

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/005641-2024>

Contract

## **QUB/2503/24 Contract for Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of a TMA Arrayer**

Queen' University Belfast

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-005641

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-042c57

Published 21 February 2024, 10:56am

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

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

Queen' University Belfast

University Road, Belfast, BT7 1NN

Belfast

#### **Email**

[Shauna.Ryan@qub.ac.uk](mailto:Shauna.Ryan@qub.ac.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UKN06 - Belfast

## **Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)

## **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**

QUB/2503/24 Contract for Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of a TMA Arrayer

Reference number

QUB/2503/24

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

- 33100000 - Medical equipments

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

Supplies

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

The Queen's University Genomics Core Technology Unit (GCTU) processes tissue samples for spatial transcriptomic analysis. This is a cutting-edge technique whereby researchers can determine the precise location of gene expression within the tissue context. To allow us to process archival tissue samples e.g. biobanked samples, or precious samples in a cost-

effective way, we require instrumentation that will allow us to create tumour microarrays (TMAs). A TMA contains many small representative tissue samples from tens to hundreds of different patient/animal samples assembled on a single histological slide, and therefore allows high throughput analysis of multiple specimens at the same time. This also enables cost-effective analysis as multiple samples can be processed on a single slide, which is important for us to offer as a core service. By purchasing such instrumentation, this would enable the GCTU to support large scale studies, increase our throughput and decrease costs for users.

### **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: £219,737

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 33100000 - Medical equipments

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

NUTS codes

- UKN06 - Belfast

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

The GCTU processes tissue samples for spatial transcriptomic analysis. This is a cutting-edge technique whereby researchers can determine the precise location of gene expression within the tissue context. To allow us to process archival tissue samples e.g. biobanked samples, or precious samples in a cost-effective way, we require instrumentation that will allow us to create tumour microarrays (TMAs). A TMA contains many small representative tissue samples from tens to hundreds of different patient/animal samples assembled on a single histological slide, and therefore allows high throughput analysis of multiple specimens at the same time. This also enables cost-effective analysis as multiple samples can be processed on a single slide, which is important for us to offer as a core service. By purchasing such instrumentation, this would enable the GCTU to support large scale studies, increase our throughput and decrease costs for service users. To do this we require an instrument that:1) Has changeable drills/tools that will allow us to work with both Human and Animal tissues in

line with HTA requirements.2) Being able to process a large number of blocks ( 70) per run to ensure maximal number of sample cores can be included per TMA and offer access to our service for high throughput projects such as those involving biobanked samples.3) Minimal consumable requirements to keep costs low for operation.4) Minimal service requirements to reduce system down time.5) Ability to capture cores in PCR tubes, rather than recipient block, for additional downstream usage flexibility such as next-generation sequencing and/or qPCR studies.

## **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: Technical Requirements / Weighting: 80%

Price - Weighting: 20%

## **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**

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: [2024/S 000-000954](#)

#### **IV.2.9) Information about termination of call for competition in the form of a prior information notice**

The contracting authority will not award any further contracts based on the above prior information notice

---

## **Section V. Award of contract**

### **Contract No**

QUB/2503/24

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

19 February 2024

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

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

### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

Shandon Diagnostics Ltd t/a Epredia

Runcorn

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD63 - Cheshire West and Chester

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: £219,737

Total value of the contract/lot: £219,737

---

## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

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

Queen's University Belfast

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom