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Contract

## **Provision of a Multiplex Fluorescence Scanner with quantitative pathology imaging and analysis**

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

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-030878

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-030015

Published 10 December 2021, 7:24pm

### **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

Nobel House, 17 Smith Square

London

SW1P 3JR

#### **Contact**

Tee Agbo

#### **Email**

[tee.agbo@phe.gov.uk](mailto:tee.agbo@phe.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKI32 - Westminster

**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.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**

Provision of a Multiplex Fluorescence Scanner with quantitative pathology imaging and analysis

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Supplies

**II.1.4) Short description**

Award to Akoya Biosciences for the purchase of a multiplex fluorescence slide scanner with quantitative pathology imaging and analysis to be used in the Research Department, Porton.

### **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: £425,000

## **II.2) Description**

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

The provision of a Multiplex Fluorescence Scanner will enable UK HSA to produce quantitative multiplex image analysis, with elements of the application of artificial intelligence in pathology (advance image analysis, such as tissue classification, phenotyping or pattern recognition) to be applied to ongoing and future research projects focusing on high priority activities including COVID19, Ebola, Zika, Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever, Chikungunya, Zika virus infection, Q Fever, Anthrax, Tuberculosis, Monkeypox, Influenza, Pertussis, Meningococcal disease, Anti-Microbial Resistance, etc.

The Research team is responding to the COVID19 outbreak by delivering the pathology component of every pre-clinical experiment carried out at Porton, including vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2. This work is supporting the UKHSA Infectious Disease Strategy, in the development of interventions against disease, and particularly at the moment support our strategy of being ready to respond to Pandemics as part of the current international global response.

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

Price

### **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

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## Section IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
  - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

UK HSA is responding to the COVID19 outbreak by delivering the pathology component of every pre-clinical experiment carried out at PHE Porton, including vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2. The proposed equipment will provide resilience, increased output and objective image analysis (high throughput) of multiple samples, increasing the power of special pathology techniques (FISH and fluorescence immunolabelling) to study the pathogenesis and immune responses in the animal studies of SRAS-CoV-2 infection, also applicable to all the other pathogens.

Akoya is the only provider of automated tools and algorithms for the determination of library spectra for the quantitative elimination of autofluorescence and the determination of pure biomarker spectra from unmixed spectra taken from tissue specimens.

The Vectra Polaris Automated Quantitative Pathology Imaging System will digitalise multiplex-stained slides increasing resilience as it would be able to scan conventional brightfield stained slides (in case our current histology scanner is out of order for any reason) and will be able to produce digital H&E e-slides from fluorescence-stained slides, reducing the workload in the laboratory. At present, PHE does not have the capacity or resources of reading and scanning multiplex-stained slides and need to produce single-stained slide for a variety of markers with a considerable amount of time and resources associated.

The technology within Polaris as well as some of the proprietary software that runs it was all developed in house and patented. Its unique capabilities via the multispectral technology set the Polaris apart for quantitative biomarker analysis and detailed phenotyping of researchers tissue samples.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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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**

10 December 2021

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

Number of tenders received: 1

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

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

Akoya Biosciences Inc.

100 Campus Drive, 6th Floor Marlborough, MA 01752 United States of America

Marlborough

01752

Telephone

+001 8558968401

Country

United States

NUTS code

- US - United States

Internet address

[www.akoyabio.com](http://www.akoyabio.com)

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: £425,000

Lowest offer: £425,000 / Highest offer: £425,000 taken into consideration

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

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

High Court and Court of Appeal of England and Wales

Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Email

[InternationalRelationsJudicialOffice@judiciary.uk](mailto:InternationalRelationsJudicialOffice@judiciary.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.judiciary.uk/>