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Award

Purchase and installation of an automated pipetting system (incorporating a Tecan Freedom EVO 150cm liquid handler)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-057820

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059d71 ([view related notices](#))

Published 18 September 2025, 3:51pm

Scope

Description

The purchase will incorporate the following equipment:

A) An Infinium Automated Pipetting System with ILASS automation control software, incorporating a Tecan Freedom EVO 150cm liquid handler with robotic manipulator arm (RoMa) and accessories.

B) A custom barcode reader and PosID system for running the Infinium Assay workflow and integrating this with the laboratory management system (EPIC).

C) Infinium XT Starter Kit (48 Beadchip) 220V including upgrade of all necessary peripheral equipment needed to perform the assay.

The equipment will be supplied directly from Illumina Cambridge Ltd.

Contract 1

Supplier

- ILLUMINA CAMBRIDGE LIMITED

Contract value

- £206,615.39 excluding VAT
- £247,938.47 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

1 October 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026
- 6 months

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

Contract locations

- UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

The East Genomics strategy is to progressively repatriate wet lab testing to Cambridge over a period of time. The reduction in lab space at Leicester and ageing equipment at Nottingham are both factors in choosing to repatriate Microarray capacity to the CUH laboratory in the next year and to end the process at both of the Igls.

The CUH genomics laboratory needs to invest in additional equipment to support the

consolidation of the East Genomics Microarray service at Cambridge. There is an obsolescence issue with the current configuration of equipment and the introduction of a new Array which is not backward compatible. The laboratory cannot perform the upgrade of the equipment and transfer to the new Array without significant interruption to testing. There is not sufficient capacity to repatriate all the existing testing even before accounting for future growth.

The plan is therefore to purchase a new pipetting system configured for the new array. This can be used to achieve QA approval of the process without impacting on current testing volumes. Once complete, the existing Array can be updated to the new version and then repatriation of testing from Igls can occur in 25/26.

The Cambridge laboratory acquired an Infinium pipetting system with Tecan Freedom EVO 150cm liquid handler in 2020 to introduce a high-throughput microarray test. The lab delivers over 6,000 results a year using this platform testing young patients with suspected rare-disorders, pregnancy cases to aid decision making on termination of pregnancies, as well as blood cancer patients including participation in a national Altogether trial for paediatric leukaemia.

Illumina upgraded their offering of the 'Excaliber' assay protocol in June 2024. It streamlines sample preparation workflows and reduces errors which will save input time from laboratory staff.

The existing system needs to be updated to this protocol within two years to avoid running with an unsupported assay. This requirement has shaped our approach to increasing the liquid handling capacity at Cambridge. Purchasing another system at this point allows the laboratory to install and QA approve the new configuration without reducing current capacity. Once completed, all liquid handling will run through the new equipment whilst the upgrade to the 'Excaliber' protocol is completed on our existing equipment. The repatriation can then progress during the with an aim to be complete for April 2026.

Supplier

ILLUMINA CAMBRIDGE LIMITED

- Companies House: 03625145

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJYV-5767-DHDP

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Cambridge

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United Kingdom

Email: tenderseurope@illumina.com

Website: <http://www.illumina.com>

Region: UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

- NHS Organisation Data Service: RGT
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPCP-8863-HDGN

Hills Rd

Cambridge

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United Kingdom

Email: kevin.macey1@nhs.net

Region: UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

Organisation type: Public authority - central government