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Award

LUV01414 Purchase of C Trap Dymo 400 by direct award

University of Leicester

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-068160

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d34f ([view related notices](#))

Published 24 October 2025, 12:05pm

Scope

Reference

LUV01414

Description

The University of Leicester, School of Chemistry, is expanding its capabilities for studying the dynamics of single biomolecules. To support this work, funding has been secured from BBSRC to procure a highly specialised instrument: the C-Trap Dymo 400 Optical Tweezers-Fluorescence Microscope, manufactured by Lumicks B.V.. This instrument integrates cutting-edge optical trapping, confocal fluorescence microscopy, and laminar flow microfluidics into a single, coherent system.

The C-Trap® Dymo 400 will be installed at the University to support high-precision, realtime studies of molecular interactions, particularly in areas involving DNA-protein complexes, RNA structures, ubiquitin structures and cytoskeletal filament dynamics. It includes multi-colour confocal fluorescence (488, 561, 638 nm), dual force detection (x,y), short tether capabilities, microfluidics, and full system integration with proprietary Bluelake software, all required to maintain the scientific edge of our ongoing biophysical and molecular biology research.

To view this notice, please click here:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/delta/viewNotice.html?noticeId=989210923>

Contract 1

Supplier

- Lumicks B.V.

Contract value

- £988,570 excluding VAT
- £988,570 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

28 November 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 December 2025 to 31 July 2026
- 8 months

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 33100000 - Medical equipments

Contract locations

- UKF21 - Leicester

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

This procurement is being undertaken via a single-source route due to the unique technical capabilities of the C-Trap® Dymo 400 and the exclusive rights held by its manufacturer, LUMICKS B.V..

The unique elements of this are:

- Optical tweezers encompassing multiple trapping sites (4),
- Multi-colour confocal fluorescence microscopy, and
- Multi-channel laminar flow microfluidics.

These technologies are protected by several granted patents, including: US9952421, EP3256254B1 (optical traps), US9766180, EP3004848B1 (fluorescence imaging), S11156513B2 (optical force measurement) and EP3737756B1 (DNA supercoiling).

No other commercially available instrument can provide simultaneous, correlated force-distance-fluorescence measurements with the required resolution and sensitivity.

Key performance features exclusive to the C-Trap include:

- Force resolution 0.1 pN and drift stability 0.3 pN over 2 minutes
- Confocal localisation precision 15 nm
- Real-time imaging of single molecules under physiological flow conditions
- Escape force 1000 pN, allowing for broad biological applicability
- Integrated hardware/software for fast setup and automated experimental workflows.

Additionally, the system includes a complete service and application support package, exclusive training kits, and proprietary components that are not available from any other provider.

Supplier

Lumicks B.V.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMQC-7912-PDQN

Paalbergweg 3

Amsterdam

1105AG

Netherlands

Email: m.brettpitt@lumicks.com

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

University of Leicester

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPNM-4297-VLCH

University Road

Leicester

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United Kingdom

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Region: UKF21 - Leicester

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government