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Planning

Market Engagement for Third-Party Contingency Support for Decontamination Services in Scotland

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

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-069633

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d6e2

Published 30 October 2025, 10:22am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

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

1 South Gyle Crescent

Edinburgh

EH12 9EB

Email

william.mcculloch@nhs.scot

Telephone

+44 1312756000

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.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

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

Market Engagement for Third-Party Contingency Support for Decontamination Services in Scotland

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 42924720 - Decontamination equipment

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The National Decontamination Collaborative Programme is seeking market feedback and information to inform potential future procurement of reserved third-party contingency support for decontamination services across Scotland's 14 Central Decontamination Units (CDUs) reprocessing approximately 40 million instruments every year to service all Scotland's hospitals.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Background:

The main objectives of NHSScotland's decontamination services are:

- Clean, disinfect and sterilise Reusable Medical Devices (RMDs) to strict standards, set in national policy and guidance;
- deliver the correct set of products at the correct time and places, in accordance with agreement with service users e.g. theatre, clinics etc.

CDUs are required to comply with a range of legal and technical requirements, guidance, and documentation systems to process RMDs that are fit for purpose and reduce risks to patient safety. CDUs are registered with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (if applicable) and compliant with Medical Devices Regulations. They must operate their quality management system to BS 13485: 2021 and regulatory requirements. They are audited at least annually by an Approved body.

Scotland's CDUs are facing increasing pressure to provide sufficient capacity during unplanned outages. Recent unplanned outages have disrupted service delivery and impacted patient care. There is currently not enough internal contingency processing capacity available to support Boards during such outages.

Purpose of this PIN:

This PIN is issued as part of a preliminary market consultation. It does not signify the start of a formal procurement process but aims to:

- Assess market capability to provide reserved capacity for processing approximately 1.5m re-usable medical devices per year.
- Identify suitably accredited suppliers with the reprocessing capabilities to support the range of services supplied by decontamination services
- Understand indicative costs for providing such contingency capacity.
- Invite innovative solutions and ideas to enhance the resilience of Scotland's decontamination services through additional processing capacity.

Key Considerations:

- Frequency of contingency support requirement is variable and can't be predicted. The number of un-planned outages tend to impact services for a period of 7 days up to 8 weeks.
- Capacity may also be used for increased workload, not just during planned and un-planned outages.
- The feedback will inform future strategy and potential procurement options.

Next Steps:

Interested suppliers are invited to express interest and provide relevant information, including:

- Capability statements
- Indicative cost information for such services
- Suggestions for service resilience and contingency planning

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

30 November 2025

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Contact Information:

Responses and enquiries should be directed to - William McCulloch

william.mcculloch@nhs.scot

Deadline for Responses: 30/11/2025

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=814261.

(SC Ref:814261)