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Tender

Anatomical Pathology Automation

Mid South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-046453

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051b20 ([view related notices](#))

Published 6 August 2025, 11:43am

Scope

Reference

PR-4808

Description

This Framework provides access to laboratory automation equipment for anatomical pathology across five lots: tissue embedding, block facing, slide preparation, storage systems, and block transportation.

Commercial tool

Establishes an open framework

A series of frameworks with substantially the same terms. Awarded suppliers are carried over and new suppliers can bid.

Total value (estimated)

- £33,333,333.33 excluding VAT
- £40,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 24 September 2025 to 24 September 2033
- 8 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 33124110 - Diagnostic systems
- 33124100 - Diagnostic devices
- 33910000 - Pathology dissection instruments and supplies
- 48921000 - Automation system

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Lot constraints

Description of how multiple lots may be awarded:

N/A

Lot 1. Automated Tissue Embedding Systems

Description

Provision of a system that is able to automate the process of embedding tissue specimens in paraffin to create tissue blocks and all associated services.

Lot value (estimated)

- £33,333,333.33 excluding VAT
- £40,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems

Description

Provision of a system that is able to provide automated facing of formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue blocks and all associated services.

Lot value (estimated)

- £33,333,333.33 excluding VAT
- £40,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems

Description

Provision of a system that is able to automate the process of sectioning paraffin blocks and mounting tissue sections onto glass slides and all associated services.

Lot value (estimated)

- £33,333,333.33 excluding VAT
- £40,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 4. Storage and Archiving Systems (for both blocks and slides)

Description

Provision of a system that is able to provide organised storage and retrieval of histological specimens, including both FFPE tissue blocks and microscope slides and all associated services.

Lot value (estimated)

- £33,333,333.33 excluding VAT
- £40,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 5. Block Transportation Systems

Description

Provision of a system that is able to automate the transport of FFPE blocks between laboratory workstations including embedding, microtomy, and storage areas and all

associated services.

Lot value (estimated)

- £33,333,333.33 excluding VAT
- £40,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 6. Aggregated Lot

Description

Aggregation of Lot option (1-5) is designed to accommodate suppliers who can offer more than one lot service provision, combining them under a single agreement. This approach ensures that the Participating Authorities have access to a variety of services either from a single supplier or a cooperative of suppliers, enhancing the convenience and adapting a solution to their needs.

Lot value (estimated)

- £33,333,333.33 excluding VAT
- £40,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Framework

Open framework scheme end date (estimated)

30 September 2033

Maximum number of suppliers

Unlimited

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

3%

Framework operation description

Suppliers will be ranked based on their technical and commercial scores at award stage of this Framework.

Call Off contracts will then be awarded via Direct Award or through further mini-competition with awarded suppliers under the applicable Lots. Specific technical and/or commercial elements will be awarded, scored and fed back on for all suppliers at framework award stage. Due to the unique nature of these services, they may align to a customers requirements in these areas. These unique requirements and service offerings will be differentiators at any call off stage, as well as any specific technical or commercial requirements presented by suppliers on the public sector landscape.

Award method when using the framework

Either with or without competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

The framework will be open to all UK contracting authorities as defined in Section 1 of the Procurement Act 2023. In particular, entities of a health and/or social care nature listed in the spreadsheet at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/economicstatisticsclassifications/introductiontoeconomicstatisticsclassifications> are envisaged as users.

This includes each organisation's successors, assigns, equivalents, and associated bodies formed through organisational changes. The framework is open to: any UK health/social care bodies; organisations with similar procurement needs; and UK central government authorities listed in Annex I of Directive 2014/24/EU, where still relevant under retained EU law and consistent with the Procurement Act 2023.

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

Lot 1. Automated Tissue Embedding Systems

Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems

Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems

Lot 4. Storage and Archiving Systems (for both blocks and slides)

Lot 5. Block Transportation Systems

Lot 6. Aggregated Lot

As per "ITT Guidance - Framework - Anatomical Pathology Automation" and PSQ requirements.

Particular suitability

Lot 1. Automated Tissue Embedding Systems

Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems

Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems

Lot 4. Storage and Archiving Systems (for both blocks and slides)

Lot 5. Block Transportation Systems

Lot 6. Aggregated Lot

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

25 August 2025, 3:00pm

Tender submission deadline

1 September 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Via the Bravo Solutions Portal ONLY -

<https://healthtrusteurope.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

9 September 2025

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Technical (Including Social Value)	Quality	70%
Cost	Cost	30%

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Justification for not publishing a preliminary market engagement notice

Market engagement was undertaken, though a pre-market engagement notice was not issued due to prior notices already covering the scope. Under the Pathology Solutions Prior Information Notice (PIN) (OCID: ocids-h6vhtk-0468c3), 20 suppliers were consulted across two lots via Teams meetings. For Slide Storage, a Preliminary Market Engagement (PME) notice was published, and discussions with 5 suppliers identified an urgent need for a procurement route focused on specialised storage and archiving for blocks and slides. This requirement aligns more effectively with the Anatomical Pathology Automation Framework, offering a streamlined approach for customer engagement. HTE considers the elapsed engagement period sufficient to confirm market readiness.

Contracting authority

Mid South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

- NHS Organisation Data Service: RAJ

Nether Mayne

Basildon

SS16 5NL

United Kingdom

Contact name: Customer Care

Telephone: 01268 524900

Email: customercare@htepg.com

Website: <https://www.mse.nhs.uk/>

Region: UKH37 - Essex Thames Gateway

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

HealthTrust Europe LLP

Summary of their role in this procurement: On 11th August 2021, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSE) published a contract notice for procurement partner services. HealthTrust Europe LLP (HTE) was selected to provide these services under the MSE Framework, including access to HTE's public sector frameworks. HTE is now conducting this procurement exercise as part of its services to the Customers under the MSE Framework.

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B15 1NU

United Kingdom

Contact name: Customer Care

Telephone: 08458875000

Email: customercare@htepg.com

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Contact organisation

Contact HealthTrust Europe LLP for any enquiries.