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Planning

Provision of Rapid Freezing Technology for Human Plasma

NHS Blood and Transplant

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-066969

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d067

Published 21 October 2025, 9:56am

Scope

Description

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is considering procurement of a multi-year contract for the provision of rapid freezing technology. The technology is required to rapidly and simultaneously freeze a large number of blood packs and/or bottles containing human plasma from processed whole blood donations or from apheresis plasma collections. This plasma is targeted either for use in plasma fractionation or for direct patient transfusion.

Solution must include:

- o The procurement must provide the required equipment, installation and any additional works required
- o Service and maintenance contract
- o Some exceptions may apply (example EMS integration)
- Key objectives and expected outcomes:

- o Rapid plasma freezer supplied to freeze plasma and meet specifications documented in SPN342 - Processing Timelines and Component Guidelines and SPN1479 - specification for a Bulk Rapid Plasma Freezer
- o Ensure equipment meets throughput demand with minimal down time
- o Procure equipment that can be utilised in a department that runs 24 hours/ 365 days per year
- o Contract that can accommodate future requirements
- o Supply and maintain equipment anywhere in England
- o Response times that both parties can agree (must be able to maintain throughput)
- o NHSBT need the capability to validate the equipment as part of tender exercise and for final use
- o The requirement to extract freeze cycle data and the ability to interact with 2D barcode scanning or RFID
- o Schedule of replacement, installation and delivery must enable current throughput to be maintained
- o Reliable freezer which is easily maintained and serviceable

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Total value (estimated)

- £1,500,000 excluding VAT
- £1,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2030
- 4 years

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 33100000 - Medical equipments
- 39711124 - Industrial freezers
- 42513100 - Freezing equipment

Engagement

Engagement deadline

4 November 2025

Engagement process description

Sessions are for information gathering only. Suppliers should ensure any shared information is non-confidential or clearly marked if confidential. NHSBT will not reimburse suppliers for preparation or travel. Further instructions and session agendas will be provided following registration.

Engagement sessions will be held virtually via MS Teams.

Estimated engagement period: November or December 2025. Specific dates and times will be shared with registered suppliers.

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 February 2026

Contracting authority

NHS Blood and Transplant

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDBY-6395-VWBP

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Bristol

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Region: UKK12 - Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government