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Planning

## **Market Engagement for Storage & Distribution of Human Medicines, Vaccines & Associated Medical Products**

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care acting as part of the Crown through UK Health Security Agency

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-026501

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03fae2

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

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

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care acting as part of the Crown through UK Health Security Agency

10 South Colonnade

London

E14 4PU

#### **Email**

[logisticsandto@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:logisticsandto@ukhsa.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKI42 - Tower Hamlets

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

**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**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Health

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**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

Market Engagement for Storage & Distribution of Human Medicines, Vaccines & Associated Medical Products

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 63120000 - Storage and warehousing services

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

Services

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

UKHSA is seeking to establish a contractual agreement with a pharmaceutical wholesaler for human medicines who can act as a third party on behalf of the Agency for the UK storage and distribution of the Agency's vaccines, other medicines and associated medical products (ownership remains with the UKHSA).

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)
- 63120000 - Storage and warehousing services
- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)
- 63120000 - Storage and warehousing services
- 63121000 - Storage and retrieval services
- 79991000 - Stock-control services
- 60180000 - Hire of goods-transport vehicles with driver
- 63122000 - Warehousing services
- 42965100 - Warehouse management system
- 42965110 - Depot system
- 63121100 - Storage services
- 48430000 - Inventory management software package
- 64121200 - Parcel delivery services
- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)
- 60180000 - Hire of goods-transport vehicles with driver

- 60100000 - Road transport services
- 64121200 - Parcel delivery services

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

A new storage and distribution contract is needed to ensure that storage and distribution of UKHSA procured vaccines, immunoglobulins, antibiotics, medical consumables, antitoxins and antivenoms can continue to be safely received from manufacturers, stored, and distributed to the NHS and other specified recipients under controlled conditions. The products require specialist storage and distribution to ensure that they are not damaged, both physically and biologically. To support this, effective stock management and audit systems are essential.

The requirement is critical to UKHSA to allow the uninterrupted and continued service for:

- National Immunisation Programmes - the importance of population based immunisation in protecting public health through minimising/eradicating the incidence and spread of vaccine preventable diseases is well established. The UK has one of the most comprehensive immunisation programmes in the world, with protection throughout the life course starting before birth, continuing into childhood, adolescence, adulthood including older adults.
- Pandemic Preparedness Portfolio (PPP) – the stockpiling of medicines and vaccines, and associated consumable products in preparedness to respond to a future pandemic.
- Covid Programme – The UK continues to respond to the threat of COVID-19 through a targeted vaccination programme for those most vulnerable to the virus. This includes older people, people with underlying health conditions, and frontline health and social care workers. The vaccination programme has been highly successful in protecting people from severe disease, hospitalisation, and death. In the UK, the vaccines have been estimated to have prevented over 14,000 deaths and over 42,000 hospitalisations; and
- Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response programme (EPRR) – the UK has provisions in place for responding to accidental or intentional releases of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials.

The overall need of UKHSA is to ensure that requirements and outputs are managed in a way that:

- Continues to provide a high-quality flexible service that can adapt to suit changing needs;
- drives maximum savings;
- increases UKHSA efficiency;

- promotes the use of 'best practice' in line with Good Distribution Practice (GDP), and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) regulatory requirements; and
- provides full transparency of reporting and record keeping

#### Short description

The proposed requirement is to provide ambient temperature controlled, chilled, frozen and ultra-low temperature warehousing, distribution and management services across the UK (including Northern Ireland and Crown Dependencies) for the supply of human medicines, vaccines and associated medical products, covering a multi-tiered response level. Including scheduled routine deliveries and urgent same-day service levels. The provider should also have the capability for repack and thaw activities.

#### Description of the procurement

UKHSA owns stocks of vaccines, pandemic and medical countermeasures which it stores and distributes for use across the UK. It uses a web-based ordering system/platform (ImmForm) to facilitate remote ordering by designated customers.

The service required has the following component parts (this list is not exhaustive):

- Services are to be provided throughout with regulatory compliance to the 2012 Human Medicines Regulations and adherence to Good Distribution Practice for all Sites and Warehouses used to provide the Services.
- The requirements are expected to include long term storage of national stock holdings of circa 60,000 pallets of stock at various temperature regimes including ambient temperature controlled, chill (+2°C to +8°C), frozen (-20°C) and ultra-low temperature (-75°C). In addition, capability to undertake repack activity required, as well as thaw activity on a weekly basis circa 4000 packs of stock held at -75°C and -20°C.
- A regular scheduled programme of routine chill deliveries (next day and scheduled delivery day) for vaccinations amounts to approximately 5,000 deliveries per week covering currently circa 12,000 locations across the UK including Northern Ireland and Crown Dependencies, covering a range of health care organisations, including General Practices, NHS hospitals, school-aged immunisation services, and some community pharmacies. Capability is required to expand the customer base in line with changing NHS commissioned vaccination providers.
- Be in a ready state for deployment of certain stockpiles in the event of a Pandemic or CBRN event. Deployment of the relevant Stockpile or part thereof could range from national deployment to predefined locations within England or to specific/restricted geographical deployments that could be anywhere in the UK;
- Rapid deployment same-day deliveries for specific products, within 5 hours in response to an emergency situation (generally