



promoting professional dialogue, recognising technical achievement

ODYSSEY

A Technical Project Delivery Professional Development & Mentoring Programme

8 Apr 2025

Agenda



- What is the scheme
 - What does it involve
 - Mentee Expectations
 - Eligibility & Cost
 - Application Process
-
- Who are CITA
 - Who has the Scheme supported so far
-
- A mentees experience
 - A mentors experience
-
- Q&A

What is the scheme

Funded by the
R SIGNALS
Charity

Delivered in
collaboration
with CITA

Support the
Charitable
Sector

Enhance project
management
skills

Develop
technical and
leadership skills

What is involved



Length

Lasts up to 12 months
Extra mural activity (i.e.
outside of working hours)



Mentored Consultancy

Delivering ICT or Cyber
project(s)
Working with a mentor
Develop and apply
knowledge and skills
outside of the military
sector



Flexibility and Commitment

Designed to avoid
overburdening
participants
Requires commitment
from mentees
Activities and pace
managed by mentee and
mentor



Support for Mentees

Mentee Expectations



Benefits to the individual

- Personal Satisfaction
 - Direct contribution to a meaningful cause
- Industry Insights
 - Understanding of charity and IT sectors
 - Exposure to civilian work environment and practices
- Professional Networking
 - Establish valuable professional contacts
- Guidance and Support
- Skill Development
- Personal Growth
- Job Satisfaction
- Reputation Enhancement

Eligibility and Cost



- Eligibility Criteria
 - Network Engineer, Information Services Engineer, and Communications Infrastructure Engineer career streams
 - Supervisory roster and commissioned officers (2Lt-Maj (IG2))
 - Other career streams considered by exception with relevant L5 qualification
- Cost of Mentoring Scheme
 - Total cost: £800
 - RSC funding: £700 for ODP subscribers
 - Personal contribution: £150 (with £50 refund on successful project completion)
 - Non-ODP subscribers: £800 direct payment to CITA

Application Process

- Step 1: Register Interest
 - Potential applicants register [via e-form](#) by 25 Apr 25
 - Applications are reviewed based on skills and mentor/project match
 - Successful applicants invited to Step 2 after £150 payment
 - Unsuccessful applicants informed and refunded
- Step 2: Discussion with Scheme Lead
 - Quick discussion to ensure understanding of scheme requirements
 - Demonstrate willingness to complete the scheme
- Step 3: Submit CV
 - Submit a developed CV focused on scheme activities
 - CV support package available
- Step 4: Mentor Matching through CITA

R SIGNALS / QG SIGNALS Odyssey
Mentoring Scheme Application
2025 Cohort



Who are CITA

- A Charity for Charities



- More than 1200 charities supported

- Bridging the gap in IT & technology KSE within UK charity sector



- In excess of 2500 days of IT consultancy provided

- Matching charities in need of IT related support with our expert volunteers



- ~900 volunteers nationwide



- ~£2.5M saved in consultancy fees



- 5 years of mentoring members of the Corps

Odyssey Supported Charities



Climate Bonds INITIATIVE



Unity Diversity Respect

**Criminal
Justice
Alliance**



**Community First
Yorkshire**



- Charities supported over 3 year period



- Projects types:

- Review
- Advisory
- Delivery



**Edinburgh
School
Uniform
Bank**



Talent Foundry Trust



Donate

CITA
IT Help for Charities



Mentee View

Project Involvement

- Participated two iterations of the CITA Odyssey projects
- Benefitted from a mentor's guidance and advice throughout
- Experience - Difference in ways of working

Initial Goals

- Established clear objectives during the initial meeting
- Aimed to deliver tangible outcomes while developing professional skills

