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Contract

Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Managed Service

The Common Services Agency (more commonly known as NHS National Services Scotland) ("NSS")

Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service

Welsh Blood Service

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-066855

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b094

Published 20 October 2025, 4:43pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

The Common Services Agency (more commonly known as NHS National Services Scotland) ("NSS")

Gyle Square (NSS Head Office), 1 South Gyle Crescent

Edinburgh

EH12 9EB

Contact

Gordon Dickson

Email

gordon.dickson@nhs.scot

Telephone

+44 1313145522

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM - Scotland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.nss.nhs.scot/browse/procurement-and-logistics>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA11883

I.1) Name and addresses

Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service

Belfast

BT9 7TS

Email

roisin.mcdonald@hscni.net

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKN06 - Belfast

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://nibts.hscni.net/>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=

I.1) Name and addresses

Welsh Blood Service

Pontyclun

CF72 9WB

Email

rachel.evans41@wales.nhs.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKL - Wales

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.welsh-blood.org.uk/#>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract involves joint procurement

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Managed Service

Reference number

NSS003724

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 50421000 - Repair and maintenance services of medical equipment

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service and Welsh Blood Service all require a fully integrated microbiology managed service system for NAT (Nucleic Acid Testing). This includes equipment, maintenance, consumables, spare parts, upgrades, training, clinical education material, remote diagnostics, reporting and supports all to deliver a final result to the Authority's information management system. Mandatory assays include the ability to detect HCV RNA, HBV DNA, HIV RNA, HEV RNA, B19V DNA and HAV RNA in plasma/serum samples from blood donors and HCV RNA, HIV RNA, HBV DNA, HEV RNA, B19V DNA and HAV RNA in plasma/ serum samples from tissue and stem cell donors.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £7,300,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 50421000 - Repair and maintenance services of medical equipment

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service and the Welsh Blood Service each require a fully integrated microbiology managed service system for NAT (Nucleic Acid Testing). This includes equipment, maintenance, consumables, spare parts, upgrades, training, clinical education material, remote diagnostics, reporting and supports all to deliver a final result to the Authority's information management system. Mandatory assays include the ability to detect HCV RNA, HBV DNA, HIV RNA, HEV RNA, B19V DNA and HAV RNA in plasma/serum samples from blood donors and HCV RNA, HIV RNA, HBV DNA, HEV RNA, B19V DNA and HAV RNA in plasma/ serum samples from tissue and stem cell donors.

The Authorities currently have the ability to detect Hepatitis C (HCV) ribonucleic acid (RNA), Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) RNA and Hepatitis B (HBV) deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in donations from blood, tissue and stem cell donors.

Tissue and stem cell donations may only be tested as individual donations for HCV RNA, HBV DNA, HIV RNA. SNBTS test various tissue and stem cell blood samples as singletons but do not carry out any testing on non-heart beating donations. An approximate indication of volumes for this testing is 1500 samples per annum.

The Authorities currently have the ability to detect Hepatitis E (HEV)) in donations from blood, tissue and stem cell donors. The successful Bidders system must be capable of detecting HEV RNA. (95% of donations will be tested in pools, 5% as ID NAT).

SNBTS currently have the ability to detect B19 DNA and HAV RNA in donations from blood, tissue and stem cell donors. If screening is performed in minipools, B19 testing must ensure that B19 DNA can be detected at a level that will ensure less than 104 IU/mL of B19V DNA in homogenous plasma pools.

WNV Testing is currently performed as a discretionary test by SNBTS and WBS and will possibly be introduced during the lifespan of the contract by NIBTS.

The routine screening period for WNV RNA commences each year on 1st May and ends 31st December however there is still a requirement to undertake a limited amount of screening in the intervening period. The requirements for WNV RNA testing are reviewed annually.

The Authorities uses a combination of Serum, EDTA plasma and EDTA gel collection tubes for all microbiological screening and the successful Bidders system must therefore be validated for both sample types.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 20

Price - Weighting: 80

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Authority shall be entitled, at its option, to continue this Agreement beyond the Initial Term for three (3) twelve (12) Contract Month periods subject to giving not less than nine (9) Contract Months' notice to the Contractor.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-034339](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

NSS03724

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

17 October 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 2

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 2

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 2

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Roche Diagnostics Ltd

Charles Avenue

Burgess Hill

RH15 9RY

Telephone

+44 1444256000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £7,300,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

(SC Ref:808450)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Court of Session

Parliament House, Parliament Square

Edinburgh

EH1 1RQ

Country

United Kingdom