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Tender

## **Adult Critical Care Transfer Services (ACCTS) in the South East Region**

NHS England

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-002345

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02e0bc

Published 25 January 2023, 4:57pm

The closing date and time has been changed to:

**17 May 2023, 12:00pm**

See the [change notice](#).

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

NHS England

Premier House, 60 Caversham Road

Reading

RG1 7EB

#### **Contact**

Tom Griffiths

#### **Email**

[Scwcsu.procurement@nhs.net](mailto:Scwcsu.procurement@nhs.net)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKJ - South East (England)

**Justification for not providing organisation identifier**

Not on any register

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Buyer's address

[www.england.nhs.uk](http://www.england.nhs.uk)

**I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Health

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Adult Critical Care Transfer Services (ACCTS) in the South East Region

Reference number

C106130

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85100000 - Health services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

NHS England South East (The Commissioner) invites bids from providers who have the capability and capacity to host and deliver (either directly or via a subcontractor) the substantive service. The host should be an Acute Trust, or an Acute Trust in partnership with a Non-Acute Trust, currently commissioned/contracted to deliver adult critical care/ICU services. This Trust, or Trust partnership/consortium, will work collaboratively within a governance framework of an Adult Critical Care Transfer Service (ACCTS) Partnership Board to set up and host the ACCTS within the South East Region.

This procurement is being carried out by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW) on behalf of the Commissioners.

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £39,483,000

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 85100000 - Health services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKJ - South East (England)

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

NHS England South East (The Commissioner) invites bids from providers who have the capability and capacity to host and deliver (either directly or via a subcontractor) the substantive service. The host should be an Acute Trust, or an Acute Trust in partnership with a Non-Acute Trust, currently commissioned/contracted to deliver adult critical care/ICU services. This Trust, or Trust partnership/consortium, will work collaboratively within a governance framework of an Adult Critical Care Transfer Service (ACCTS) Partnership Board to set up and host the ACCTS within the South East Region.

The ACCTS will be a regionally based critical care transfer service providing consultant led coordination, decision-support and transfer of critically ill patients between hospitals for time critical and non-time critical escalation to specialist care, retrieval, repatriation, and non-clinical transfers for capacity during periods of surge. The ACCTS will provide transfer services for all NHS Acute Trusts within the South East regional geography (i.e. there will be a single contract covering the ICS regions of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West, Frimley Health and Care, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Kent and Medway, Surrey Heartlands and Sussex).

It is primarily focussed on intra region transfers but must be capable of delivering inter regional transfers and repatriations along patient tertiary referral pathways and during periods of surge capacity when the Adult Critical Care (ACC) service is under pressure. The commissioning of the ACCTS will provide a minimum standard of care and equitable access for all adult patients during transfers.

The service is currently commissioned in an interim arrangement directly with an Ambulance Service Trust in the South East and a London Ambulance provider; this arrangement does not provide cover to the entire region with some areas undertaking alternative arrangements. As is described in the national toolkits, it is anticipated that the substantive service will be hosted and delivered by an Acute Trust or an Acute Trust in partnership with a Non-Acute Trust, with experience of delivering adult critical care services.

The host will retain contractual and clinical responsibility for the delivery of the ACCTS. The operational and management activity of the ACCTS will be overseen collaboratively within a governance framework of an ACCTS Partnership Board, with representation from the host, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and NHSE (as a minimum) and where strategic

collaborative decisions will be made about the set up and design of the service, as well as the long-term strategy and reporting.

The ACCTS will operate as a standalone service, which means that whilst the host will hold the substantive or honorary contracts for clinical staff, staff must not function as part of a Critical Care Unit in terms of staffing, day-to-day function or interdependence. Staff must be independent and not have other clinical responsibilities whilst carrying out transfer shifts.

The service will initially operate an extended day time service to maximise cover across 14 hours of the day, although commissioners may wish to work with the provider to extend this during the life of the contract. If so, the intention is that this would be undertaken by permitted contract variation following discussion and agreement between the Commissioner and the provider, provision having been made in this procurement for this to take place if required.

The contracts will be let for an initial term of 5 years, with a possible extension of a further four years, as defined and at the discretion of the Commissioner.

The contract is due to commence on 1st August 2023, with the aim being that transfer services are fully operational by 1st September 2023.

The maximum value of the contract will be £4,387,000 per annum, equating to a total maximum contract value of £39,483,000 over the possible nine year period including extension.

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £39,483,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract or the framework agreement**

Duration in months

108

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

This procurement is being carried out by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW) on behalf of the Commissioners.

Interested providers will be able to view this notice via the 'Live Opportunities' list on the e-procurement system, Atamis, available on the following link: <https://health-family.force.com/s>Welcome>

The services are healthcare services falling within Schedule 3 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"), which are not subject to the full regime of the Regulations, but are instead governed by the "Light Touch Regime" contained within Chapter 3, Section 7 of the Regulations (Regulations 74 to 77).

The tendering process will be conducted in accordance with the requirements and flexibilities provided by Articles 74 to 76 of the Directive, and Regulations 74 to 76 of the Regulations. The Authority will run a transparent tender process, treating all Bidders equally. For the avoidance of doubt, the Authority will not be bound by the Regulations or the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or any other regulations or legislation except for the specific parts or circumstances that apply to the procurement of these Services.

Neither the inclusion of a Bidder selection stage, nor the use of any language or terms found in the Directive or Regulations, nor the description of the procedure voluntarily adopted by the Authority ("Open", "Restricted", "Competitive Procedure with Negotiation", "Competitive Dialogue" or any other description), nor any other indication, shall be taken to mean that the Authority intends to hold itself bound by the Directive or Regulations, save by the provisions applicable to services coming within the scope of Annex XIV of the Directive / Schedule 3 of the Regulations.

The Contracting Authority intends to voluntarily observe the award decision notices provisions and 10 day standstill period described in Regulation 86 of the Regulations.

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.4) Objective rules and criteria for participation**

List and brief description of rules and criteria

As described in the ITT documentation

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Form of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.11) Main features of the award procedure**

As described in the ITT documentation

## **IV.2) Administrative information**

### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2021/S 000-022862](#)

### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Originally published as:

Date

14 March 2023

Local time

12:00pm

Changed to:

Date

17 May 2023

Local time

12:00pm

See the [change notice](#).

### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

The services are healthcare services falling within Schedule 3 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations") which are not subject to the full regime of the Regulations, but are instead governed by the "Light Touch Regime" contained within Chapter 3, Section 7 of the Regulations (Regulations 74 to 77).

The tendering process will be conducted in accordance with the requirements and flexibilities provided by Articles 74 to 76 of the Directive, and Regulations 74 to 76 of the Regulations. The Authority will run a transparent tender process, treating all Bidders equally. For the avoidance of doubt, the Authority will not be bound by the Regulations or any other regulations or legislation except for the specific parts or circumstances that apply to the procurement of these Services.

Neither the inclusion of a Bidder selection stage, nor the use of any language or terms found in the Directive or Regulations, nor the description of the procedure voluntarily adopted by the Authority ("Open", "Restricted", "Competitive Procedure with Negotiation", "Competitive Dialogue" or any other description), nor any other indication, shall be taken to mean that the Authority intends to hold itself bound by the Directive or Regulations, save by the provisions applicable to services coming within the scope of Annex XIV of the Directive / Schedule 3 of the Regulations.

The Contracting Authority intends to voluntarily observe the award decision notices provisions and 10 day standstill period described in Regulation 86 of the Regulations.

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

High Court in London

London

Country

United Kingdom