

## Invitation to Tender: Display Screens for Theatre Captioning

### About us

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Stagetext is a deaf-led arts access charity which provides and promotes equal access to arts and culture for deaf, deafened, and hard of hearing people, in particular (but not exclusively) through captions, live subtitling, and digital subtitles. We are a registered UK charity number 1084300, company number 3995686.

We work with theatres and producers across the UK to make performances accessible. We do this by placing 2 rectangular display screens on either side of the stage, in order to display verbatim theatre captions which have been prepared by a trained captioner. This allows deaf audience members to fully immerse themselves in the production.

Each year we work with over 140 theatres to caption over 460 performances, and we support theatres to caption an additional 500 themselves.

### About this project

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We have secured a grant from DCMS and Arts Council England to purchase 64 new caption display screens over the next three years, which will be distributed to 12 theatre hubs throughout England.

Each hub will receive a pair of large display screens and a pair of small display screens, and we will be upgrading our own fleet of equipment too.

The company that wins this tender will become Stagetext's preferred supplier of caption display screens and we will recommend them to theatres across the UK.

### Budget

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The project is publicly funded and therefore must represent strong value for money.

We have budgeted **£178,500** to purchase 34 large display screens and 30 small display screens.

### Key considerations

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Ideally, we are seeking an off-the-shelf screen solution using LED or OLED.

The most important requirement is that the screen can go to complete blackout while powered on. This is so that no light from the screen can be seen while scenes change onstage. We are open to other screen technologies besides LED/OLED if they can also achieve this total blackout.

Screens will be used onstage and need to be visible at a distance, displaying three lines of text.

The screens need to be robust as they will be installed, taken down, and transported regularly.

Ultimately the screens will need back mounting and top mounting in order for the screens to be hung or mounted onstage. If you can also provide mountings, please include this in your response.

The screens will be housed in flight cases on wheels for easy handling and transportation. If you can also provide fitted flight cases, please include this in your response.

It will need to be possible for screens to be purchased and delivered in pairs. If you are able to offer drop shipping or commission on future purchases (beyond this project), please include this in your response.

Those shortlisted will be contacted to arrange a demonstration.

A full specification is included below.

## Timeline

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*Please send any queries on the brief to [olivia@stagetext.org](mailto:olivia@stagetext.org) by 9am on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and we will update all interested parties later that day.*

**Tender deadline: 9am Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Shortlisting notification: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Supplier demonstrations: To be booked between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Stagetext decision making: 30<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> August 2026

**Decision: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

First order of new units to be delivered **mid-October 2026**

## Response required

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Please respond with the following information:

- Written response to Technical Specification requirements
- Illustrative photos / video of proposed screen in action
- Detailed cost breakdown and schedule (including anything you would recommend undertaking, bearing the budget in mind).
- Please include any additional costs i.e. shipping etc
- Communication and project management plan (bearing in mind we are a deaf-led charity and many of our team are deaf)
- How will you validate our requirements and undertake a demonstration prior to the decision?
- Testing, QA, and post-purchase support plan including warranty.
- Opportunities for added value – is there anything you can offer that we haven't mentioned in the tech spec?
- Information on your company and track record.



Please send written proposals to Olivia Durkin, Head of Training and Theatre, [olivia@stagetext.org](mailto:olivia@stagetext.org) by **9am on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

### Assessment

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We will evaluate responses against the following criteria:

- Technical specifications (40%)
- Cost (20%)
- Quality (20%)
- Supplier capability (10%)
- Warranty (10%)

Members of the Stagetext team will book in demonstrations by the shortlisted suppliers. Their recommendations will be evaluated by Stagetext's Finance & General Purposes Committee in July, and decisions will be ratified by the Stagetext Board in early August.

## Technical Specification

Either custom build or off the shelf accepted

### Physical Characteristics

ID No.	Criteria	Requirement	Notes
P.01	Screen dimension (large screen)	1630mm width, 315mm height, 51mm depth	Width can vary by up to 300mm Height can vary by up to 60mm Depth can vary by up to 30mm
P.02	Screen dimension (small screen)	1000mm width, 315mm height, 51mm depth.	Width can vary by up to 100mm Height can vary by up to 60mm Depth can vary by up to 30mm
P.03	Bezel size	20mm each side	Can vary but must be under 30mm max
P.04	Power supply	13a IEC C13 cable (kettle lead), 2 meters length	Length can vary must be minimum 1 meter
P.05	Weight	<40kg	
P.06	Handling	Suitable to be handled by one person, and fit in a standard family size car (inside flight case)	
P.07	Back Mounting	Attachable clamps that can fit on vertical and horizontal theatre scaffolding. Clamps must be strong enough that unit does not droop and angle down when fixed.	Ideally built to attach to screen body, but can be sourced separately by Stagertext for off the shelf screens
P.08	Top Mounting	2x eye bolts on the top so it can be suspended on cables. Bolts must be above unit's centre of gravity, so it doesn't angle when suspended.	Ideally built to attach to screen body, but can be sourced separately by Stagertext for off the shelf screens
P.09	AV Input	HDMI input	No sound input needed.
P.10	Temperature operating range	-10°C to 50°C, will need to continue as normal within this range, no lagging or slowdown.	

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P.11	Casing	Scratch resistant and robust, can be carried around and lifted up ladders multiple times a week over many years without damage to screen.	
P.12	Moisture operating range	Ideally operate both indoors and outdoors, but if not then indoor preferred.	Ability to adapt to outdoor environment (waterproofing for rain) would be desirable but not essential.
P.13	Warranty	3 years	

## Screen technology

ID No.	Criteria	Requirement	Notes
Sc.01	Pixel Density/resolution	1080p resolution minimum, pixel pitch under P2 for LED screens.	
Sc.02	Display technology	LED preferred. Total black background with no light emitted required if using other screen technology ( <b>non-negotiable</b> ).	Minimal/zero light pollution when screen is powered on but black.
Sc.03	Brightness	Minimum 20 nits Maximum 1000 nits	Needs to be adjustable for both very dark and very bright shows. Ability to be used in bright sunlight would be desirable but not essential.
Sc.04	Contrast	1,000:1 contrast ratio minimum.	
Sc.05	Reflectivity	Screen must be matte to minimise glare and reflection.	
Sc.06	Clarity	Large text must be readable between 2m and 30m away	Most common use will be 3 lines of text, one line taking up 33% of screen height. Maximum distance must be at least 20m
Sc.07	Colour range	Full RGB, colour accurate	Colour output must be reliable for visual accessibility.
Sc.08	Refresh Rate	Minimum 25fps	Not required to be filmed but must move smoothly to the human eye.
Sc.09	Viewing angles	89°	

## Software Characteristics

ID No.	Criteria	Requirement	Notes
So.01	Set up	Minimal set up, connect HDMI cable, and switch to HDMI input.	Minimal technical skill required to set up.
So.02	Control Interface	Remote control, ideally usable from a distance.	If android or similar operating system in use, include USB for keyboard and mouse
So.03	Power up process	Display black background, no logo or startup animation, straight to HDMI input.	Minimal disruption during a show if screen restart needed.
So.04	HDMI warning	No warning message if HDMI is not detected, remain black.	Minimal disruption during a show if cable dislodged.
So.05	EDID	Ideally EDID will match actual size of the screen, so image can be made full screen to fit the screen exactly.	If not possible, enable selection of portion of display