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Contract

The provision of freight services for the supply of lateral flow test kits for testing of COVID-19

Department of Health and Social Care

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-001630

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-028db4

Published 27 January 2021, 12:42pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department of Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0EU

Email

FreightContractNotices@dhsc.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKI32 - Westminster

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

Buyer's address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

The provision of freight services for the supply of lateral flow test kits for testing of COVID-19

Reference number

VA XMN LHR FEB 21

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 63521000 - Freight transport agency services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The provision of freight services for the supply of lateral flow test kits for testing of COVID-19

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £4,410,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Direct Award under Reg 32 of the Public Contracts Regulation 2015 for COVID-19 response

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority

Explanation:

The Government has set out the increase of COVID-19 testing capacity as a cornerstone of its strategy to combat rising rates of infection, suppressing community transmission, saving lives and ultimately supporting societal and economic recovery. Successful validation of an initial range of newly developed COVID-19 lateral flow test kits was completed by the DHSC in September, allowing for orders to be placed to secure a sustainable supply of significant volumes of these products, as a fundamental enabler of the expansion of the testing programme. The supply of these new test kits is currently limited in the face of very high global demand and consequently it was necessary to contract for supply on an ex-works basis for product manufactured in China in order to secure the required quantity of product and prevent gazumping. Where product has been sourced on an ex-works basis it is imperative that this product is moved at the earliest opportunity to prevent it being sold to higher bidders. In addition the rising rates of infection in the UK and predicted growth in cases over the coming months, has created an urgent need for these new test kits to support the testing programme in the UK and therefore Air Freight presents the only viable mode for moving product to the UK in time to meet the operational requirements of the testing programme. In light of these factors the contract was awarded to Virgin Atlantic Airways to meet the specific urgent need to transport test kits to the UK, utilising flights from China during February and March 2021. The short lead time between validating new test kits and needing these kits in the UK to support the national response to a second wave of COVID-19 cases in the UK, justifies the use of direct award under Regulation 32 provision within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The Department is content the tests permitting use of the Negotiated procedure without prior publication (Regulation 32(2)(c)) are met: 1) Air freight charters were identified as strictly necessary to meet anticipated demand. 2) It is responding to COVID-19 immediately because of public health risks presenting a genuine emergency. 3) The events that led to the need for extreme urgency were unforeseeable: The Commission itself confirmed: "The current coronavirus crisis presents an extreme and unforeseeable urgency – precisely for such a situation our European rules enable public buyers to buy within a matter of days, even hours, if necessary." 4) There was no time to run an accelerated procurement under the open, restricted or competitive procedures with negotiation that would secure services within the required timescales. 5) The situation is not attributable to the contracting authority: It has not done anything to cause or contribute to the need for extreme urgency.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

14 January 2021

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd

The VHQ Fleming Way

Crawley

RH10 9DF

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

National registration number

1600117

The contractor is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £4,410,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £4,410,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

39 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0EU

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>