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Tender

## **Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Managed Service**

The Common Services Agency (more commonly known as NHS National Services Scotland) ("NSS")

Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service

Welsh Blood Service

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-034339

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b094

Published 23 October 2024, 3:33pm

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

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

The Common Services Agency (more commonly known as NHS National Services Scotland) ("NSS")

Gyle Square (NSS Head Office), 1 South Gyle Crescent

Edinburgh

EH12 9EB

#### **Contact**

Gordon Dickson

#### **Email**

[gordon.dickson@nhs.scot](mailto:gordon.dickson@nhs.scot)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1313145522

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKM - Scotland

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.nss.nhs.scot/browse/procurement-and-logistics>

Buyer's address

[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA11883](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA11883)

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service

Belfast

BT9 7TS

**Email**

[roisin.mcdonald@hscni.net](mailto:roisin.mcdonald@hscni.net)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKN06 - Belfast

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://nibts.hscni.net/>

Buyer's address

[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=)

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

Welsh Blood Service

Pontyclun

CF72 9WB

#### **Email**

[rachel.evans41@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:rachel.evans41@wales.nhs.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UKL - Wales

#### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.welsh-blood.org.uk/#>

Buyer's address

[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=)

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

The contract involves joint procurement

### **I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk>

#### **I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

#### **I.5) Main activity**

Health

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Managed Service

Reference number

NSS003724

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 50421000 - Repair and maintenance services of medical equipment

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service and Welsh Blood Service all require a fully integrated microbiology managed service system for NAT (Nucleic Acid Testing). This includes equipment, maintenance, consumables, spare parts, upgrades, training, clinical education material, remote diagnostics, reporting and supports all to deliver a final result to the Authority's information management system. Mandatory assays include the ability to detect HCV RNA, HBV DNA, HIV RNA, HEV RNA, B19V DNA and HAV RNA in plasma/serum samples from blood donors and HCV RNA, HIV RNA, HBV DNA, HEV RNA, B19V DNA and HAV RNA in plasma/ serum samples from tissue and stem cell donors.

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

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

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 50421000 - Repair and maintenance services of medical equipment

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

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

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

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service and the Welsh Blood Service each require a fully integrated microbiology managed service system for NAT (Nucleic Acid Testing). This includes equipment, maintenance, consumables, spare parts, upgrades, training, clinical education material, remote diagnostics, reporting and supports all to deliver a final result to the Authority's information management system. Mandatory assays include the ability to detect HCV RNA, HBV DNA, HIV RNA, HEV RNA, B19V DNA and HAV RNA in plasma/serum samples from blood donors and HCV RNA, HIV RNA, HBV DNA, HEV RNA, B19V DNA and HAV RNA in plasma/ serum samples from tissue and stem cell donors.

The Authorities currently have the ability to detect Hepatitis C (HCV) ribonucleic acid (RNA), Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) RNA and Hepatitis B (HBV) deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in donations from blood, tissue and stem cell donors.

Tissue and stem cell donations may only be tested as individual donations for HCV RNA, HBV DNA, HIV RNA. SNBTS test various tissue and stem cell blood samples as singletons but do not carry out any testing on non-heart beating donations. An approximate indication of volumes for this testing is 1500 samples per annum.

The Authorities currently have the ability to detect Hepatitis E (HEV)) in donations from blood, tissue and stem cell donors. The successful Bidders system must be capable of detecting HEV RNA. (95% of donations will be tested in pools, 5% as ID NAT).

SNBTS currently have the ability to detect B19 DNA and HAV RNA in donations from blood, tissue and stem cell donors. If screening is performed in minipools, B19 testing must ensure that B19 DNA can be detected at a level that will ensure less than 104 IU/mL of B19V DNA in homogenous plasma pools.

WNV Testing is currently performed as a discretionary test by SNBTS and WBS and will possibly be introduced during the lifespan of the contract by NIBTS.

The routine screening period for WNV RNA commences each year on 1st May and ends 31st December however there is still a requirement to undertake a limited amount of screening in the intervening period. The requirements for WNV RNA testing are reviewed annually.

The Authorities uses a combination of Serum, EDTA plasma and EDTA gel collection tubes for all microbiological screening and the successful Bidders system must therefore be validated for both sample types.

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

Quality criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 20

Price - Weighting: 80

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

84

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Authority shall be entitled, at its option, to continue this Agreement beyond the Initial Term for three (3) twelve (12) Contract Month periods subject to giving not less than nine (9) Contract Months' notice to the Contractor.

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **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 III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

List and brief description of selection criteria

As per Section 4B of the SPD Bidders must provide information on Economic and Financial Standing in the section of the SPD relating to this.

4B (1.71.3) – Last 3 years' general/average turnover

Insurance Requirements:

4B (1.71.12)

Employer's (Compulsory) Liability: Five Million Pounds Sterling (GBP 5,000,000)

Public Liability: Five Million Pounds Sterling (GBP 5,000,000)

Product Liability: Five Million Pounds Sterling (GBP 5,000,000)

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

List and brief description of selection criteria

As per Section 4C (question 1.74.3 - 4C.1.2) of the SPD Bidders must provide information on Services in the section of the SPD relating to this.



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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

29 November 2024

Local time

2:00pm

#### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

#### **IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

29 November 2024

Local time

12:00pm

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.2) Information about electronic workflows**

Electronic ordering will be used

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

The buyer is using PCS-Tender to conduct this ITT exercise. The Project code is 27691.  
For more information see:

<http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/info/InfoCentre.aspx?ID=2343>

(SC Ref:780835)

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

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

Court of Session

Parliament House, Parliament Square

Edinburgh

EH1 1RQ

Country

United Kingdom