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Contract

Automated Large-Scale Ultra-Low Temperature Biological Sample Archive

UK Biobank Ltd

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-009465

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-036a2a

Published 22 March 2024, 3:57pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

UK Biobank Ltd

1-2 Spectrum Way, Adswood

Stockport

SK3 0SA

Email

tenders@ukbiobank.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 1614755386

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKD3 - Greater Manchester

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA25607

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Automated Large-Scale Ultra-Low Temperature Biological Sample Archive

Reference number

UKBB0017

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 39711124 - Industrial freezers

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

UK Biobank (UKB) is a registered UK charity and is a large-scale biomedical database and research resource containing genetic, lifestyle and health information from half a million UK participants. UKB is responsible for the safe preservation, and scientific exploitation, of a priceless collection of 17 million biological samples. Around 11 million are stored at -80 °C and accessible for approved use by academic and industry researchers. Samples include plasma, serum, buffy coat, extracted DNA, urine and saliva. UKB's next phase of development will be characterised by increasing demand for biological samples, and a number of new, large-scale, sample collections. This Contract Award Notice relates to a contract for the provision of a new automated large-scale ultra-low temperature biological sample archive (the Archive) with sufficient

capacity to accommodate 20 million samples (with expansion to 30 million samples if required by UKB during the contract) and associated support services.

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: £27,301,466

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 45213210 - Cold-storage installations
- 42513100 - Freezing equipment
- 42997300 - Industrial robots
- 51430000 - Installation services of laboratory equipment
- 72250000 - System and support services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD33 - Manchester

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

UKB sought a supplier that can provide a new Archive (taking responsibility for design, manufacture, installation, testing, commissioning and training), the provision of related IT systems, maintenance and other support services.

The Archive will be installed on the ground floor of a new UKB facility in the City of Manchester, UK (the 'Facility'). Main construction will start in April 2024, and UKB and the Archive supplier will have early access to the ground floor for installation of the Archive in September 2025. Facility practical completion is planned by 2026.

The Archive will need to satisfy Factory and Site Acceptance Tests, including Installation Qualification, Operational Qualification and Performance Qualification (as set out in the contract which was provided as part of the procurement documents). The Supplier will have responsibility for the successful integration of the Archive to the Facility. Following satisfaction of Operational Qualification, UKB will load 11 million samples from its existing facility and be responsible for the operation of the Archive.

Funding to support the purchase of the Archive and development of the Facility has been agreed by UKRI.

The Archive will have sufficient capacity to accommodate 20 million samples (with expansion to 30 million samples if required by UKB during the contract) and design requirements include spatial efficiency, fit with the Facility design, sample storage

temperatures and environmental efficiency. The Archive will be electrically cooled to preserve samples at ultra-low temperature and ultra-dry humidity (minus 80 degrees C) with dual redundancy, and with backup cooling provided by a supply of liquid nitrogen. The Archive will use

96-position SBS-format racks, be compatible with UKB's current and future labware and have resilient robotic automation for picking and returning samples and sufficient throughput to meet UKB's sample processing requirements (retrievals of up to 500,000+ samples combined with smaller requests, daily loading of new samples, return of retrieved samples after laboratory processing and consolidation (defragmentation) of empty spaces). The Archive will be capable of handling biological samples that have a thin layer of frosting or more significant icing that may obscure barcodes, and raised septum seal bungs.

The IT system (all hardware, software and management components required to support the operation and management of the Archive) will be provided by the supplier. The system requirements include the ability to maintain an accurate inventory of labware (and therefore samples) stored at all times; functionality for operation and management of the Archive by UKB laboratory and facilities staff; be highly configurable by UKB (e.g. role-based access to data and functionality; logging; and alerts); and support integration with UKB's laboratory information and other systems programmatically through, for example, secure API based services.

The supplier will provide ongoing support services including on-site engineering support personnel to respond to Archive errors, faults and failures; supply of spares to ensure the Archive remains operational and meets UKB's requirements, some of which must be stored on-site at UKB's premises; remote monitoring of the Archive by the supplier to support timely notification to UKB of errors or failures; maintenance and support of the IT system including application of hardware and software patches and updates and preventative maintenance; and initial and ongoing training of UKB personnel.

Further details are set out in the Specification which was provided as part of the procurement documents.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Overall Archive Architecture / Weighting: 5

Quality criterion - Name: Physical Characteristics and Efficiency / Weighting: 9

Quality criterion - Name: Sample Storage / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Sample Handling / Weighting: 24

Quality criterion - Name: Data and Information Systems / Weighting: 9

Quality criterion - Name: project Plan and Governance / Weighting: 4

Quality criterion - Name: Support Services / Weighting: 9

Price - Weighting: 30

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Following design, manufacture, installation and testing of the Archive, the supplier will be required to provide support services for an initial period of 5 years, to commence on satisfaction of Operational Qualification (as defined in the contract) and this may be extended (on one or more occasions (each period being at least 12 months in duration) as determined by UKB) for up to a further 10 years

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: [2023/S 000-027167](#)

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 March 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 2

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 2

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 3

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Hamilton Storage GmbH

Parc Industrial Vial 10,

Domat/Ems

CH-7013

Country

Switzerland

NUTS code

- CH056 - Graubünden

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £27,301,466

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The negotiated procedure without prior publication pursuant to Regulation 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) was used by UKB as no tenders capable of meeting UKB's requirements were submitted in response to the open procedure.

Following design, manufacture, installation and testing of the Archive, the supplier will be required to provide support services for an initial period of 5 years, to commence on satisfaction of Operational Qualification (as defined in the contract) and may be extended (on one or more occasions (each period being at least 12 months in duration) as determined by UKB) for up to a further 10 years. The total value of the contract given includes the optional deliverable to accommodate 30 million samples and an initial 5 years of service and support costs.

(MT Ref:231646)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Email

publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3450103503

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>