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Contract

## **Provision of Neonatal Transport Service**

University Hospitals Plymouth

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-025866

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-048afd

Published 14 August 2024, 4:45pm

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

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

University Hospitals Plymouth

Derriford Road

Plymouth

PL6 8DH

#### **Contact**

Paul Drummond

#### **Email**

[p.drummond@nhs.net](mailto:p.drummond@nhs.net)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1752434915

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKK41 - Plymouth

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

**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**

Provision of Neonatal Transport Service

Reference number

UHP/FirstCare/2425/NTS/1

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

- 85143000 - Ambulance services

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

Services

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

The contract involves the provision of a dedicated ambulance service to ensure the safe and efficient transportation of critically ill newborns. The service will include fully equipped custom ambulances built to accommodate the service incubators and specialist equipment as well as fully trained ambulance staff, to work along side our specialised medical professionals trained in neonatal care.

#### **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: £780,000

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

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

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

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

NUTS codes

- UKK41 - Plymouth

Main site or place of performance

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

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

The contract involves the provision of a dedicated ambulance service to ensure the safe and efficient transportation of critically ill newborns. The service will include fully equipped custom ambulances built to accommodate the service incubators and specialist equipment as well as fully trained ambulance staff, to work along side our specialised medical professionals trained in neonatal care. The value of the contract is approximately £780,000 and will run from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2029

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: Quality & Innovation / Weighting: 20

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Improving Access, reducing health inequalities and facilitating choice / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Integration, collaboration & Service Sustainability / Weighting: 20

Cost criterion - Name: Value for Money / Weighting: 40

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

Options: No

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

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

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

N/A

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

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

Competitive procedure with negotiation

Accelerated procedure

Justification:

To be award under Provider Selection Regime, Direct Award C.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2024/S 104-012085](#)

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## **Section V. Award of contract**

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

1 August 2024

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 0

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

**V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

First Care Ambulance Limited

Plymouth

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKK41 - Plymouth

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £780,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £780,000

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## Section VI. Complementary information

### VI.3) Additional information

This is a Provider Selection Regime intention to award notice. The awarding of this contract is subject to the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provision of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 do not apply to this award. The publication of this notice marks the start of the standstill period. Representations by providers must be made to decision makers by 19th August 2024. This contract has not yet formally been awarded; this notice serves as an intention to award under the PSR. written representations should be sent to [p.drummond@nhs.net](mailto:p.drummond@nhs.net). Internal Stakeholders across the trust were involved in the decision making process.

There were no conflicts of interest recorded in this process. This statement provides detail of the key criteria that the Trust used to make its decision. 1. Value for Money - FirstCare Ambulance have demonstrated value for money through the lifetime of the contract since 2016. There have only been 2 inflationary increases and clearly demonstrated the reasoning for this. They have purchased a new vehicle and only charged us pass through costs and have supported the remodelling of the services from a 7 day 24 hour service to a 12 hour 5 day service 8am to 8pm.

The new contract is 10% cheaper than the current contract value

In the original market testing carried out for the Neonatal transport provision, First Care came out considerably cheaper than competitors.

First Care have recently been awarded the PTS through a 5 year contract and demonstrated value for money through full tender process. 2. Quality & Innovation - First Care provide a high quality service and the purchase of the new purpose built vehicle for Neonatal transportation has enhanced this, with two other vehicles available the risk of breakdowns and disruption to service is very low. First Care take suggestions on ways of working and are open to innovative ideas. 3. Integration, collaboration & Service sustainability - First Care supported the service through Covid and the re-modelling of the service from a 24 hour service to a 5 day has been transitioned across with collaboration with the service line and working with other transport providers for shift handovers. 4. Social Value - Net Zero is the ultimate target, but vehicle technology does not currently provide an economic/efficient solution for patient transport. FCA will adopt technological advances in vehicles over time, but right now some 'immediate action' is the right thing to do. We have chosen to work with Earthly Limited and support varied climate initiatives across the world.

FCA has an annual fleet mileage of circa 1.75 million miles. This produces 700 tonnes of carbon.

The Earthly programme allows FCA to sponsor climate change initiatives that are estimated to offset 770 tonnes of carbon. This means that FCA is classified as carbon positive, in that we give back more than we produce. 5. Improving access, reducing health inequalities and facilitating choice - Working with First Care Ambulance Service

significantly improves health inequalities by ensuring that critically ill or premature newborns receive timely and specialised care through Timely Transfers, Critical interventions, rural and underserved areas and support for families.

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

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

Public Procurement Review Service

London EC1

London

EC1

Email

[publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>

### **VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures**

Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution

70 Fleet Street

London

EC4Y 1EU

Email

[info@cedr.com](mailto:info@cedr.com)

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.cedr.com/>

**VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained**

University Hospitals Plymouth

Derriford Road

Plymouth

PL6 8DH

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

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