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Planning

Supply, installation and support of an automated ultra-low temperature (-80 °C) archive system for biological samples

UK Biobank Ltd

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-026421

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-036a2a

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

UK Biobank Ltd

1-2 Spectrum Way, Adswood

Stockport

SK3 0SA

Email

andrea.howard@ukbiobank.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 7824509469

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKD3 - Greater Manchester

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA25607

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object**II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

Supply, installation and support of an automated ultra-low temperature (-80°C) archive system for biological samples

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 39711124 - Industrial freezers

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

UK Biobank intends to conduct a procurement for an automated ultra-low temperature (-80°C) archive system for biological samples as part of a programme of infrastructure replacement, following a funding announcement by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) (<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/creating-world-class-research-and-innovation-infrastructure/funded-infrastructure-projects/>) and is issuing this PIN to seek market information to help develop and validate its proposed procurement strategy for its intended forthcoming procurement exercise.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 45213210 - Cold-storage installations

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD33 - Manchester

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

UK Biobank's existing archive, based in Stockport, Greater Manchester in the North West of England, holds 10 million samples and is now approaching 15 years old. It is experiencing more frequent maintenance issues, and its speed of retrieval is insufficient to support interest in accessing samples for scientific assays across a whole cohort (i.e. retrieval of batches of ca. 500,000 samples). Furthermore, it has insufficient capacity to accommodate ongoing and future collections, and is energy inefficient (relying on liquid nitrogen as a primary coolant, with an electrical backup).

As part of the programme of infrastructure replacement, UK Biobank will be seeking to procure a new archive, to be installed in 2025 within a new facility being designed in the City of Manchester. The purpose of this PIN is to engage with the market to:

- validate the current intended design of the facility (ensuring it is flexible enough to accommodate such archive systems);
- validate the availability of suitable tube handling for UK Biobank legacy samples;
- validate assumptions on energy consumption and efficiency within the draft business case for investment

- test assumptions regarding the programme for installation;
- identify any Health & Safety considerations; and
- validate availability in the market of proposed solutions that might meet UK Biobank's requirements, and understand future technological innovations.

For further details of the characteristics that UK Biobank is currently intending to seek from its future archive system please see Appendix A.4

Appendices A.1, A.2, A.3 and A.4 (referred to in this PIN) are available via the myTenders website.

Although care has been taken in relation to this information, UK Biobank assumes no responsibility for its accuracy and reserves its rights to change any aspect of its proposed facility design (as embodied by Appendix A.1 and Appendix A.2), or anticipated requirements.

Any parties that are interested in participating in this preliminary market engagement are requested to consider, complete and return the questionnaire set out in Appendix A.3 which accompanies this PIN.

Following receipt of completed questionnaires, UK Biobank intends to offer pre-market engagement meetings to respondents. If offered, these will be conducted virtually and all interested parties will be allocated the same length of time for the meeting, with UK Biobank following a consistent agenda to be issued in advance. We anticipate holding these meetings in late November 2022.

II.2.14) Additional information

To respond to this PIN please visit the myTenders website at <http://www.mytenders.org> to register your interest.

Completed questionnaires should be e-mailed to tenders@ukbiobank.ac.uk

If you have any questions please e-mail them to tenders@ukbiobank.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of completed questionnaires is 17:00 (GMT) on Friday 21st October 2022.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

17 March 2023

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

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Responses to this PIN will be reviewed internally by relevant UK Biobank staff and consultants engaged by UK Biobank to work on projects related to this PIN.

Interested parties should note that UK Biobank reserves the right to cancel or vary this pre-market engagement exercise and any potential resulting procurement process, or not conduct a procurement process whatsoever, at any point and will not be liable for any costs or expenses incurred by interested parties in responding to this pre-market engagement or any resulting procurement process. UK Biobank may also change the basis and/or deadlines in respect of this pre-market engagement.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the myTenders Web Site at

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=222744.

(MT Ref:222744)