Rail industry appoints Achilles to provide supplier qualification services

RSSB has signed an agreement, on behalf of the rail industry, with Achilles Information Ltd, securing provision of pre-qualification and audit services via an online portal for the Railway Industry Supplier Qualification Scheme (RISQS).

RISQS is the single entry point for companies to supply products and services to over 110 buying organisations in the rail industry, including Network Rail and Transport for London. It embraces historic qualification arrangements, (formerly known as Link-up), providing a means for rail buyers to identify suitably qualified suppliers in a way that’s compliant with EU procurement rules.

The RISQS Board is responsible for governing and developing the scheme as well as overseeing the performance of third party service providers, such as Achilles, which has a contract to provide the pre-qualification and audit service for the scheme until April 2017.

Richard Sharp, Chairman of the RISQS Board, said: “This agreement will benefit buyers and suppliers alike across the industry, it means industry is now in control of its own supplier qualification arrangements but we are also benefiting from the huge experience of Achilles in running the scheme and similar arrangements for over 20 years.”

Tom Grand, Regional Director for Achilles in the UK and Ireland, said: “We look forward to working with the RISQS Board to continue to build on improvements to the way qualification works, which already include more-focussed audits with less duplication and better cooperation with other schemes like RISAS and IRIS.”

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For media enquiries, please contact RSSB’s press office, on 020 3142 5331/2/3 or 5653 or email pressoffice@rssb.co.uk or visit the website at www.rssb.co.uk
Notes to editors:

1) About RISQS

RISQS has been developed to provide a service for the qualification of suppliers for all products and services that are procured by the industry. RISQS supports Network Rail, LUL/Transport for London, passenger, light rail and freight train operators, rolling stock organisations, main infrastructure contractors and other rail products and services providers in the management of supply chain risk. RISQS is an independent, third party qualification assessment of a supplier’s capability to supply products and services.

The agreement with RSSB means that Achilles will provide audits and the associated IT platform in a contract until April 2017.

The scheme is governed by a cross-industry Board, supported by RSSB and the Rail Delivery Group. The RISQS Board includes Network Rail, Transport for London, train operators, infrastructure contractors, and suppliers as well as other supporting bodies like ATOC, Railway Industry Association (RIA), the Rail Industry Contractors Association (RICA), Rail Alliance and the Rail Plant Association (RPA).

For more information about RISQS go to: http://www.achilles.co.uk/en/?option=com_content&view=article&id=285

2) About RSSB

We help the industry understand risk, guide standards, manage research, development and innovation and collaborate to improve.

The rail industry in Britain is made up of many different organisations, but they all form a system and share a common purpose, to move people and freight safely and efficiently by rail. RSSB bring all parts of this system together to support shared decisions, products and services, to help industry drive out unnecessary cost, improve business performance and develop long-term strategy.

Our activities include being an independent cross-industry body with a critical mass of technical expertise, supporting activities which require collaboration, and include supplier assurance schemes such as RISQS.

We are run by the industry, for the industry, with member companies from across the mainline system. The demand for our services comes from the industry itself, and from the involvement of cross-industry groups. For more information go to www.rssb.co.uk

3) About Achilles

About Achilles - Achilles is one of the world’s largest service providers of global supply chain risk management solutions with more than 950 people working in 22 countries.

We work on behalf of over 790 buying organisations from 11 industry sectors to collect, validate and maintain essential data through an online questionnaire on 90,000 suppliers. This allows buying organisations to build a picture of the risks present within their supply chain and implement measures to protect their business, people, planet and profit.

We operate unique supply chain communities. Business leaders from across industries work collaboratively to cut duplication by agreeing the common standards suppliers need to meet in order to be eligible to do business with them. This allows buying organisations to raise standards
consistently across all countries in which they operate and easily connect with credible suppliers, based in any country in which they would want to do business.

Suppliers joining an Achilles community gain a dedicated ‘shop window’ with their services visible to some of the biggest buying organisations in the world. With standardised requirements from the relevant industry, suppliers can gain a clear understanding of what steps they must take to be shortlisted for work.

Our solutions enable businesses to make informed, strategic decisions to minimise cost and turn common industry challenges into sources of competitive advantage.

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