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Planning

RFI - Appointment of a main reference laboratory

UK Health Security Agency

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-024272

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-051a25

Published 21 May 2025, 4:36pm

Changes to notice

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

Additional information to be provided.

Scope

Reference

C363261

Description

UK NEQAS Microbiology is seeking to appoint a main reference laboratory to provide microbial strains and perform antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) in support of its External Quality Assessment (EQA) schemes. This RFI is seeking information from laboratories that have the capability and capacity to fulfil the outlined requirements.

Contract dates (estimated)

- 18 November 2025 to 17 November 2028
- Possible extension to 18 November 2030
- 5 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73111000 - Research laboratory services

Engagement

Engagement deadline

11 June 2025

Engagement process description

UK NEQAS Microbiology is seeking to appoint a main reference laboratory to provide microbial strains and perform antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) in support of its External Quality Assessment (EQA) schemes. This RFI is seeking information from laboratories that have the capability and capacity to fulfil the outlined requirements. The issuance of this RFI does not constitute a sourcing exercise, but responses provided will help to shape UKHSA's sourcing strategy. UKHSA will not pay any costs incurred by respondents in the preparation of a response to this RFI. The supporting documents can be accessed via Project C363261 in the Atamis portal: <https://atamis-1928.my.salesforce-sites.com/?searchtype=Projects> Please refer to the documentation for full details and instructions on how to respond.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Contracting authority

UK Health Security Agency

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBMQ-7576-DVGW

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London

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United Kingdom

Contact name: Commercial Operations

Email: procurementnotices@ukhsa.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency>

Region: UKI42 - Tower Hamlets

Organisation type: Public authority - central government