangement.

Whilst our sites and facilities remain in government ownership, their management, day-to-day operations, and the maintenance of the nuclear stockpile, is contracted to a private company AWE Management Limited (AWE ML).

AWE ML is a consortium comprising three partners: Lockheed Martin Corporation, Jacobs Engineering, and Serco.

We are committed to working ethically and to being transparent in our transactions with our customers, our stakeholders and our suppliers. We insist on integrity, honesty and fairness in all aspects of our business and we expect our employees and contractors to be just as diligent.

## Our sites

### Aldermaston (709 acres)



Nuclear licensed Production and R&D

### Burghfield (215 acres)



Nuclear licensed Assembly/disassembly operations

### Blacknest (5 acres)



Seismology

### Coulport



Support to MOD Navy Operations

**Two nuclear licensed sites and a scientific support facility – approx. 5,500 employees**

## Our expertise

AWE delivers nuclear warheads for the UK's deterrent, and we use our expertise to support national security.

We:

- **Deliver and maintain a safe and secure nuclear warhead stockpile**
- **Support the strategic relationships that sustain the UK as a nuclear weapons state**
- **Use our expertise to provide wider support to the UK's security priorities and scientific interests**
- **Operate and enhance the AWE estate on behalf of the Ministry of Defence**



## Our people

The majority of our supply chain professionals have either gained or are currently pursuing CIPS (Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply) qualifications.

Supply Chain Management has a dedicated Supplier Development team, who are working to improve the relationships we have with our suppliers. We continue building on our current relationships and are looking to forge new ones.

## Supply chain management

We pride ourselves on working with high-performing suppliers. Our suppliers are crucial in supporting AWE's strategic goals and aims. You will be helping to maintain the UK's national defence and security by working with AWE.

Supply Chain Management is always seeking new ways to improve our business processes and the relationships we have with our new and existing suppliers. Due to the nature of the product that AWE delivers, we need to ensure the highest standards in our Supply Chain. We expect our suppliers to also follow these high standards in safety, security, environmental, sustainability and quality management.

AWE operates an Approved Supplier List (ASL) and suppliers must be on our ASL to be able to supply goods and services.

The ASL process is by invitation from AWE, and approved suppliers are expected to pass our Supplier Competency Evaluation (SCE).

The SCE process involves provision of general supplier details and then may

require a response to a range of questions depending on the type of work you will be undertaking. The SCE covers areas such as on-site working, health & safety, environmental and quality, including certifications held, as well as specific technical areas of expertise.

Where appropriate, Supplier Competency Evaluations are assessed by our Technical Authorities to ensure our suppliers are competent and capable of supplying to AWE.

Once on the ASL, suppliers are subject to reassessment every three to five years depending on the scope of work you are providing to AWE. This proportionate assessment of your competencies will help to better inform us of your capabilities, so we can work better together in the future.



## Potential suppliers

For suppliers seeking to work with AWE who are not on the ASL, we keep a database of 'potential suppliers'. Buyers can use this database when considering future tenders.

Please email any enquiries to [scm.relmanagement@awe.co.uk](mailto:scm.relmanagement@awe.co.uk)  
Your email should include:

- **The full trading name of your organisation**
- **Country of origin**
- **Contact details for any enquiries including full name, direct phone number and email address**
- **The scope of product and/ or service your company offers\* and accreditations e.g. ISO9001**
- **Reference and a summary to any services or products you have supplied to AWE in the past, either directly or indirectly; and**
- **Reference and a summary to any services or products you have supplied to any similar organisations in the past, either directly or indirectly e.g. works carried out on other Nuclear Licensed Sites**

\* Supporting information to the application can be made either in the body of the email, by attaching Pdf documents e.g. brochures or via weblinks.

## Working with AWE

### Working ethically

We are committed to being transparent in all our transactions with the MOD, our stakeholders and our suppliers. We insist on integrity, honesty and fairness in all aspects of our business and we expect our employees and contractors to be just as diligent.

We expect our suppliers to be ethical, responsible and to fully comply with all applicable laws and regulations. We require our suppliers to read and acknowledge our Suppliers Code of Conduct which sets out our values and approach.

### Sustainable procurement

We are committed to being a trusted leader through responsible and sustainable business practices. That is why we are committed to embedding sustainable procurement procedures and processes across our supply chain activities.

### Publicity

Due to the nature of our work, suppliers who are successful in gaining contracts with AWE will need to seek permission from our Corporate Communications department before publicising their achievements.

### Working on site

As AWE operates secure sites, there are a range of site rules that need to be strictly complied with and the supplier's employees are likely to require security vetting. Depending on the level of vetting required, the process can take some time and this needs to be considered in any plans. Any site rules and security requirements will be detailed as part of AWE contracts.

### Contracting

AWE uses standard Purchase Orders with our own terms and conditions (T&Cs). AWE uses the NEC suite of contracts for construction and capital projects. Our contract with MOD also requires us to flow down a number of contract conditions.

## Quality requirements

AWE takes a graded approach to quality requirements and oversight. The purpose of the grading system is to ensure that the correct level of requirements, controls and resources are identified and applied judiciously and consistently to products, processes and people.

It is also the process by which the scope, depth and rigour of the management controls (oversight, testing and surveillance etc.) are applied.

AWE specific quality requirements for you and your sub-tiers are flowed down from our customer and are summarised in the Allied Quality Assurance Publication (AQAP) 2110, NATO Quality Requirements for Design, Development and Production. This document outlines the requirements for your Quality Management System and has been written to provide;

- A common definition of NATO requirements for Quality that can be used in a global supply chain
- A defence context to ISO 9001 requirements
- The Government Quality Assurance Representative GQAR right to reject product, QMS and plans without penalties

Our quality requirements will be specific to the goods or services that you are providing to us, however we have aligned our them with the Safety Directors Forum Good Practice guide, entitled "UK Nuclear Industry Good Practice Guide to: Supply Chain Quality Requirements", which can be found on the Nuclear Institute website at [www.nuclearinst.com](http://www.nuclearinst.com).



## Spend categories

AWE spends circa £500M per year through its supply chain.

This spend ranges from commercial off-the-shelf to large capital projects, all contributing to production and maintenance of nuclear warheads in support of UK defence and national security.

We have a wide breadth of categories; you will be assessed for the specific work you have been contracted in order to be added to the ASL. However, if you have multiple capabilities please disclose them to AWE and we will assess you for them. Then if work arises in those areas we can consider you for future work.

Whilst warhead production is our main focus of spend, we also spend in other areas in order to maintain our sites and ensure the wellbeing of our employees. AWE has a diverse supply base.

AWE's main spend categories are:

- **Civil works**
- **Design services**
- **Mechanical and electrical engineering**
- **Site services**
- **Specialist materials and manufacturing services**
- **Logistics**
- **Control and instrumentation**
- **Engineering assets**
- **Process plant and equipment**
- **Research and development**
- **Lab equipment**

We also have a number of Tier 1 suppliers working on our sites, and there may be subcontract opportunities within this group.





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AWE is the trading name for AWE plc. AWE is a Government Owned Contractor Operated organisation. AWE is operated by a joint venture of Lockheed Martin, Jacobs Engineering, and Serco.

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