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Planning

Purchase of International Specialist Courier Services for APHA

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-033409

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-054f3f

Published 18 June 2025, 3:35pm

Scope

Reference

P-35795

Description

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is seeking early expressions of interest and pre-market engagement from suppliers for a proposed 2-year contract for the transportation of Category A (UN2814 & UN2900) and Category B (UN3373) samples internationally by a Courier Specialist.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,500,000 excluding VAT
- £1,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028
- Possible extension to 31 March 2030
- 4 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 64120000 - Courier services
- 64121000 - Multi-modal courier services
- 64100000 - Post and courier services
- 60411000 - Scheduled airmail transport services
- 60400000 - Air transport services
- 64113000 - Postal services related to parcels
- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)

- 60161000 - Parcel transport services
- 64121200 - Parcel delivery services
- 64110000 - Postal services
- 64121100 - Mail delivery services
- 60421000 - Non-scheduled airmail transport services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

16 July 2025

Engagement process description

Defra Group Commercial on behalf of Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) intends to publish a tender opportunity for the provision of International Specialist Courier service, tentatively scheduled for August 2025. The successful supplier(s) will be required to collect and deliver Category A (UN2814 & UN2900) and/or Category B (UN3373) consignments to and from UK addresses and deliver them internationally, including to Northern Ireland, Europe, Non-EU countries, and worldwide destinations. Given the specialist nature of these consignments, suppliers must hold the appropriate licenses for transporting biological substances under chilled conditions using dry ice. Additionally, suppliers will need to provide import services and manage complex customs clearance process. The tender opportunity is

expected to be divided into 2 lots: Lot 1 - Transportation of Category A samples Lot 2 - Transportation of Category B samples Suppliers will have the option to bid for one or both lots. Please note that this approach may be subject to change based on the outcome of our supplier engagement. An initial market engagement exercise took place in November 2024. This notice now serves to resume the procurement process ahead of the forthcoming tender. We are considering holding a virtual supplier engagement event, provisionally scheduled for 16th July 2025 via Microsoft Teams. This session will provide an overview of our requirements and invite supplier feedback. A Q&A session will follow, giving participants the opportunity to raise questions which will be addressed by our team. If your organisation is interested in this upcoming opportunity, please register your interest by emailing angelica.ho@defra.gov.uk. In your response, kindly confirm the following: 1) Whether your organisation intends to submit a tender. 2) Whether you would like to attend the supplier engagement event, if so, please provide the names and email addresses of the proposed attendees. We would appreciate receiving all expressions of interest by 12pm on 14th July 2025. Thank you for your time and interest. We look forward to hearing from you.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

18 August 2025

Contracting authority

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBHC-6261-BLLQ

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: network.procurement@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Summary of their role in this procurement: Defra is working on the procurement on behalf of the APHA.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

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Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Contact organisation

Contact [ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY](#) for any enquiries.