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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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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=](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](mailto: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=](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

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## **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

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## **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](#)

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## **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



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## **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