**Royal Shakespeare Theatre**

**Automation System Replacement Project**

**Preliminary Market Engagement Notice**

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is undertaking a major capital project to replace the stage automation system at the Royal Shakespeare Theare in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. The scope of the project will include a new fully integrated automation control system serving new winches and other stage equipment along with associated electrical, structural and builders works.

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre is a 1,040 seat thrust stage auditorium which re-opened following major renovation in 2010.

Funding for the project is already in place, and a design team has been appointed to develop the design and performance requirements.

This Preliminary Market Engagement (PME) process seeks to engage and obtain feedback from specialists who can design and install fully automated control systems and automation equipment for performance spaces.

This process seeks to implement the best practice principles of the Preliminary Market Engagement stage of a Competitive Flexible Procedure, as set out under the Procurement Act 2023. This exercise is not a call for competition nor a commitment to undertake a procurement exercise. Information received will be used to help the RSC develop its requirements and inform any future procurement.

**Contract Dates (estimated)**

February to November 2027.

**Main Procurement Category**

Capital Works.

**CPV Classifications**

31000000 – Electrical machinery, apparatus, equipment

45300000 – Building installation

44000000 – Construction structures and materials

481000000 – Industry specific software

**Location**
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, UK.

**Engagement Deadline**

The Preliminary Market Engagement period shall conclude at 1700hrs on 5th November 2026.

**Engagement Process Description**

The RSC is undertaking Preliminary Market Engagement to gather feedback from Suppliers operating in the market of theatre automation systems. The feedback being sought includes specific technical capabilities, opportunities for innovation and potential delivery models.

Suppliers are invited to complete a written Questionnaire covering Delivery and Technical topics.

As part of the Preliminary Market Engagement process the RSC is interested in viewing example Control Desks from suppliers in the market. If you wish to participate in this aspect of the process, please submit this request to the email address noted below.

Feedback captured during this PME is intended to help inform the project structure and approach.

**Particular Suitability**

Open to organisations of all sizes including Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

**Next Stage**

Following this PME Stage, there will be a formal Conditions of Participate Stage following which a shortlist of Suppliers for final tender will be identified.

**Submission**

Interested suppliers are requested to complete the Preliminary Market Engagement Questionnaire which is available upon request by emailing:

cffprocurement@rsc.org.uk

The Questionnaire should also be returned via email by 1700hrs on 5th November 2026 to:

cffprocurement@rsc.org.uk

Following evaluation of the responses received through this PME, the RSC will determine the most suitable route to market and the technical performance parameters for the installation.

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