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Award

## **Weqas Protective Packaging Solutions for EQA Material**

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership on behalf of Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-018707

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02d081

Published 4 August 2021, 9:05am

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

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

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership on behalf of Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board

Procurement Department, Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board, Woodlands House, Maes-Y-Coed Road,

Cardiff

CF14 4HH

#### **Contact**

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#### **Telephone**

+44 02921836450

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://nwssp.nhs.wales/ourservices/procurement-services/>

Buyer's address

[https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0221](https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0221)

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Health

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Weqas Protective Packaging Solutions for EQA Material

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

- 42671100 - Laboratory tool carriers

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

Supplies

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

The NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership, hosted by Velindre NHS Trust are acting on behalf of Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board who are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified supplier to supply a range of protective packaging solutions for EQA material for the Welsh External Quality Assurance Service (Weqas).

#### **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: £350,000

### **II.2) Description**

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

- 42671100 - Laboratory tool carriers

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

NUTS codes

- UKL - Wales

Main site or place of performance

Cardiff and Vale UHB

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

Weqas is one of the largest External Quality Assessment providers in the UK, with over 50 years of experience in delivering global Quality Assurance Programmes in Laboratory Medicine. Weqas operates as an independent organisation, hosted by Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board, based at Unit 6, Parc Ty Glas, Cardiff.

Supplying to more than 35,000 sites per month, Weqas provides over 40 EQA Programmes, including external audit, performance analysis and an educational advisory service. The majority of Weqas' EQA material is manufactured in-house, and Weqas wish to award a two year with an option to extend for up to a further two years for the supply of protective packaging.

The requirement is for a complete packaging solution to ship EQA material across the UK and overseas (including transporters, cold packs, outer envelopes). All products will be recyclable or made from sustainable material where possible. The specimen transporters must meet international transport regulations as a leak-proof secondary packaging for Exempt and Category B Biological Specimens.

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Health Board is including up to two years extension option in this contract.

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

#### Explanation:

MedDX Solutions are the only company that are able to supply specimen transporters that are specifically designed to hold the required combination of Weqas unique vial sizes for distribution of their EQA material.

The packaging solutions are required to be rigid and offer a high level of protection to the primaries. Each primary must be in contact with sufficient absorbent material to absorb the entire contents of the container. The absorbent material needs to be laminated / secured to the rigid material. Primary containers must be held securely in place so that they do not move during transport, to reduce potential for breakages. When closed the secondary packaging must be leak-proof. Both leak-proof and drop test certification is required to support the performance features of the component. The packing of the primaries into the secondary packaging must be quick and easy. This should be reflected when unpacking and primary containers must be visible through the packaging.

MedDX offer a patented leak-proof clamshell with internally laminated Super Absorbent. The transporter packaging is efficiently moulded to separate and hold bespoke primary containers. They are simple and intuitive to pack/close and un-pack. In addition, they deliver an efficient packaging experience in terms of time to pack; no extra absorbent material needs to be added. The transporters offer excellent protection to the Weqas vials. They meet international transport regulations as a leak-proof secondary packaging for Exempt and Category B Biological Specimens.

All PE envelopes supplied are fully recyclable and the transporters and envelopes are printed with the Weqas logo as part of the requirement.

On the basis of the above, the Health Board are issuing this notice to the market and applying a 10 day standstill period prior to awarding the two year contract which will include an option to extend for up to two further years.

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **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**

3 August 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**

MedDX Solutions Ltd

Unit 3, Skylon Place, Hursey Road

Hereford

HR26NX

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG11 - Herefordshire, County of

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £350,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

(WA Ref:112934)

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

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

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership on behalf of Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board will allow a minimum 10 calendar day standstill period between notifying the award decision and awarding the contract.