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Tender

Services-Framework-Lab Sample Couriers Service

United Utilities Water Limited

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-014158

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-06545f

Published 17 February 2026, 10:24am

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

Scope

Reference

PRO005040

Description

United Utilities Laboratory Services require a courier service for the transportation of samples from sites across the Company to the central Laboratory at Lingley Mere (Warrington) on a daily basis. It is a requirement of OFWAT (The Water Services Regulation Authority) that the Company constantly undertakes analysis of water/waste water samples from various sample points throughout the North-West Region. Water Quality Officers, Network Owners, Wastewater Operatives, Trade Effluent Officers, Agricultural Advisors and Project Staff obtain the samples requiring analysis. Samples are left at drop off points for collection by the dedicated courier in a refrigerated van. Samples need to be transported under refrigerated conditions to ensure that they are maintained at a temperature of between 2 and 7 degrees centigrade. It is a requirement to maintain evidence that this has been achieved to enable United Utilities to adhere to regulatory requirements with respect to the transportation of accredited samples under the Environment Agency's Monitoring Certification Scheme (MCERTs), Drinking Water Test Specifications (DWTS) and ISO 17025. On collection, the courier takes the samples to a Sample Registration Centre (SRC) or directly to Lingley Mere Laboratories Sample Reception. An additional dedicated courier service is then required to operate between the SRC's and the Laboratories at Lingley Mere, where required. Consignment Notes or Delivery Notes detailing the sample load carried and all other required information to the Laboratory at Lingley Mere are part of the hand-over procedure at the SRCs and the Laboratory. These are currently in paper form, the Company would like to move this to an electronic format, where reports should consist of (minimum requirement):

- Sample bottle barcode number
- crate barcode number
- vehicle registration
- collection date and time
- collection location
- time samples dropped off
- location of sample drop off

Route optimisation will also be a requirement of the tender, with bidders expected to demonstrate how routes will be optimised to ensure efficiency, reliability, and timely delivery of samples while maintaining required temperature controls. Detailed dates and milestones will be share in the tender documentation. Deadline for CoPQ submission: 10/03/2026

Total value (estimated)

- £9,600,000 excluding VAT
- £11,520,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 6 July 2026 to 6 July 2034
- 8 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 64120000 - Courier services

Contract locations

- UKD - North West (England)

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

27 February 2026, 12:00am

Submission type

Tenders

Tender submission deadline

12 June 2026, 11:59pm

Submission address and any special instructions

https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance_s.asp?PID=102321&TID100107540&B=

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

30 June 2026

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Technical	Quality	60%

Name	Type	Weighting
Commercial	Price	40%

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Special regime

Utilities

Competitive flexible procedure description

United Utilities Laboratory Services requires a courier service for the transportation of samples from sites across the Company to the central Laboratory at Lingley Mere (Warrington) on a daily basis. The new contract will transition from the current arrangements of United Utilities owned fleet to a fully managed service model, including supplier-provided refrigerated vehicles, drivers, route management, and reporting. Samples need to be transported under refrigerated conditions to ensure that they are maintained at a temperature of between 2 and 7 degrees centigrade. It is a requirement to maintain evidence that this has been achieved to enable United Utilities to adhere to regulatory requirements with respect to the transportation of accredited samples under the

Environment Agency's Monitoring Certification Scheme (MCERTs), Drinking Water Test Specifications (DWTS) and ISO 17025. The tender will look to award to a sole supplier to provide the service.

Contracting authority

United Utilities Water Limited

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Warrington

WA5 3LP

United Kingdom

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Region: UKD61 - Warrington

Organisation type: Private utility