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Award

Clinical Decision Support Software

Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-037564

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0428e9

Published 20 December 2023, 5:01pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

Beacon House

Cwmbran

NP44 3AB

Email

emma.burns@wales.nhs.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://nwssp.nhs.wales/ourservices/procurement-services/>

Buyer's address

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0221

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

Clinical Decision Support Software

Reference number

STW.5147

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

This contract is for the provision of clinical decision support software to be deployed within the NHS 111 Wales service. Remote clinical assessment is required following initial call taking to the service by a Call Handler.

A Call Handler will commence the non-clinical triage process, utilising separate non-clinical decision support software, to determine the condition of the patient and whether the patient subsequently needs to speak to a clinician. Remote clinical assessment will then either be undertaken by a clinician within the clinical decision support software or the call transferred to another software system, dependent upon the reason for the call and assigned clinical priority, to be assessed by another provider across NHS Wales urgent primary care services.

The software solution is required to provide clinical decision support software for clinicians in the NHS 111 Wales service to support the assessment and management of patients remotely.

In addition, the contract is for the supply of professional services to enable the implementation and training of the solution and as well as the relevant software licences for the software application itself. The contract is also for the supply of the associated ongoing support and maintenance services.

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: £3,175,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48800000 - Information systems and servers
- 48810000 - Information systems
- 48814000 - Medical information systems
- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKL - Wales

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This contract is for the provision of clinical decision support software to be deployed within the NHS 111 Wales service to enable clinicians to triage calls received.

A Call Handler will commence the non-clinical triage process, in sperate non-clinical decision support software supplied under a separate contract, to determine the condition of the patient and whether the patient subsequently needs to speak to a clinician. Following initial call taking by a Call Handler Remote clinical assessment will then subsequently be undertaken by a clinician within the clinical decision support software (to be supplied under this contract), signposted to another provider or the call transferred to a separate system, to be assessed, dependent upon the reason for the call and assigned clinical priority, by a another provider across NHS Wales urgent primary care services.

The clinical decision support software is required to support clinicians to assess and manage patients remotely. Calls are required to be passed from the patient management system into the clinical decision support software to reduce the risk of mistakes being made when entering new details. The solution is to allow subsequent calls to be matched to the previous assessments and repeat callers are to be highlighted to the clinician to help to manage patient care. Calls will then subsequently be required to be appropriately returned to the patient management system.

The clinical decision support software is required to include a series of protocols to allow the clinician to interpret the callers' symptoms and form a clinical governance structure to ensure efficient, effective, clinically appropriate and prudent healthcare for patients. The system is required to reduce variation in the assessment of conditions, ensuring a research, evidence-based approach to the assessment, offering transparency regarding advice to patients, support and alternative provision. The clinical decision support software is required to be able to support access to the NHS 111 Wales service via video and provide an intuitive, safe interface for end users.

The clinical decision support software must be able to work seamlessly with the patient management system and the non-clinical decision support software (supplied separately) to ensure safe and efficient transfer of patient details to and from remote clinical assessments. The solution is required to provide full digital clinical audit capability (Themes, Trends, Statistical Reporting on staff performance), allow seamless sharing of clinical information between service providers, and work intelligently with electronic patient care records systems.

In addition, this requirement is for the supply of professional services to enable the implementation and training of the solution and as well as the relevant software licences for the clinical decision support software this requirement is also for the supply of the associated ongoing software support and maintenance services.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Option to extend for a further period of 24 months in annual increments or for the full 24-month period at the sole discretion of the contracting authority.

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

- Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority

Explanation:

The legacy software currently utilised by the NHS 111 Wales service must be replaced as the software has reached end of life and the contract will expire on the 20th May 2024. A competitive dialogue procurement was undertaken to procure a replacement solution and a contract awarded but following a joint review of the project with the supplier a decision was reached to end the delivery of the replacement software solution. There is now an urgent need to replace the legacy software and the replacement must be fully implemented and go-live by the 30th April 2024, to safely decommission the legacy software and transition to the new software solution. This is to ensure NHS 111 Wales service provision can continue, with minimal disruption, in the interim to any future national NHS 111 Wales and urgent primary care strategic plans for a longer-term solution.

It is essential disruption is kept to a minimum whilst minimising implementation risks. Key requirements include:

- (1) Must be available for implementation without any further implications to develop and test the software whilst recognising configuration of the solution would be required.
- (2) Must be able to interface with the non-clinical decision support software and the patient management system without any constrained development time required.
- (3) End Users of the system must be able to be trained in the implementation timeframe available including training in the use of the clinical algorithms.
- (4) Data and information are required to be easily exported and information feeds provided to link the Welsh Ambulance Service internal data warehouse.
- (5) The system should be able to integrate with the Welsh Ambulance Services existing 999 system without significant impact to either system to allow improved call handling efficiencies as many calls originate from the 999 service as well as calls being passed from the 111 service to the 999 system.

Additional factors taken into consideration include quality and patient safety, business needs, access to the technology, the strategic fit and the supplier's capacity and capability.

The solution is required to maintain interoperability with NHS Wales Local Health Boards' urgent primary care systems. The level of complexity and the associated implementation lead-times have been considered as well as the impact upon end users of the system to minimise training complexities given the urgent need.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

STW.5147

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

20 December 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

Priority Solutions Inc.

110 S Regent St, STE 500

SLC

84111

Country

United States

NUTS code

- US - United States

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £3,170,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The Contract Value provided in this VEAT Notice is in aggregate and is inclusive of the 36-month term and the 24-month optional extension period.

This interim solution is being implemented to meet an urgent need to ensure operational services can seamlessly continue with minimal disruption and strategic procurement plans for a longer-term digital solution to meet NHS 111 Wales and urgent primary care needs will be re-visited and developed before the expiry of this contract.

(WA Ref:137521)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 2079477501

Country

United Kingdom