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Planning

Provision of LFT Digital Reader technology

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-023716

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02e417

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

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Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of LFT Digital Reader technology

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72222300 - Information technology services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Procurement of capability to provide digital reader services to interpret COVID-19 Self Report Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kit results using images of the LFD test supplied by the user when reporting their result on the GOV.UK website.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £6,500,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Authority has a requirement to procure digital read capability to interpret COVID-19 Self Report LFD test kit results using images of the LFD test supplied by the user when reporting their result on the GOV.UK website.

The Authority requires market-ready solutions that can integrate with its standard API specification and that meet the requisite clinical accuracy, performance, and security requirements of DHSC and other regulating bodies (as will be further detailed in the ITT).

The Authority is seeking up to three different suppliers and contracts will be tendered via further competition on CCS Spark Dynamic Purchasing System (RM6094) with planned service go-live by December 2021. The contracts will have a term of up to 6 months - an initial 3 months plus an optional 3 months extension.

Interested suppliers are requested to join the Spark DPS in order to participate in the further competitions. Further information to join the DPS can be found here:

<https://www.crowncommercial.gov.uk/agreements/RM6094>

The Authority expects to launch the further competitions in Mid-October, subject to internal approvals. The Authority anticipates that it may apply the following filters on as part of the further competition:

- The sector of 'Subject Area' is Health
- The 'Subject Areas' services within Health is expected to be Diagnostics
- the type of 'Delivery Method' services is expected to be Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Automation

- 'Delivery Method' services within Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Automation, is expected to be 'Machine Learning' and 'Computer Vision'
- Location services is expected to be all UK locations
- Security option is expected to be Official

Background

Selected cohorts of users using the GOV.UK "Report a Lateral Flow Test Result" website are given an option to submit a photograph (image) of their LFD taken with their smart phone. The service then provides a "digital read" of their test result in real time. The GOV.UK service captures the image from the user and passes this via a standard API to a MHRA derogated cloud-based "digital read" service. The aim of the procurement activity under the Spark DPS is to procure up to three web service based digital readers, to provide technical and commercial resilience.

Technical Requirements Overview

The successful suppliers will create a RESTful web API, to a specification provided by DHSC, that will securely accept an image of a Covid-19 LFD sent by DHSC. The suppliers will provide a cloud-based digital reader service that will take each supplied LFD image, and interpret this digitally in real time, to provide an accurate test result for each image via a callback URL to a DHSC hosted API. The test result will consist of the image identifier, interpreted test result value (which can be Positive, Negative or Void) and a value which represents confidence level in the returned result. In the case where the service cannot provide a digital read of the image (an "invalid" result), the supplier service will be capable of returning a standard error code describing the reason for the failed (invalid) read. Future procurements for LFD readers may allow for LFD digital reader technical approaches beyond the API method described above.

High Level Requirements

- Must be able to evidence existing MHRA EUA as SaaSMD for self-use digital reader of Covid-19 LFD or CE/CA mark equivalent (or significant progress towards obtaining either of these) where the digital read component is performed by a cloud based API.
- Must be able to extend existing EUA or CE/CA to incorporate specific LFDs in use with DHSC for Self-Report covid-19 lateral flow testing.
- Meet DHSC security, scalability and performance and clinical accuracy targets (as will be further detailed in the ITT).
- The Suppliers will only be permitted to use UK based data centres and data processors.

II.2.14) Additional information

- The purpose of the publication of this prior information notice is to notify the market about this upcoming procurement, including the intended route to market .

Whilst the Authority expects to proceed to procurement in due course, there is no obligation to do so as a consequence of this early notification. The Authority reserves the right to not commit to advertising this tender if it does not so wish. Any information provided by suppliers prior to any advertising of the tender will not be used to determine the outcome of any processes.

The publication of any documentation at this stage is intended to provide potential bidders with the opportunity to review the information and provide any comments or feedback. The Authority does not intend to be bound by any of the information supplied at this stage. The Authority makes no commitment to incorporate any recommendations or suggestions which may be made within the final suite of procurement documents. Once published, the ITT will contain the final requirements in relation to this procurement. All previous versions, including any documents published at this stage should then be disregarded.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

3 December 2021

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes