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Tender

## Cell Sorter for Biological Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-036605

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b5df

Published 12 November 2024, 3:15pm

The closing date and time has been changed to:

**17 December 2024, 12:00pm**

See the [change notice](#).

## Section I: Contracting authority

### I.1) Name and addresses

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

HIGHFIELD CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY ROAD

SOUTHAMPTON

SO171BJ

### Contact

Danielle Stephenson

### Email

[procurement@soton.ac.uk](mailto:procurement@soton.ac.uk)

**Telephone**

+44 2380595000

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKJ32 - Southampton

**UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number)**

10007158

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/universityofsouthampton.aspx/Home>

**I.3) Communication**

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

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/universityofsouthampton>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/universityofsouthampton.aspx/Home>

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

Other type

Higher Education Institution not subject to PCR 2015 regulations

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

Education

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## **Section II: Object**

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

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

Cell Sorter for Biological Sciences

Reference number

2024UoS-1337

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

- 38500000 - Checking and testing apparatus

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

Supplies

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

Biological Sciences have a requirement for a cell sorter, an instrument with the capability to separate and sort a mixed population of biological cells into different fractions for analysis or ongoing growth in separate cultures.

Once sorted, cells must be kept sterile and uncontaminated, the cell sorter will have the capability of sorting populations into a multi-well plate format inside an integral biological safety cabinet.

This requirement includes training for University staff and ongoing technical and experimental support.

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £745,000

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 33197000 - Medical computer equipment
- 38431000 - Detection apparatus
- 38432000 - Analysis apparatus

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

NUTS codes

- UKJ32 - Southampton

Main site or place of performance

University of Southampton

University Road

Southampton

SO17 1BJ

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

This procurement builds on a pressing need for a system capable of spectral high-performance, multi-parameter fluorescence-activated cell/nucleus sorting that will serve a cross-disciplinary consortium of research groups in life sciences at the University of Southampton and external academic and industrial collaborators within the South of England, investigating the mechanisms underpinning human health and aging, and food and environmental sustainability. The system will integrate significant advancements in cell and nuclear sorting, allowing the highest power, performance, and flexibility, enabling researchers across diverse disciplines in biological and computational sciences and bioengineering, with the highest relevance to those interested in temporal and spatial

changes in cell states within tissues and microbial and environmental systems and how this defines their heterogeneities, functional relationships, and interaction with their environment.

The advanced multi-parameter sorter will act as a hub that catalyses new cross-disciplinary collaborations between its diverse user base, from basic biology to bioengineering and biotechnology. This will be facilitated through established regional partnerships with the BBSRC National Biofilm and Innovation Centre (NBIC) and South Coast Biosciences Doctoral Partnership (SoCoBio DTP).

The University proposes to enter into a Contract for 39 months with the successful tenderer(s).

This will comprise of an initial contract period of 39 months for the provision of the cell sorter including a 12 month warranty with a 36 month support and maintenance (to run concurrently) subject to the satisfactory performance and at the discretion of the University.

The contract will be effective on signing. The initial term of the warranty of 12 months will run from the date of acceptance of the equipment.

Contract Value: 745,000GBP

All related services, training and maintenance MUST be included within this proposal.

Details of current expenditure or potential future uptake are given as a guide based on past purchasing or current planning to assist you in the preparation of your Tender. They should not be interpreted as an undertaking to purchase any goods or services to any particular value and do not form part of the Contract.

Please note, the University of Southampton no longer meets the criteria of a 'body governed by public law' and is therefore not considered a contracting authority for the purposes of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and/or any replacement legislation. This procurement process is not regulated by UK (or EU) public procurement law.

Where the University of Southampton advertises contracts, through any public sector tender portal, it does so on a voluntary basis by way of transparency and to encourage open competition, but it is not required to comply with the procurement legislation. For the purpose of procuring the goods/services described, the University is acting in accordance with its internal financial regulations and the procedure detailed in the Invitation to Tender document set.

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

Quality criterion - Name: Hardware Requirement / Weighting: 2

Quality criterion - Name: Software Requirement / Weighting: 4

Quality criterion - Name: Automation / Weighting: 11

Quality criterion - Name: Detection and discrimination of specimens for ongoing sorting into multiple fractions / Weighting: 8

Quality criterion - Name: Experimental Flexibility / Weighting: 4

Quality criterion - Name: Output / Weighting: 8

Quality criterion - Name: Input / Weighting: 6

Quality criterion - Name: Acceptance / Weighting: 2

Quality criterion - Name: Warranty and Service Provision Requirements / Weighting: 5

Quality criterion - Name: Training and Delivery Requirements / Weighting: 5

Quality criterion - Name: Sustainability Requirements / Weighting: 5

Price - Weighting: 40

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £745,000

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

Duration in months

39

This contract is subject to renewal

No

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

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

## **II.2.14) Additional information**

The risk of dividing the requirement into Lots would render the execution of the contract excessively technically difficult, not cost effective.

