



### **Provision of immutable storage solution for SPT Digital backups - Award of Contract**

**Committee**            Operations

**Date of meeting**    26 August 2022

**Date of report**     9 August 2022

#### **Report by Director of Finance & Corporate Support**

#### **1. Object of report**

To seek the Committee's approval to award the contract for introducing an immutable backup storage device to Insight UK.

#### **2. Background**

Today, with the threat of cybercrime growing exponentially, ransomware is considered the single most common cyber threat to organisations by Cyber Security experts; especially since ransomware has evolved to find its way into backup servers as well as live data. Historically, a robust backup regime was considered a proportionate response to the ransomware threat as the format of backup files made them immune from corruption but increasingly it is becoming clear that backups stored online are just as susceptible as files sitting in the live data stores.

Currently the vast majority of SPT's production disk storage environment consists of two Storage Area Network (SAN) devices with backup storage requirements being met by several Network Attached Storage (NAS) devices.

To mitigate the consequences of corrupt backup data resulting from a ransomware attack, SPT have determined that the storage of backup files should be reinforced by the introduction of immutable storage for all backup data.

An immutable storage volume is one that does not allow any data to be changed once it has been written to disk. The data can be read but not updated or deleted (unless certain multi-factor authentication steps have taken place). This means that even if ransomware does manage to find its way onto SPT systems, the ransomware cannot encrypt the data stored in the immutable storage volumes.

#### **3. Outline of proposals**

To address these increasing threats, SPT have taken a strategic decision to implement an immutable Storage Area Network (SAN) disk array to replace the Network Attached Storage (NAS) devices currently in place for hosting backup data.

A mini-competition was conducted from the Crown Commercial Services Framework RM6068 Technology Products & Associated Services Lot Two Hardware and Associated Services. There

was only one submission (from Insight UK) which was assessed and deemed technically compliant.

Insight UK will be contracted to complete the initial configuration of the flash arrays according to best practice, including integration with the existing storage environment for monitoring and support.

The total cost for this project is £307,312, consisting of:

Equipment and installation	£210,042
5-year support	£ 97,270

In conclusion, the preferred bidder - Insight UK - has been evaluated in line with the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.

#### 4. Committee action

The Committee is asked to approve the award of a contract to Insight UK for the provision of an immutable backup storage device for a total contract value of £307,312.

#### 5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>Contract will be subject to the CCS terms and conditions.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>The purchase and installation of the equipment will be accommodated within the capital budget, under project 10137 "Technical Refresh". The support services will be accommodated within the revenue budget each financial year.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>The implementation will mitigate the risks of backups becoming corrupted or being maliciously deleted.</i>
Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences	<i>None directly.</i>

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