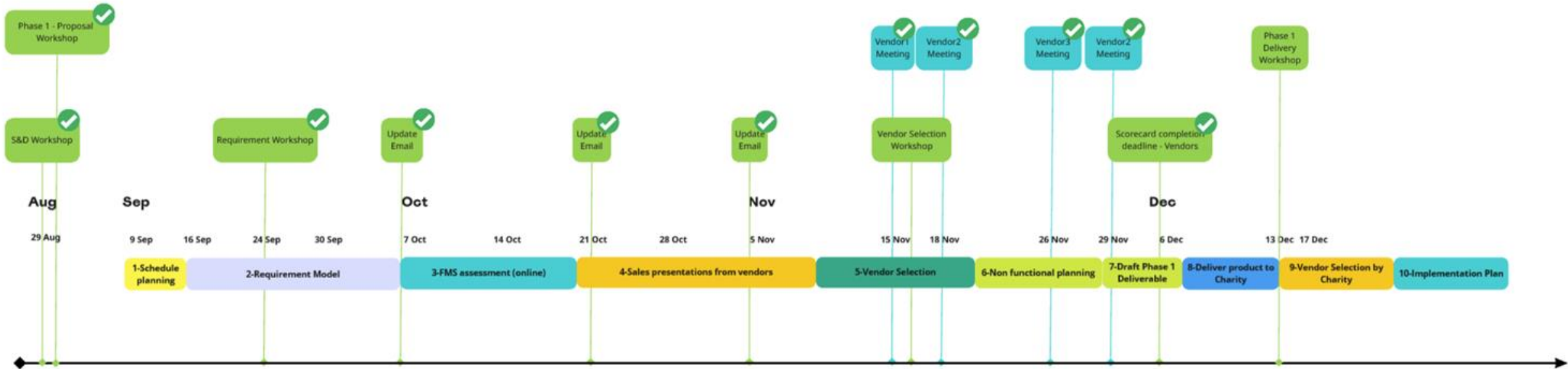
Project Variations

- First Project (Tactical Focused)
 - Planned a technical refresh to improve efficiency, Gained hands-on experience
 - Enabled customers to work more effectively
- Second Project (Advisory Focused)
 - Identified key risks after understanding user requirements
 - Collaborated with mentor to deliver the project in an advisory capacity
 - Analysed business processes, scoped requirements, and evaluated options
 - Produced a solution used by the C-suite to guide strategic decisions for the charity

Key Achievements

- Met all primary objectives set with my mentor

Mentee View - Project Roadmap



Mentee View - Output/Product

CHARITY REQUIREMENTS	Vendor 1	Annual cost	Vendor 2	Annual cost	Vendor 3	Annual cost
Core Finance functions:						
Purchase Ordering, Purchase Invoice register, Nominal Ledgers, Cashbook, Automated Bank Reconciliation, Project / Job Costing, Sales Invoicing, Microsoft Office Integration (Excel, Word, Outlook), Partial VAT and Vendor 1 Digital tax	Core finance functions		Vendor 2 Platform for CORE Finance functions	£ 3,540	Vendor 3 Intacct – Editions Essential For CORE Finance functions	£ 9,000
Transaction package		included	(Entry and Authorisation of Expenses, Sales Orders, Purchase Requisitions, Purchase Orders, Report/Dashboard Viewing)	£ 3,420		included
Bank reconciliation		included	Vendor 2 Auto Bank Reconciliation This facility enables customers to automatically download bank statements and then save significant time each week by reducing the time to perform a bank reconciliation (charged per bank account)	£ 48		included
Management reporting Access to report dashboard	Vendor 1 to report dashboard for unlimited users	included	Included	£ -	Vendor 1 to report dashboard for licensed users	included
Asset Register management	included	included	Vendor 2 Fixed Asset Management - pack of 100 assets	£ 564	Vendor 3 Intacct Nonprofit Fixed Assets	£ 2,472
No of users / licenses	2 Main users + 25 operational users	included	2 Main users + unlimited operational users	£ 2,808	2 Main + 30 operational users	
Not a Charity requirement	API Vendor 1 integration toolkit included	£ 15,056	Vendor 2 API Connector (per connection)	£ 228	API Web Developer License	£ 1,572
API to connect and integrate with other external CRM or Services (Patch, Raisers edge, etc.)						
Automated purchase invoice system OCR Technology	Vendor 1 capture 3000 invoices annually	£ 3,283	Vendor 2 Accounts Payable Automation pack - 250 monthly invoices	£ 1,164	not available, but light module is included	£ -
Credit card expenses and approvals	Vendor 1 Expenses	£ 1,592	included	£ -	not available, but light module is included	£ -
			Archive Data facility (per legal entity)		Free of charge	
Support available	Included in the monthly fees		Included in the monthly fees	£ 108	Included in the monthly fees	
	Total License	£ 19,931	Total License	£ 11,880	Total License	£ 13,044
Implementation	Implementation	£ 6,200	Implementation	£ 19,931	Implementation	£ 23,000
	Without figures in the yellow box	£ 15,056	Without figures in the yellow box	£ 10,488	Without figures in the yellow box	£ 11,472

Odyssey Vision

- Partner with CITA to provide a platform for Royal Signals specialists to exercise their training and project experience outside the military environment.
- Candidates work with a mentor to develop confidence in their transferable skills, gain experience in enabling/delivering commercial projects, and develop professional relationships.

2024 Odyssey Goals for the NAWT Project Team

- ✓ Successfully manage an IT project for a national charity.
- ✓ Develop listening and inquiring abilities by actively engaging in discussions with the mentor.
- ✓ Assess professional advancement and personal development.
- ✓ Improve professional techniques and abilities.
- ✓ Maintain agreements on confidentiality and ensure adherence to mentoring scheme standards.



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Q&A

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