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Contract

Provision of Testing Services and Sample Analysis as part of the National Immunisation Programme Study

Public Health England

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-005132

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-029b7d

Published 13 March 2021, 10:56pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Public Health England

Manor Farm Road, Porton Down

Salisbury

SP2 0QT

Email

tee.agbo@phe.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - UNITED KINGDOM

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

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

Provision of Testing Services and Sample Analysis as part of the National Immunisation Programme Study

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71900000 - Laboratory services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

PHE has been tasked by DHSC to urgently undertake a study to evaluate the immune response following COVID-19 vaccines as part of the National Immunisation Programme. This has been identified as a high national public health priority and a key aspect of this study requires taking 2000 samples for cellular work over a 24-month period. The UK Vaccines Taskforce have selected Oxford Immunotec as the sole supplier of T cell Testing for SARS-CoV-2 specific responses as part of the new COVID vaccine trials. Aligning PHE's study with this decision will ensure that it is consistent with the other vaccine studies performed within the UK, providing for comprehensive comparison and analysis to be carried out across all the different studies.

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: £240,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Oxford Immunotec will provide testing services and sample analysis to assist PHE in its evaluation of immune responses following COVID-19 vaccines used in the National Immunisation Programme.

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

- The services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The justification to source these services from Oxford Immunotec is to enable PHE to adhere with the decision made by the UK Vaccines Taskforce who selected Oxford Immunotec as the sole supplier of T cell Testing for SARS-CoV-2 specific responses as part of the new COVID vaccine trials. Oxford Immunotec was chosen as a result of the competitive process for its expertise in T cell measurement and its unique ability to provide T-SPOT® technology, the only globally regulated ELISPOT platform - which is currently being used clinically for identifying T cells made in response to another respiratory pathogen responsible for Tuberculosis.

Aligning with this verdict will ensure that the National Immunisation Programme being carried out by PHE is consistent with the other vaccine studies performed within the UK, providing for comprehensive comparison and analysis to be carried out across all the different studies. The Vaccines Taskforce has emphasised that it is important to be able to assess the different vaccines head-to-head and employing Oxford Immunotec's T-SPOT technology will measure the magnitude of the SARS-CoV-2 protein-specific T cell response of different vaccine candidates for cross-comparisons.

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

9 February 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

Oxford Immunotec Ltd

94C Innovation Drive

Abingdon

OX14 4RZ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £240,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court and Court of Appeal of England and Wales

Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom