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Award

Provision of Support Services for Lateral Flow Testing

Slough Borough Council

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-009444

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02ac55

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Slough Borough Council

Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, Slough, SL1 2EL

SLOUGH

SL13UF

Contact

Craig Lorne

Email

craig.lorne@slough.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1234567890

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKJ11 - Berkshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.slough.gov.uk>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of Support Services for Lateral Flow Testing

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85140000 - Miscellaneous health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Provision of support services to operate lateral flow testing sites for COVID-19

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Lowest offer: £230,000 / Highest offer: £1,350,000 taken into consideration

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ11 - Berkshire

Main site or place of performance

Slough

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Staffing and logistics to deliver lateral flow testing (LFT) services for SARS-Cov-2 within the Borough of Slough.

The supplier will:

- Provide a free service to service-users at point of delivery
- Undertake Lateral flow tests at sites specified by the council and within defined opening times
- Deliver in line with the LFT Standard Operating Procedure, published by Department of Health & Social Care
- Work in partnership with the Council to set up and management the site
- Deliver a COVID-19 safe service with social distancing, personal protective equipment and face coverings
- Deliver the service using appropriately trained staff, this will include a clinician onsite
- Provide timely upload to the data collection website
- Report on the number of tests taken daily for the initial two weeks, and move to weekly monitoring
- Collect demographic data - sex, age, postcode and contact details of each individual tested
- Advise the public on their test result and the need for whole household isolation and a confirmatory swab test (PCR test) in the case of a positive test
- Provide reports on testing activity
- Deliver the service in line with appropriate clinical and information governance throughout the testing process.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority

Explanation:

Explanation of the use of the Negotiated Procedure:

1) The Covid-19 outbreak is a public health emergency of international concern declared by WHO on 30 January 2020. The WHO Director General characterised Covid-19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

2) An important element of ensuring an appropriate response is ensuring adequate testing. In December 2020, Slough was selected as a pilot site for lateral flow testing and awarded a short term contract to Solutions 4 Health for this pilot.

3) At the end of the pilot, the UK Government wished for the service to continue. The Council therefore used the extension period in the short term contract; the maximum contract permissible was 6 weeks initial term plus three months.

4) The UK Government continues to wish for these services to be provided to the community.

5) The Council therefore wishes to vary the existing contract to provide a further extension period of up to one year; the Council may at any time reduce services should they no longer be necessary without cost i.e. if lateral flow testing is no longer required, the Council is not required to have services provided from a point of time it instructs.

6) The Council is satisfied that 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 lateral flow tests were identified as strictly necessary to meet the demand to scale up the UK's mass testing programme and continue to play a key role in the control of COVID. The contract is only for these services and the Council may reduce those services at any time.

(b) There are genuine reasons for extreme urgency: the global demand for rapid antigen detection tests based on lateral flow technology (lateral flow devices, LFD) has recently

significantly increased. The Council has been instructed by Government to rapidly test the local population to assist in the reduction of the Covid-19 infection rate across the Borough and was requested to have sites operational as pilots in short order.

(c) The events that have led to the need for extreme urgency were unforeseeable: the timing of availability of new Covid-19 lateral flow test technology meeting the UK technical requirements combined with international demand and limited global capacity was not foreseeable.

(d) It is impossible to comply with the usual timescales in the Public Contracts Regulations: it was not possible to comply with the timescales of another procedure due to the urgent requirement to ensure the provision of the pilot lateral flow tests services within the Borough and the Council was not able to tender services for the further period due to the nature of the funding and there is insufficient time to transition services.

(e) The situation is not attributable to the contracting authority - the Council has not done anything to cause or contribute to the need for extreme urgency. The root cause is COVID-19 and the requirement for speed was set by the Department for Health and Social Care.

The Council did not publish an VEAT notice earlier as its commitments did not exceed the relevant thresholds. The ongoing need for such testing means these thresholds may be exceeded during the term if services continue to be required. This reflects the short term nature of the initial contract.

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/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

29 April 2021

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Solutions 4 Health

Unit 1, Thames Court, 2 Richfield Avenue

Reading

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ11 - Berkshire

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Lowest offer: £230,000 / Highest offer: £1,350,000 taken into consideration

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court

Strand

London

Country

United Kingdom