Award

Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Long Read Instruments & Consumables

Genomics England

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice
Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-039504
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04c569
Published 6 December 2024, 5:12pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Genomics England

One Canada Square, Canary Wharf

London

E14 5AB

Contact

Paul Nicholson

Email

paul.nicholson@genomicsengland.co.uk

Telephone

+44 2078825030

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKI - London

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.genomicsengland.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

Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Long Read Instruments & Consumables

Reference number

GEL-SR-291-21-004

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 33696500 - Laboratory reagents

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The supply of instruments and consumables that provides a solution to enable investigations into methylation (5mC,5hmC), structural variant calling, copy number

variant analysis and single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) detection.

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: £5,234,229

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 33140000 - Medical consumables
- 33190000 - Miscellaneous medical devices and products
- 33696200 - Blood-testing reagents

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI - London

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Genomics England continues to explore long-read and methylation sequencing in cancer within the NHS and accurately to sequence genomes of under-represented and diverse ancestries with a view that this novel technology could open opportunities to identify not only known genomic features and aberrations but also those that are currently unidentifiable using existing sequencing technologies. This could facilitate immediate returns in diagnostic value to the NHS and reaping more meaningful rewards in the near future through more thorough analysis of the whole genome.

Long-read analytical methods are still in their infancy, Genomics England is building a knowledge hub around the trusted research environment for individuals to train their methods; in turn these methods feed into the clinical pipeline of the future. Nurturing the research environment will permit the discovery of new diagnostic and prognostic markers as well as potential new targets for drug discovery to benefit patients in the future.

Genomics England has a requirement to continue to purchase Long Read sequencing

technology to fulfil its needs in relation to its Cancer Programme, Diverse Data Programme and Newborns Long Read sequencing initiative.

The requirement is to provide sufficient consumables to meet the forecasts for remainder of FY24/25 and to fulfull the program outcomes. This relates to an initial purchase of 3900 flow cells and associated consumables, with the option to purchase a further 4400 flow cells and associated consumables for the programmed described above.

The requirement relates to continuing to purchase Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT) PromethION Flowcells to continue the studies using the same technology.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Genomics England can exercise an option to purchase up to an additional 4,400 flow cells and associated consumables at a cost of up to £2,774,772 under this notice.

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 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:

The Contracting Authority (i) has a legal personality; (ii) is mainly funded by the Department of Health and Social Care; and (iii) has been established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest and does not have an industrial or commercial character and therefore meets the definition of a "body governed by public law" under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("PCR"). The PCR covers "public contracts" which means contracts for pecuniary interest which have as their object the execution of works, the supply of products or the provision of services. The Contract is a goods or services contract under PCR, therefore, caught by the PCR and bound to follow public procurement rules.

Regulation 32(2)(b)(ii) PCR describes the single operator exclusion and is the premise for this award without prior publication. This specific exclusion relates to a demonstration that only Oxford Nanopore Technologies PLC could deliver the goods and services described for technical reasons and reasons of scalability, where the goods and services cannot be obtained from any other economic operator to continue to deliver the programme using the same long read whole genome sequencing technology. The scope of requirements in this notice are the basis for this assessment.

For technical reasons, it has been determined that Oxford Nanopore Technologies PLC are the only provider able to meet the justified requirements set out. Furthermore, they are also the only organisation able to deliver the requirement at the scale specified. Further details are provided within this notice and should be read in conjunction with this explanation.

The Contracting Authority will enter into a contract with Oxford Nanopore Technologies Limited following the conclusion of a minimum 10-day standstill period from the date of issue of this notice. The 10-day standstill period will end on Monday 16th December 2024 at 11.59pm GMT, enabling a contract to be signed from Tuesday 17th December 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

GEL-SR-291-21-004

Title

Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Long Read Instruments & Consumables

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

6 December 2024

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

Oxford Nanopore Technologies PLC

Oxford

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

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: £2,459,457

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £5,234,229

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

The High Court

Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom