



Guidelines to BBC World Service Spring Offers Round 2012

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The Commissioning Timetable

- **Tuesday 3rd May 2011**
The Invitation to Bid Document is published.
- **Wednesday 4th May – Wednesday 18th May 2011 (deadline mid-day)**
Please email your initial ideas to wocommissioning@bbc.co.uk.
Three-line descriptions only and labeled either ‘The Documentary’ or ‘Your World’ or ‘Heart and Soul’ or ‘Sporting Witness’. If you are submitting ideas for more than one strand, please email separately.
- **Friday 27th May 2011**
By this stage Commissioning Editors will reply indicating which ideas should be formally submitted to PROTEUS. All ideas that have not been subjected to this process will not be considered.
- **Friday 27th May – Wednesday 22nd June 2011**
PROTEUS will open for submitting proposals.
It will close at 1200hrs (midday) on **Wednesday 22nd June 2011**
- **Wednesday 6th July 2011**
Results

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From Jeremy Skeet, Commissioning Editor

What are we looking for?

Hello. Thanks to all who made the programmes last year that made our documentaries so prized and valued by our listeners and partners around the world. The documentary archive is the second most downloaded of all the BBC podcasts. I look forward to meeting those I haven't already and reading all your ideas.

The commissioning period covers autumn 2011 to autumn 2012. I have chosen this period to include London 2012.

What I'm looking for in this round:

I want to see all the ideas on the big set piece events/anniversaries at one time so I can compare them and then choose the best ones. On my horizon in the coming year is the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the African Cup of Nations in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, and London 2012. (There are probably more). On 9/11 there are a number of pan-BBC projects already in progress and unless you have a really out of this world idea I'm unlikely to commission it.

On the Cup of Nations and Olympics I'm open to ideas (see also the information below on **Sporting Witness**). But a word of warning - as we now only have 2 documentary strands a week (**The Documentary** and **Your World**) I will not be commissioning huge amounts on set piece events. And as a rule of thumb I'm looking for series of 2 for **The Documentary** and series of 2 or one-offs for **Your World**. Major 4 part series are unlikely (but not never) to be commissioned as I don't want to tie up the schedule.

I also want to use this round to hear about all the ideas you've been storing up since the last one. When the round has closed we will switch to a permanently open round when I want your 3 liners when you have them, and I'll be leaving large areas of the schedule blank to fill with ideas as and when they come in. As now, use this email – wscommissioning@bbc.co.uk . I will also send out an occasional email for ideas about set pieces, anniversaries, themes and seasons.

Your World. I want it to have a weekend feel. So think more fun, lighter, and also different ways of telling stories. I quite like sport and music as ways into a story but I'm interested in anything original.

The Documentary. I am keen to continue what Tony started – bring new and different voices to the Network. This should also be one of the places on the WS that we hear from the great global thinkers and minds.

Some of you might have heard our daily history series, **Witness**. From July we are adding an **Sporting Witness** to the weekend schedule for 50 weeks in the run up to the London 2012 (See brief). One block of 20 programmes is up for bidding by independents.

If you have an idea that doesn't fit into any of the slots/formats, but you think is a must for the WS, please email it. We are always on the lookout for out of the ordinary ideas that will make a splash.

I'm not going to break down the numbers as I cannot be exact. But in the period covered there are 52 editions of **The Documentary** and 52 of **Your World** – most slots will be filled with original programming. There are 4 **Heart & Souls** open to outsiders.

I'm sorry also that the guide price remains static, but given the cuts at the WS we cannot find more money, but I will try and find extra resources if a lot of travel or time is needed to get what we want.

Best and looking forward to hearing from you

Jeremy

Guide Price

[per programme]

The Documentary	23'00"	£5,000.00
Your World	23'00"	£4,500.00
Heart and Soul	26'30"	£4,500.00
Sporting Witness	9'00"	£1,000.00