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Planning

## **UKRI-2310 Hub function for the UK Rare Disease Research Platform**

UK Research & Innovation

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-029345

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0376bf

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

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

UK Research & Innovation

<https://www.ukri.org/>, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FL

#### **Contact**

Elizabeth Gage

#### **Email**

[Elizabeth.Gage@ukri.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Gage@ukri.org)

#### **Telephone**

+44 7563420665

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.ukri.org/>

**I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

**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**

Other activity

Research

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## Section II: Object

### II.1) Scope of the procurement

#### II.1.1) Title

UKRI-2310 Hub function for the UK Rare Disease Research Platform

#### II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72224000 - Project management consultancy services

#### II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

#### II.1.4) Short description

This is a Tender to create a 'Hub Function' to coordinate the planned new UK Rare-Disease Research Platform (UK-RDRP). The Hub Function will provide coordination and project management support to a set of around 10 individual Node awards (each award will do networking and 2-3 'enabling science' projects within a specified subset of rare disease research (a 'domain')) as well as providing a broad service to all UK rare disease research interests. The Nodes, Hub and all stakeholders and related interests will collectively form the Platform (the UK-RDRP). The purpose of the Hub and how it links to the Platform and Nodes is outlined within the funding opportunity page for the Node call (see 'Platform Hub' description within the 'Additional Information' section).

(<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/establish-an-integrated-uk-rare-disease-research-platform-nodes/>)

The Nodes themselves will be funded via an open research funding call, which launched in August 2022 with decisions in March 2023 and nodes starting work within 3-6 months of the decision date. The Hub should be in place to assist in the coordinated start-up of the Nodes. Details of the call are available on the UKRI Funding Finder Rare Disease Research Platform Node call page.

(<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/establish-an-integrated-uk-rare-disease-research-platform-nodes/>)

The Platform is co-funded by MRC and NIHR, following MRC processes unless stated otherwise, and is an activity that will support the UK Rare Disease Framework (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-rare-diseases-framework>), in particular the 'pioneering research' theme.

The Platform, including the Hub, will be overseen by a Platform Executive Board (including the funders, node directors, stakeholders and independent members).

The total Funder cost of the Platform will be £12 million, over five years, and the budget for the Hub function is envisaged to be in £100,000 to £150,000 per year.

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

Value excluding VAT: £750,000

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

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

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

UNITED KINGDOM

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

This procurement exercise will commission a Hub function for the UK Rare Disease Research Platform (UK-RDRP). The Hub will be critical to the formation of a cohesive platform and will provide visibility to the external community and cross-node coordination. The Hub will connect a set of around 10-12 funded nodes, and provide a well signposted route into the Platform for external collaborators, including patients, researchers, industry and international partners.

The Hub will have the following objectives, to:

- Coordinate and bring cohesion to the Platform (including Nodes and a range of stakeholders)
- Establish and maintain a website, mailing lists and social media presence for the Platform
- Provide a point of contact for external stakeholders, including researchers, clinicians, research and clinical infrastructure, industry, charity sector, international interests and

patients, families and the wider public

- Administer the Platform

Major Hub activities will include: project management, administration and reporting, communications and engagement, meeting/workshop delivery.

Remote/physical operation

Both remote/virtual and physical meetings are expected, and the provider is expected to accommodate changes in the balance of remote and physical working as these change over time. Hybrid meetings may be preferred in many cases, in order to maximise attendance including for diverse audiences. The location of physical meetings will need to respect the geographical spread of researchers and patients.

Data

Data should be handled in accordance with all legal requirements and the expectations of participants, and must be available to the Platform for its purposes, including at the end of the Hub contract. Web sites and mailing lists should be appropriately and securely maintained and handed over at the end of any contract to relevant parties, to be identified by the Funders. On conclusion or termination of the Hub, data and material should be archived and provided to the relevant parties for continuity and sustainability of the Platform or the collaborations formed within it.

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

UKRI will be holding a Supplier event for these requirements on 10:00am on Wednesday 16th November 2022. If your organisation is interested in attending this event, please send an email with your contact details to [Elizabeth.Gage@ukri.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Gage@ukri.org) no later than Friday 11th November 2022.

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

6 December 2022

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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: No

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

To view this notice, please click here:

<https://ukri.delta-esourcing.com/delta/viewNotice.html?noticeId=720833027>

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