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Planning

Request for Information - Containment Level 3 (CL3) UK Capacity

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care acting as part of the Crown through UK Health Security Agency

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-004528

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-06093b

Published 19 January 2026, 5:06pm

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

Inclusion of attachment.

Scope

Reference

C416074

Description

Instructions:

1. The purpose of this document is to enhance the Authority's understanding of the marketplace and its options for sourcing for a potential future requirement.
2. The issuance of this request for information (RFI) does not constitute a sourcing exercise nor will the Authority pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFI.
3. The UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) key objectives for this RFI are:
 - a. understand the ability of the marketplace to fulfil its requirements;
 - b. refine the scope of the requirements to best align to the marketplace; and
 - c. inform the Authority's chosen route to market to best enable competition.
4. The key dates for this RFI are as follows:
 1. RFI Published: 19th January 2026
 2. RFI Response 2nd February 2026
5. Should you have any questions or queries relating to this RFI, please use the Atamis portal's messaging centre to direct your questions to us for a response.
6. If a response is not received by the RFI response deadline this will have no impact on your ability to tender for the opportunity in the future. UKHSA will not enter into contracts on the basis of replies to this RFI.

Description of Scope of Requirements:

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is exploring opportunities to supplement its existing Containment Level 3 (CL3) laboratory capacity through collaboration with operational CL3 facilities across the UK.

This Request for Information (RFI) seeks to understand the capabilities, readiness, and

interest of organisations that currently operate CL3 laboratories and may be able to support UKHSA's public health mission during surge periods or emergencies.

Objectives - Identify operational CL3 laboratories with spare capacity or surge readiness.
-Assess technical, digital, and governance capabilities for collaboration. - Explore commercial models for potential engagement with UKHSA.

This RFI is intended for organisations that currently operate CL3 laboratories in the UK. Responses should focus on existing facilities and capabilities that could be mobilised to support UKHSA's laboratory operations, particularly during public health emergencies or periods of high demand.

A copy of the RFI can be downloaded from:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/Attachment/b4a0097e-f858-42ae-bc7b-4f5bafe87933>

Should you wish to respond to this Request for Information, please complete and return the attached RFI via email to joshua.williams@ukhsa.gov.uk.

Total value (estimated)

- £1 excluding VAT
- £1 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 June 2026 to 1 June 2030
- 4 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 71900000 - Laboratory services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

2 February 2026

Engagement process description

Request for information.

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 April 2026

Contracting authority

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care acting as part of the Crown through UK Health Security Agency

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBMQ-7576-DVGW

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E14 4PU

United Kingdom

Contact name: Josh Williams

Email: joshua.williams@ukhsa.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency>

Region: UKI42 - Tower Hamlets

Organisation type: Public authority - central government