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Tender

Purchase of International Specialist Courier Services for APHA

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-064911

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-054f3f ([view related notices](#))

Published 13 October 2025, 4:21pm

Scope

Description

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) require a specialist courier supplier to manage the secure, time-critical collection and international delivery of approximately 2,000 consignments per year. While these volumes are indicative and cannot be guaranteed, the consignments include high-risk materials classified as Category A (UN2814 & UN2900) and Category B (UN3373), which must be transported both within the UK (including Northern Ireland) and globally, covering Europe, Non-EU countries, and other international destinations. Due to the specialist nature of the consignments, the suppliers must hold appropriate licenses for the transportation of infectious substances, manage chilled and dry ice shipments, provide import services, and navigate complex customs clearance procedures.

Total value (estimated)

- £955,000 excluding VAT
- £1,146,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 February 2026 to 31 March 2028
- Possible extension to 31 March 2030
- 4 years, 1 month, 31 days

Description of possible extension:

Extensions will be subject to service demand and satisfactory contract performance.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 64120000 - Courier services
- 64121000 - Multi-modal courier services
- 64100000 - Post and courier services
- 60411000 - Scheduled airmail transport services
- 60400000 - Air transport services
- 64113000 - Postal services related to parcels
- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)
- 60161000 - Parcel transport services
- 64121200 - Parcel delivery services

- 64110000 - Postal services
- 64121100 - Mail delivery services
- 60421000 - Non-scheduled airmail transport services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom
-

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

5 November 2025, 12:00pm

Submission type

Tenders

Tender submission deadline

14 November 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Any questions, requests to participate or tender submissions must be submitted electronically via this portal.

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

30 January 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 1 September 2029

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Technical Evaluation	Quality	50.00%
Commercial Evaluation	Cost	50.00%

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Competitive flexible procedure description

Following the evaluation of both Stage 1 of Technical and Commercial, the authority reserves the right to reissue the technical evaluation questions, pricing schedule, or any part thereof to the two highest scoring bidders, or any other bidder that has scored within 3% (total score) of the highest scoring bidder, for a Best and Final Offer (BAFO). This is an optional stage for the Authority to ensure that the Most Advantageous Tender is selected, that the requirement has been fully understood, and that bidders are provided a fair chance to compete where the Authority does not feel ready to award after Stage 1 evaluation. Bidders should submit their best possible tender and price in the first instance,

as it is not guaranteed that this stage will be used.

Contracting authority

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBHC-6261-BLLQ

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: network.procurement@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

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.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Summary of their role in this procurement: Defra is working on the procurement on behalf of the APHA.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: network.procurement@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Contact organisation

Contact [ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY](#) for any enquiries.