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Award

Rio Community EPR

NORTH CUMBRIA INTEGRATED CARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-062952

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05a9be

Published 7 October 2025, 3:27pm

Scope

Reference

C338836

Description

This is a community EPR for women and children.

Contract 1

Supplier

- ACCESS UK LTD

Contract value

- £208,267 excluding VAT
- £249,921 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

7 October 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 7 October 2025 to 15 September 2027
- 1 year, 11 months, 9 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems
- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

Participation

Particular suitability

Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Special regime

Light touch

Direct award justification

- Single supplier - technical reasons
- Additional or repeat goods, services or works - extension or partial replacement

Key justifications

Single-supplier technical dependency: The current Community EPR is deeply integrated with local workflows, interfaces, device endpoints, and vendor-specific data structures, making immediate replacement technically impractical and unsafe.

Continuity of clinical care and patient safety: Any interruption, parallel migration, or hurried cutover risks data loss, access delays, and clinical safety incidents for core community services.

Interoperability with existing systems: The incumbent provides proven, live interfaces to acute EPRs, pathology, community devices, and commissioning feeds that would require time-consuming re-engineering if changed.

Data migration and integrity risk: Preserving a stable supported platform until a carefully planned migration reduces the likelihood of corrupted historical records, audit gaps, and downtime.

Co-terming and strategic procurement alignment: Extending the incumbent allows the Trust to co-term community and acute solutions so the forthcoming competitive procurement can target a single, comprehensive EPR, improving future competition and total cost of ownership.

Time required for safe procurement and transition: A competitive tender, detailed clinical evaluation, implementation planning, and a safe transition window require a multi-year runway that a direct award extension provides.

Value for money compared with stop-gap replacement: Replacing the system now would incur duplicate costs for parallel licensing, re-training, new interfaces, and accelerated implementation premiums, which outweigh a limited extension to the incumbent.

Supplier capability and service continuity: Access UK Ltd has demonstrable operational support, local experience, and existing contractual responsibility for system maintenance and clinical uptime.

Financial and commercial rationale

Avoidance of sunk and duplicate costs: Extending the incumbent prevents immediate duplication of licensing, integration, and training costs that would be unavoidable with a fast replacement.

Controlled procurement spend: A fixed-term extension allows budgeting and consolidation of bids in the downstream tender, improving negotiation leverage and total contract value control.

Reasonable short-term pricing lever: The direct award can include performance and pricing reviews to protect value for money during the extension term.

Supplier

ACCESS UK LTD

- Companies House: 02343760
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBNW-7697-HCPQ

Armstrong Building Oakwood Drive

Loughborough

LE11 3QF

United Kingdom

Email: servelec.lg.bids@theaccessgroup.com

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

Region: UKF22 - Leicestershire CC and Rutland

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

NORTH CUMBRIA INTEGRATED CARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

- NHS Organisation Data Service: RNN
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDXN-7482-RVVM

Cumberland Infirmary, NCIC Trust HQ, Pillars Building, Infirmary Street

Carlisle

CA2 7HY

United Kingdom

Email: ncicpurchasing@mbht.nhs.uk

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

Region: UKD12 - East Cumbria

Organisation type: Public authority - central government