

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/064540-2025>

Planning

Slide Storage

Mid South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

UK3: Planned procurement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-064540

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-050cfd ([view related notices](#))

Published 13 October 2025, 8:28am

Scope

Reference

PR-4691

Description

Storage, Retrieval and Management Solutions for Pathology Samples, Blocks and Slides associated consumables, software and services.

Offsite archive storage and retrieval services for:

- Glass slides and their associated documentation.
- Wax blocks and their associated documentation.

Includes associated software solutions to support with the management, archive, retrieval of pathology samples (in any form).

Includes consumables associated with management, archive, retrieval of pathology

samples (in any form).

Includes scanning slides as a service and then ongoing storage and retrieval of the glass slides and images.

Key services covered:

- Storage (physical and virtual)
- Retrieval / Transport
- Management of Inventory
- Scanning projects
- Software / IMS
- Consumables associated

Items covered:

- pathology glass slides of tissue samples;
- wax blocked with fixed tissue samples;
- any other sample or tissue sample originating within a pathology department in any format;
- associated documentation with any of the above.

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)

- £100,000,000 excluding VAT
- £120,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 19 January 2026 to 18 January 2029
- Possible extension to 18 January 2034
- 8 years

Description of possible extension:

Commencement Date of first Framework.

Duration of first framework: 3 years.

Re-opening of first framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Second framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

Re-opening of second framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Third framework commencement and duration: 3 years

HTE reserves the right to extend each of the frameworks above by a further 12 months in line with section 49 of the Procurement Act. The maximum period of the Framework shall be 8 years including any extension options that have been applied.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 63121000 - Storage and retrieval services
- 63122000 - Warehousing services
- 85111800 - Pathology services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom
-

Lot 1. Lot 1: Storage, Retrieval and Management of Pathology Samples

Description

Core requirements: Physical storage and management of Pathology Samples and associated records, retrieval of Pathology Samples and transportation, inventory management, destruction of Pathology Samples.

Optional requirements: provision of consumables associated with the Core requirements.

Lot value (estimated)

- £40,000,000 excluding VAT
- £48,000,000 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. Lot 2: Pathology Slide Scanning Services and Solutions

Description

Core requirements: Off Site Pathology slide scanning to generate Whole Slide Images, electronic retrieval services Whole Slide Images and retrieval of Pathology Samples and transportation.

Optional requirements: Physical storage and management of Pathology Samples and associated records, inventory management, Virtual Storage Solutions, Image Management Systems and AI solutions, provision of consumables associated with the Core requirements, destruction of Pathology Samples, deletion of Whole Slide Images and associated records.

Lot value (estimated)

- £40,000,000 excluding VAT
- £48,000,000 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. Lot 3: Specialised Stem Cell Storage

Description

Core Requirements: Physical storage and management of stem cells in appropriate conditions and associated records, retrieval of stem cells and transportation in appropriate conditions, inventory management, destruction of stem cells.

Lot value (estimated)

- £10,000,000 excluding VAT
- £12,000,000 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. Lot 4: Aggregated Lot

Description

Aggregation of Lot option (1-3) 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)

- £30,000,000 excluding VAT

- £36,000,000 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)

18 January 2034

Maximum number of suppliers

Unlimited

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. Lot 1: Storage, Retrieval and Management of Pathology Samples

Lot 2. Lot 2: Pathology Slide Scanning Services and Solutions

Lot 3. Lot 3: Specialised Stem Cell Storage

Lot 4. Lot 4: Aggregated Lot

As per "ITT Guidance - Framework - Slide Storage" and PSQ requirements.

Technical ability conditions of participation

Lot 1. Lot 1: Storage, Retrieval and Management of Pathology Samples

Lot 2. Lot 2: Pathology Slide Scanning Services and Solutions

Lot 3. Lot 3: Specialised Stem Cell Storage

Lot 4. Lot 4: Aggregated Lot

As per "ITT Guidance - Framework - Slide Storage" and PSQ requirements.

Particular suitability

Lot 1. Lot 1: Storage, Retrieval and Management of Pathology Samples

Lot 2. Lot 2: Pathology Slide Scanning Services and Solutions

Lot 3. Lot 3: Specialised Stem Cell Storage

Lot 4. Lot 4: Aggregated Lot

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

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

10 November 2025

Enquiry deadline

19 November 2025, 3:00pm

Tender submission deadline

26 November 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<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)

12 December 2025

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Technical (including 10% Social Value)	Quality	70%
Commercial	Cost	30%

Procedure**Procedure type**

Open procedure

Reduced tendering period

Yes

Qualifying planned procurement notice - minimum 10 days

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.

- Companies House: OC358224

19 George Road

Birmingham

B15 1NU

United Kingdom

Contact name: Customer Care

Telephone: 08458875000

Email: customercare@htepg.com

Website: <https://www.healthtrusteurope.com>

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Contact organisation

Contact HealthTrust Europe LLP for any enquiries.