Contract

Contract for the Supply and Installation of a High-Dimensional Spatial Transcriptomics/Proteomics Platform to the University of Birmingham

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

F03: Contract award notice
Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-002460
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-037fbd
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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

EDGBASTON

BIRMINGHAM

B152TT

Contact

Kseniya Samsonik

Email

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Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKG31 - Birmingham

Companies House

RC000645

Internet address(es)

Main address

http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/index.aspx

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Contract for the Supply and Installation of a High-Dimensional Spatial Transcriptomics/Proteomics Platform to the University of Birmingham

Reference number

SC10845/22

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The University of Birmingham invites tenders for supply of a high-dimensional spatial transcriptomics/proteomics platform. This will form part of the histology services offered by Birmingham Tissue Analytics (BTA), a University of Birmingham research facility. BTA already provides complex multi-parameter immuno-histochemical tissue imaging and spatial transcriptomic platforms academic, clinically focused, and industry-linked work streams.

This spatial transcriptomics platform should build on the current capabilities of the facility, particularly with regards to the capability for high dimensional protein and gene expression

analysis at subcellular analytical resolution.

An ability to analyse tissue samples in a variety of formats would be desirable but it is essential to be able to work with Formalin Fixed Paraffin embedded materials in order to work with archived pathology samples. Furthermore, the platform should possess sufficient throughput to allow capacity for analysis of multiple slides per working day. It would be desirable for a data analysis package to be included with the platform which would be accessible to service users and intuitive for researchers to manage their own data analysis.

This project may be funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) or;

- European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) or;

- Research Councils UK (RCUK), the strategic partnership of the UK's seven Research Councils.

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: £296,165

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG31 - Birmingham

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The University of Birmingham invites tenders for supply of an imaging platform capable of delivering spatial high parameter, multi-omic data in single cell resolution. This platform will

be operated by Birmingham Tissue Analytics, a University of Birmingham research facility that specialises in the delivery of high dimensional imaging assays as a service to academic and industry collaborators.

General characteristics

The platform in question is intended to expand the facilities capabilities in spatial transcriptomics, building on other technologies that are already used to phenotype tissue

samples with but with either a lower number of parameters or lower level of resolution.

Capabilities for profiling RNA expression in human tissue samples is essential. This profiling should allow sufficient depth to characterise cell identity and effector function to generate

spatial atlases of tissue samples. To achieve this, it would be expected to be able to study in excess of 500 RNA markers per imaging run. An ability to profile protein marker expression in addition to RNA would also be highly advantageous.

Specifications

1) An analytical platform capable of providing high parameter imaging assays to profile RNA expression in tissue samples at least single cell resolution.

2) Capabilities to analyse tissue samples in various formats, including Formalin Fixed Paraffin Embedded (FFPE) or frozen.

3) Pre validated reagent kits for RNA/protein profiling would be highly advantageous due to the service delivery basis for which the platform utilised which limits the feasibility of extensive panel validations across multiple projects.

4) Access to proprietary analysis software, ideally which can be made available to multiple researchers (service users) for their own data analysis.

5) PC-based controller with capabilities for image visualization and interrogation. A solution to handle large image files in conjunction with image analysis would be beneficial.

6) The instrument must come with an up-to-date and powerful computer for system control, data acquisition and, where applicable data analysis. We expect this computer to

be

provided with the latest operating software.

7) The software provided for the data acquisition and/or the data analysis should provide a user friendly workflow for image visualisation and analysis.

After sales services

• We expect a swift and high quality remote and on-site technical support for the length of the instrument warranty as well as additional service contracts we might purchase.

• A training package must be provided for a group of users.

• We expect the suppliers to provide us with educational resources and services dedicated to our instrument configuration.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Compliance to the Specification / Weighting: 40

Quality criterion - Name: After Sales and Technical Back up / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Delivery and Training / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Sustainability and Environmental / Weighting: 5

Quality criterion - Name: Standard Supplier Questionnaire (SQ) / Weighting: 10

Price - Weighting: 25

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: 2022/S 000-031448

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

7 December 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 4

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Nanostring Technologies Inc.

Seattle

Country

United States

NUTS code

- US - United States

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

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: £296,165

Total value of the contract/lot: £296,165

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

University of Birmingham

Birmingham

B15 2TT

Country

United Kingdom