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Contract

Cell Sorter for Biological Sciences

University of Southampton

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-013192

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04b5df

Published 4 April 2025, 3:51pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

University of Southampton

University Road, Highfield

Southampton

SO171BJ

Contact

Danielle Stephenson

Email

procurement@soton.ac.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ32 - Southampton

UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number)

10007158

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Other type

Higher Education Institution not subject to PCR15 or any replacement legislation

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Cell Sorter for Biological Sciences

Reference number

2024UoS-1337

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 38500000 - Checking and testing apparatus

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Biological Sciences have a requirement for a cell sorter, an instrument with the capability to separate and sort a mixed population of biological cells into different fractions for analysis or ongoing growth in separate cultures.

Once sorted, cells must be kept sterile and uncontaminated, the cell sorter will have the capability of sorting populations into a multi-well plate format inside an integral biological safety cabinet.

This requirement includes training for University staff and ongoing technical and experimental support.

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: £532,016.57

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 33197000 - Medical computer equipment
- 38431000 - Detection apparatus
- 38432000 - Analysis apparatus

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ32 - Southampton

Main site or place of performance

University of Southampton

University Road

Southampton

SO17 1BJ

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This procurement builds on a pressing need for a system capable of spectral high-performance, multi-parameter fluorescence-activated cell/nucleus sorting that will serve a cross-disciplinary consortium of research groups in life sciences at the University of Southampton and external academic and industrial collaborators within the South of England, investigating the mechanisms underpinning human health and aging, and food and environmental sustainability. The system will integrate significant

advancements in cell and nuclear sorting, allowing the highest power, performance, and flexibility, enabling researchers across diverse disciplines in biological and computational sciences and bioengineering, with the highest relevance to those interested in temporal and spatial changes in cell states within tissues and microbial and environmental systems and how this defines

their heterogeneities, functional relationships, and interaction with their environment. The advanced multi-parameter sorter will act as a hub that catalyses new cross-disciplinary collaborations between its diverse user base, from basic biology to ioengineering and biotechnology. This will be facilitated through

established regional partnerships with the BBSRC National Biofilm and Innovation Centre (NBIC) and South Coast Biosciences Doctoral Partnership (SoCoBio DTP).

The University proposes to enter into a Contract for 39 months with the successful

tenderer(s).

This will comprise of an initial contract period of 39 months for the provision of the cell sorter including a 12 month warranty with a 36 month support and maintenance (to run concurrently) subject to the satisfactory performance and at the discretion of the University.

The contract will be effective on signing. The initial term of the warranty of 12 months will run from the date of acceptance of the equipment.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Hardware Requirement / Weighting: 2

Quality criterion - Name: Software Requirement / Weighting: 4

Quality criterion - Name: Automation / Weighting: 11

Quality criterion - Name: Detection and discrimination of specimens for ongoing sorting into multiple fractions / Weighting: 8

Quality criterion - Name: Experimental Flexibility / Weighting: 4

Quality criterion - Name: Output / Weighting: 8

Quality criterion - Name: Input / Weighting: 6

Quality criterion - Name: Acceptance / Weighting: 2

Quality criterion - Name: Warranty and Servicing Provision / Weighting: 5

Quality criterion - Name: Training and Delivery / Weighting: 5

Quality criterion - Name: Sustainability / Weighting: 5

Price - Weighting: 40

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: 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: No

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-036605](#)

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

6 March 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Life Technologies Limited

Paisley

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKM83 - Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire

Companies House

SC083107

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £532,016.57

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

University of Southampton

Southampton

Country

United Kingdom