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Contract

6:1 Track Converging Conveyors

Department of Health and Social Care

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-003126

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02939d

Published 16 February 2021, 4:11pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department of Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0EU

Email

Procurement.Operations@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

6:1 Track Converging Conveyors

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 31720000 - Electromechanical equipment

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Provision of 6:1 Track Converging Conveyors

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: £235,146.29

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Provision of 6:1 Track Converging Conveyors

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:

1. The COVID-19 outbreak is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organisation on 30 January 2020. The WHO Director General characterised COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

2. A key element of ensuring an effective response to the pandemic is ensuring that there is adequate testing. Therefore, ensuring surge LFT capacity, including sufficient availability of Lateral Flow Tests, is critical.

3. Mass testing of the UK Population is a key step in bringing the Pandemic under control. (Lateral Flow Tests produce quicker results than the current PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test, and do not require a lab processing step.) LFT tests have only recently become viable as a means of testing, with multiple tests being progressed through to certification and approval. This was unforeseen by the DHSC and outside its control.

4. Critical steps in the manufacture of LFT tests include automated dispensing of biologically active agents onto reels of backing material and laminating – this is termed Primary Manufacture.

5. Further steps required include mounting the test strip in a cassette housing to allow handling, and foil wrapping with desiccant to protect the unit from dust and damp up to the point that it is used – this is termed Secondary manufacture.

6. LFT Primary and Secondary Manufacturing equipment are in short supply. The existing supply chains of this equipment are volatile - there are few suppliers worldwide, their order books have long lead times, and what stocks of equipment there are, rapidly are sold.

7. Award of the contract to Converging Solutions Limited Ltd. for the purchase of Converging Conveyors was necessary with immediate effect to meet the timescales necessary for setting up viable production lines for early 2021. There is insufficient time to organise an advertised competition that would meet the required timescales.

8. DHSC is satisfied the tests permitting use of the Negotiated procedure without prior publication (Regulation 32(2)(c)) are met:

A. As far as is strictly necessary: The surge LFT capacity was identified as strictly necessary to meet the demand to scale up the testing programme in the UK.

B. There are genuine reasons for extreme urgency: It is responding to COVID-19 immediately because of public health risks presenting a genuine emergency.

C. The events that have 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.” (Commissioner Breton, Internal Market, 01.04.2020).

D. It is impossible to comply with the usual timescales in the PCR: It is not possible to comply with the timescales of another procedure due to the urgent requirement to ensure effective surge capacity.

E. The situation is not attributable to the contracting authority – DHSC 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

20 January 2020

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

Converging Solutions Limited

Unit 6a Waterloo Industrial Estate, Bidford On Avon, Alcester,

Warwickshire,

B50 4JH

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

National registration number

04157012

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £235,146.29

Total value of the contract/lot: £235,146

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court

Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/courts-tribunals>