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Award

## Anatomical Pathology Automation

Mid South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-065126

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051b20 ([view related notices](#))

Published 14 October 2025, 12:02pm

## Scope

## Reference

PR-4808

## Description

This Framework provides access to laboratory automation equipment for anatomical pathology across five lots: tissue embedding, block facing, slide preparation, storage systems, and block transportation.

## Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

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## **Lot 1. Automated Tissue Embedding Systems**

### **Description**

Provision of a system that is able to automate the process of embedding tissue specimens in paraffin to create tissue blocks and all associated services.

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## **Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems**

### **Description**

Provision of a system that is able to provide automated facing of formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue blocks and all associated services.

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## **Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems**

### **Description**

Provision of a system that is able to automate the process of sectioning paraffin blocks and mounting tissue sections onto glass slides and all associated services.

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## **Lot 4. Storage and Archiving Systems (for both blocks and slides)**

### **Description**

Provision of a system that is able to provide organised storage and retrieval of histological specimens, including both FFPE tissue blocks and microscope slides and all associated services.

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## **Lot 5. Block Transportation Systems**

### **Description**

Provision of a system that is able to automate the transport of FFPE blocks between laboratory workstations including embedding, microtomy, and storage areas and all associated services.

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## **Lot 6. Aggregated Lot**

### **Description**

Aggregation of Lot option (1-5) 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.

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## **Contract 1. HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions - Axlab Ltd**

## **Lots**

Lot 1. Automated Tissue Embedding Systems

Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems

Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems

Lot 4. Storage and Archiving Systems (for both blocks and slides)

Lot 5. Block Transportation Systems

Lot 6. Aggregated Lot

## **Supplier**

- Axlab Ltd

## **Contract value**

- £40,000,000 excluding VAT
- £48,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Above the relevant threshold

## **Award decision date**

19 September 2025

## **Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers**

6 October 2025

## **Standstill period**

- End: 23 October 2025
- 8 working days

## **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

24 October 2025

## **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 27 October 2025 to 26 October 2027
- Possible extension to 26 October 2033
- 8 years

Description of possible extension:

Commencement Date of first Framework.

Duration of first framework: 2 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: 2 years.

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

Fourth framework commencement and duration: 2 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**

Goods

## **CPV classifications**

- 33124110 - Diagnostic systems
  - 33124100 - Diagnostic devices
  - 33910000 - Pathology dissection instruments and supplies
  - 48921000 - Automation system
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## **Contract 2. HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions - Technopath Distribution Ltd**

## **Lots**

Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems

Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems

Lot 6. Aggregated Lot

## **Supplier**

- Technopath Distribution Ltd

## **Contract value**

- £40,000,000 excluding VAT
- £48,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Above the relevant threshold

### **Award decision date**

19 September 2025

### **Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers**

6 October 2025

### **Standstill period**

- End: 23 October 2025
- 8 working days

### **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

24 October 2025

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 27 October 2025 to 26 October 2027
- Possible extension to 26 October 2033
- 8 years

Description of possible extension:

Commencement Date of first Framework.

Duration of first framework: 2 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: 2 years.

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

Forth framework commencement and duration: 2 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**

Goods

## **CPV classifications**

- 33124110 - Diagnostic systems
  - 33124100 - Diagnostic devices
  - 33910000 - Pathology dissection instruments and supplies
  - 48921000 - Automation system
-



## Information about tenders

### Lot 1. Automated Tissue Embedding Systems

- 1 tender received
  - 1 tender assessed in the final stage:
    - 1 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
    - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
  - 1 supplier awarded contracts
  - 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
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### Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems

- 2 tenders received
  - 2 tenders assessed in the final stage:
    - 1 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
    - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
  - 2 suppliers awarded contracts
  - 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
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### Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems

- 2 tenders received
- 2 tenders assessed in the final stage:
  - 1 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
  - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

- 2 suppliers awarded contracts
  - 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
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#### **Lot 4. Storage and Archiving Systems (for both blocks and slides)**

- 1 tender received
  - 1 tender assessed in the final stage:
    - 1 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
    - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
  - 1 supplier awarded contracts
  - 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
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#### **Lot 5. Block Transportation Systems**

- 1 tender received
  - 1 tender assessed in the final stage:
    - 1 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
    - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
  - 1 supplier awarded contracts
  - 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
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#### **Lot 6. Aggregated Lot**

- 2 tenders received
- 2 tenders assessed in the final stage:
  - 1 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

- 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 2 suppliers awarded contracts
- 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

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## Procedure

### Procedure type

Open procedure

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## Suppliers

### Axlab Ltd

- Companies House: 14471643

112c High Street

Ipswich

IP7 5EL

United Kingdom

Email: [matt.anderton@axlab.co.uk](mailto:matt.anderton@axlab.co.uk)

Region: UKH14 - Suffolk

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions -  
Axlabs Ltd

### **Technopath Distribution Ltd**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYBC-6237-DXNL

1A-1D Fort Henry Business Park

Tipperary

V94 N248

Ireland

Email: [mary.doyle@techno-path.com](mailto:mary.doyle@techno-path.com)

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 2. HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions -  
Technopath Distribution Ltd

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## 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](mailto:customercare@htepg.com)

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

Region: UKH37 - Essex Thames Gateway

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

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## 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](mailto:customercare@htepg.com)

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

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## Contact organisation

Contact HealthTrust Europe LLP for any enquiries.