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Planning

Supply of Event-Based Blood Type Testing Kits & At-Home Blood Type Testing Kits

NHS Blood and Transplant

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-046781

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-058318

Published 7 August 2025, 10:29am

Scope

Description

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is seeking to engage with the market to explore potential solutions for the supply of high-quality, user-friendly blood type testing kits. This initiative is a key component of NHSBT's strategy to enhance public engagement with blood donation and increase the number of individuals who become regular blood donors, with a particular focus on recruiting donors of less common blood types.

The anticipated scope of this procurement includes the provision of reliable blood type testing consumables suitable for:

- **Event-Based Testing:** The supply of easily transportable and manageable quantities of testing kits for use at public awareness events and bespoke organizational sessions across the UK. These kits must be suitable for rapid deployment and use by trained NHSBT staff or volunteers in non-clinical settings. Packaging should facilitate efficient transport and storage in small to medium volumes.
- **Direct-to-Consumer Self-Testing:** The provision of lightweight and robust blood type testing kits suitable for secure and efficient distribution via standard postal services (e.g.,

Royal Mail) or through partner distribution routes, directly to members of the public for self-administration in their homes. Kits must be designed for ease of use by individuals without medical expertise and must adhere to all relevant postal regulations.

NHSBT anticipates a potential annual requirement in the range of:

- 100-125k event-based kits supplied in component form
- 25-50k pre-assembled home testing kits

Suppliers should be able to demonstrate the accuracy and reliability of their testing methodologies, ideally holding relevant certifications such as CE marking for in vitro diagnostic medical devices. Kits must prioritize user safety, ease of interpretation of results, and have a suitable shelf life.

Interested suppliers are invited to provide information on their capabilities, including, but not limited to: product specifications, production capacity, packaging and logistics solutions, experience in supplying similar products (ideally within the healthcare sector), potential for innovative solutions, and indicative cost structures.

This Preliminary Market Engagement aims to inform NHSBT's procurement strategy and refine our requirements. Responses to this notice will be treated as preliminary market intelligence and will not constitute a formal tender process.

Next Steps: Following the review of responses, NHSBT may issue a Supplier questionnaire, hold supplier webinars or issue a formal contract notice.

Contact for Responses: Sahithi Bandi <sahithi.bandi@nhsbt.nhs.uk>

Total value (estimated)

- £700 excluding VAT
- £840,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 2 March 2026 to 1 March 2030
- Possible extension to 1 March 2033
- 7 years

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 33141620 - Medical kits

Engagement

Engagement deadline

5 September 2025

Engagement process description

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Response Deadline: 5/09/2025

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 October 2025

Contracting authority

NHS Blood and Transplant

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDBY-6395-VWBP

203 Longmead Rd, Avon

Bristol

BS16 7FG

United Kingdom

Contact name: Sahithi Bandi

Email: sahithi.bandhi@nhsbt.nhs.uk

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

Region: UKK12 - Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government