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Award

Supply of BVD-free Foetal Bovine Serum to APHA

Defra Network eTendering Portal

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-034202

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-041b1b

Published 20 November 2023, 9:44am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Defra Network eTendering Portal

17 Nobel House

London

SW1P 3JR

Contact

Melanie Swain

Email

melanie.swain@defra.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

Buyer's address

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Supply of BVD-free Foetal Bovine Serum to APHA

Reference number

C21855

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 33696500 - Laboratory reagents

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

This is a voluntary ex ante transparency (VEAT) notice, indicating that Defra (on behalf of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)) intends to enter into a contract with VWR International Ltd to purchase a 300-litre batch (600 x 500ml) of gamma irradiated, frozen, sterile, PCR-tested Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) free, filtered Seradigm Ultimate Grade Foetal Bovine Serum (FBS).

Defra intends to award a contract to VWR International Ltd following the expiry of a voluntary standstill period, 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

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: £284,400

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Addlestone, Surrey.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This is a voluntary ex ante transparency (VEAT) notice, indicating that Defra (on behalf of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)) intends to enter into a contract with VWR International Ltd to purchase a 300-litre batch (600 x 500ml) of gamma irradiated, frozen, sterile, PCR-tested Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) free, filtered Seradigm Ultimate Grade Foetal Bovine Serum (FBS).

Defra intends to award a contract to VWR International Ltd following the expiry of a voluntary standstill period, 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 100

Cost criterion - Name: Cost / Weighting: 0

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

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

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

Explanation:

Based on the information detailed below, the conclusion would be that VWR is the only supplier able to provide this superior quality-certified product, in the required quantity, to APHA at this time.

Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) is endemic in cattle globally, therefore it is extremely challenging to identify a source that is 100% free of the virus (i.e., most cattle herds are at risk of infection). The vast majority of the FBS produced world-wide will contain traces of BVD but for most laboratories this is not a problem (as it does not interfere with use for the serum). However, due to the unique nature of APHA's work, diagnostic testing and research on BVD would be compromised if there was BVD (virus and antibodies) in the FBS product. The Defra veterinary pathway plans pledge to tackle BVD which costs UK industry between £14 to 36 million per year. To fulfil this objective, APHA must maintain testing capability of the highest quality in order to produce accurate disease management statistics to underpin this objective.

- APHA conducted comprehensive in-house sample testing several years ago due to repeated quality issues with previous FBS batches (documented as BVD-free but subsequently found to contain small traces). Only one (1) supplier (VWR) met all the required criteria (including BVD-free and sourced from an approved USDA country which has no history of BSE).
- APHA requires the FBS from the same supplier (as the previous batch) because they have ongoing confidence in their ability to supply APHA with a high-quality standard reagent (FBS) that will not compromise onward testing capability.
- Based on APHA's extensive experience, due to the superior quality standards and the high volume of product required it is highly unlikely that another supplier would be able to meet this requirement at this time.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

13 November 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

VWR International Ltd

Hunter Boulevard, Magna Park, Lutterworth, Leicestershire,

Lutterworth

LE17 4XN

Email

tenders.uk@vwr.com

Telephone

+44 1455207144

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKF2 - Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

National registration number

1932827

Internet address

<https://uk.vwr.com>

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £284,400

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £284,400

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Defra Network eTendering Portal

17 Nobel House

London

SW1P 3JR

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

Public Procurement Review Body

N/A

N/A

N/A

Email

publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>