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Planning

## **Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT)**

NHS Blood and Transplant

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-024049

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0363b6

Published 26 August 2022, 4:45pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

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

NHS Blood and Transplant

500 North Bristol Park

Bristol

BS34 7QH

#### **Contact**

Daniel Kirkbride

#### **Email**

[daniel.kirkbride@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:daniel.kirkbride@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 7764280366

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKK11 - Bristol, City of

**National registration number**

NHS Blood and Transplant

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/>

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

**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**

## Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT)

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

- 33100000 - Medical equipments

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

Supplies

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

This Prior Information Notice (PIN) is separate to any tender opportunity and its purpose is to consult the market to improve NHSBT's knowledge of current assays and high throughput blood donor nucleic acid testing systems available in the marketplace and gauge market interest. It is the intention of NHSBT to further consult those organisations who express an interest to identify preparatory work which may need to take place ahead of any future tendering opportunities.

### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £55,000,000

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 33124000 - Diagnostics and radiodiagnostic devices and supplies
- 85111800 - Pathology services

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Bristol  
Manchester

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

NHSBT requires a direct contractual relationship with either the manufacturer or any other economic operator for a complete end-to-end integrated solution, which must include all the necessary equipment, installation, maintenance, consumables, reagents, software, including an inter-operability provision with NHSBT's existing IT infrastructure, and an overall on-going support mechanism that may be required to carry out the necessary testing as stated below. All in vitro diagnostic medical devices, for example, instruments, consumables, and reagents must be CE/UKCA marked. Great Britain (GB) will continue to recognise CE marking under the IVDD or IVDR until 30 June 2023 and from 1 July 2023 devices placed on the GB market must be UKCA marked under the UK MDR 2002 as amended. The end-to-end solution must be capable of producing test results in a format that can be utilised by NHSBT's host IT system (PULSE) without the need for changes to PULSE.

NHSBT are looking for a fully integrated, high throughput, automated Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) screening system which can detect HBV DNA, HIV-1 RNA, HIV-2 RNA, HCV RNA, HEV RNA, WNV RNA, HAV RNA, Parvovirus B19 in EDTA plasma samples from blood and non-blood (e.g. stem cell, tissue) donors. The NAT system must support various pool sizes and also be able to test individual donations. An automated liquid handler to create the pools must be part of the overall solution.

Approximately 1,600,000 donations are tested per annum, across two testing sites, in Bristol and Manchester.

It is important that interested parties respond to this PIN, as prior KEG approval will be a mandatory requirement for any associated future tender opportunity, in-line with the requirements of the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the United Kingdom (Red Book - <https://www.transfusionguidelines.org/red-book>).

NHSBT will seek to understand the status of assays which would be offered with regards to NHSBT's Kit Evaluation Group (KEG). Further details on KEG and the process will be provided during Supplier Engagement.

The format of Supplier Engagement will be communicated to those organisations that respond to this PIN; however, this is likely to be virtual meetings conducted via Microsoft Teams during the second half of September 2022.

Expressions of interest should be e-mailed to [daniel.kirkbride@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:daniel.kirkbride@nhsbt.nhs.uk) by 1200hrs on 12 September 2022.

## **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

2 October 2023

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## **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