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

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

#### **III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers**

List and brief description of conditions

To support the financial assessment, the University will obtain a Business Risk Report for all Tenderers and every organisation that is being relied on to meet this procurement, using an independent company called Creditsafe.

The University reserves the right to exclude a Tenderer or request provision of further assurances such as parent company/bank guarantee or performance bonds where a Tenderer's Business Risk Score is: "Moderate Risk"; "High Risk"; "Very High Risk"; or "Not Rated", based on the rating provided by Creditsafe

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

List and brief description of selection criteria

To support the financial assessment, the University will obtain a Business Risk Report for all Tenderers and every organisation that is being relied on to meet this procurement, using an independent company called Creditsafe.

The University reserves the right to exclude a Tenderer or request provision of further assurances such as parent company/bank guarantee or performance bonds where a Tenderer's Business Risk Score is: "Moderate Risk"; "High Risk"; "Very High Risk"; or "Not Rated", based on the rating provided by Creditsafe

Where a Business Risk Score from our external system is not available, then an alternative method of assessing financial standing will be used. This method is detailed within the Invitation to Tender document set.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

Tenderers are advised that a requirement of this procurement is to have in place, or commit to obtain prior to the commencement of the contract, the following minimum insurance levels:

Employers (Compulsory) Liability: £5 million GBP per occurrence.

Public Liability: £10 million GBP per occurrence.

Product Liability: £10 million GBP per occurrence and in aggregate

Professional Indemnity Insurance: £2 million GBP per occurrence.

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

List and brief description of selection criteria

Tenderers attention is drawn to the MANDATORY requirements of the award criteria:

Grounds for mandatory exclusion

- Mandatory technical requirements M1 to M7
- Failure to meet the minimum requested score for Highly Desirable requirements H1 to H6

Grounds for discretionary exclusion

- Economic & Financial Standing
- Insurance
- Compliance with equality legislation
- Health & Safety
- Legal requirements



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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: No

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

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

Originally published as:

Date

6 December 2024

Local time

12:00pm

Changed to:

Date

17 December 2024

Local time

12:00pm

See the [change notice](#).

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

English

#### **IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the**

## **tender**

Duration in months: 4 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

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

Date

7 December 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

Electronic payment will be used

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

E-Tendering Portal: The University is utilising an electronic tendering tool, In-Tend (<https://intendhost.co.uk/> universityofsouthampton) to manage this procurement and to communicate with potential suppliers and/or tenderers (as appropriate).

All documentation in relation to this tender can be downloaded from In-Tend.

Potential suppliers/tenderers are advised that there will be no hard copy documents issued and all communications with the University, including the submission of Selection Stage and/or Invitation to Tender responses will be conducted via In-Tend.

Regular monitoring of the portal is the responsibility of the potential supplier/tenderer.

If you are not already registered as a supplier with the University of Southampton, you will need to register in In-Tend in order to access the procurement documentation.

Once you have logged in as a supplier: click on 'Tenders'; locate the relevant project; and click 'View Details'. Once you are in the project screen, you will be able to register your organisation against the project and access all documentation by clicking 'Express Interest'.

Potential suppliers/tenderers are advised that formal expressions of interest in the project must be by way of completion and return of the relevant documents via In-Tend.

Further instructions for the submission of responses are below:

To submit your return:

1. Log in
2. Click 'Tenders'
3. Locate the relevant project
4. View details
5. Click on the tab relating to the relevant project stage (e.g. 'Invitation to Tender')
6. Click on the 'Attach Documents' button and upload your return.
7. Check ALL your response documents are uploaded and displayed in the 'My Tender Return' panel. The system will only permit your organisation to make one return.
8. Click the red 'Submit Return' button.

Please note, to preserve the integrity of the procurement, all communications with the University must be made via the correspondence function within In-Tend.

Publication of Award Details: The University intends to publish the value of any resulting contract at the award stage, and reserves the right to do so. By submitting a response, potential suppliers/tenderers are consenting to publication of this information unless otherwise agreed in advance with the University.

Costs and Expenses: Potential suppliers/tenderers are solely responsible for their costs and expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of responses and participation in this and all future stages of this procurement. Under no circumstances will the University be liable for any costs or expenses borne by potential suppliers/tenderers or any of their supply chain, partners or advisers in this procurement process.

The University is not liable for any costs in the event of the cancellation of this procurement process.

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

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

University of Southampton

Southampton

Email

[procurement@soton.ac.uk](mailto:procurement@soton.ac.uk)

Country

United Kingdom