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Planning

Supply and Maintenance of Blood Component Transportation Containers

NHS Blood and Transplant

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-033233

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04ac68

Published 16 October 2024, 9:14am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Blood and Transplant

500 North Bristol Park

Bristol

BS34 7QH

Contact

James Marshall

Email

james.marshall2@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Telephone

+44 7386961244

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK11 - Bristol, City of

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

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

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Supply and Maintenance of Blood Component Transportation Containers

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 34221000 - Special-purpose mobile containers

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Supply and Maintenance of Blood Component Transportation Containers. Please note this is not the start of a procurement process. A separate contract notice will be published to cover this requirement.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £500,000

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

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

NHS Blood & Transplant (NHSBT) are seeking to engage with suppliers of blood component transport containers via an early market engagement exercise.

NHSBT require these containers to maintain strict temperature control and the protection of precious blood components (red cells, platelets and frozen material) during transit from our distribution sites to hospitals or internally between NHSBT's 14 sites across England. All of these journeys will be over either long or short distances. This potential requirement is anticipated to be for supply and maintenance of these containers along with the maintenance of the existing NHSBT fleet.

The requirement for the containers is likely to include the following:

- Construction must be strong, robust, durable and tamper proof, made from lightweight and impermeable material that is resistant to weather such as heat, cold and rain.
- Must maintain the surface temperature of various blood component types at 2-6°C (red cells, 20-24°C (platelets) ≤ -30°C (frozen components) for transport journeys up to 9 hours, 8 hours and 11 hours respectively.
- The use of temperature stabilisation material is permitted to assist temperature control, such as phase change material or dry ice.
- The containers must be able to be used for all three component types with an external label pocket to allow switching of component labelling to enable multi-use
- The containers must be available in at least two sizes, small (capacity 1-6 units) and large (capacity 1-12 units).
- The container must comply with all health and safety regulations in both its construction and use with handles at both sides (not shoulder straps) to enable a safe one-person load with the weight not exceeding 13Kg when fully laden.
- Any proposed new solution must be cost effective, simple, safe, and space saving with excellent temperature control performance, and must be conducive to our current operational requirements.

As part of the early market engagement exercise, NHSBT would like to discuss our requirement with suppliers to gain an understanding of current innovation and development of existing products which are available within the market or, the possibility of creating a bespoke product should an existing product not meet our requirements of temperature control, capacity, health and safety and construction. It is also our intention to discuss the potential of maintenance of our existing containers and the supply and maintenance of new containers during the exercise.

It should be noted that other health authorities may be permitted to use any agreements awarded.

It is NHSBT's intention to hold the early market engagement exercise supplier meetings the week of 25th November 2024 (note: dates are subject to change). The meetings will be held remotely. To enable NHSBT to finalise arrangements (e.g. send meeting details and agree time slots), interested organisations are required to send an expression of interest via email to james.marshall2@nhsbt.nhs.uk by no later than 17:00 hrs (GMT) on Tuesday 12th

November. This should include a list of your requested attendees and a brief overview (or a website link) of the Goods / Services which might be of interest to NHSBT in relation to this requirement. Please include options, if available, for a managed service contract.

There is no guarantee that a formal procurement process will be launched as a result of this early market engagement exercise, nor that any contract(s) will be placed. No remuneration or compensation etc will be paid to organisations who take part in this early market engagement exercise. Suppliers should take part in this process only on the basis that they fully understand and accept this position.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

17 January 2025

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

We are currently considering whether to award this requirement in lots and reserve the right to do so.