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Award

Time-lapse Incubation and Imaging System

QE Facilities

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-037867

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0429a1

Published 22 December 2023, 2:52pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

QE Facilities

Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Gateshead

NE9 6SX

Email

daniel.kelly11@nhs.net

Telephone

+44 01914452804

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gefacilities.co.uk/>

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**

Time-lapse Incubation and Imaging System

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 33100000 - Medical equipments

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Embryoscope - Time Lapse Incubation and Imaging System

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: £225,070.50

II.2) Description**II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 38434540 - Biomedical equipment

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

QE Facilities have a requirement to replace our existing Time-lapse Incubation and Imaging System situated in the IVF Laboratory, that supports assisted conception treatments. The equipment must have the ability to be able to continuously monitor embryo cell divisions while the embryos remain in the incubator with associated embryo selection software. The timelapse footage should be accessible to staff and patients. The equipment should be compatible with the existing Noblegen NG1 nitrogen generator and have the capacity for 8 dishes (min). This procurement aims to include purchase, associated consumables, installation, and ongoing service and maintenance.

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

- No tenders or no suitable tenders/requests to participate in response to open procedure
- The products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development
- 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:

A PIN was published to notify potentially interested suppliers of the upcoming procurement for the Time-lapse Incubation and Imaging System. The PIN only received one response which met the authorities requirement of the Time-Lapse Incubation and Imaging System. This response has led to the decision to directly award the contract to Vitrolife, for the procurement of the Embryoscope system, without conducting a formal tender procedure in accordance with article 32, whereby a direct award may be made in a situation where no suitable alternatives exist and a lack of competition for technical reasons occurs.

The Embryoscope incubation system is a unique and highly specialised product with no equivalent alternatives in the market. Vitrolife's technology, experience, and reputation in the field provide additional justification for the direct award.

Given the unique circumstances, namely the lack of interest shown in response to the PIN, and the unique nature of the Embryoscope incubation system, the authority feels it is justified to issue a VEAT notice for a direct award to Vitrolife. This process ensures the transparency of the contract award decision.

The authority will conclude the process and enter into a formal contract on Wednesday 3rd January 2024, subject to a 10 day standstill period which closes at 00:00 Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

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

Contract No

ITQ-23-75

Title

Time-Lapse Incubation System

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

22 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

Vitrolife Limited

1 Chapel Street

Warwick

CV34 4HL

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £225,070.50

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

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United Kingdom