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Planning

External Quality Assessment (EQA) service for the tests listed in the Genomic Test Directory

NHS England

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-069861

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d767

Published 30 October 2025, 4:23pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS England

Wellington House, 133-135 Waterloo Rd

London

SE1 8UG

Contact

Collette Palmer

Email

collette.palmer@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ1 - Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

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

External Quality Assessment (EQA) service for the tests listed in the Genomic Test Directory

Reference number

C397948

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit (AGCSU), on behalf of NHS England Specialised Commissioning (referred to as the Commissioner), is undertaking a market engagement exercise to understand the current and future capacity and capability for the provision of NHS Genomic Medicine Service (GMS) External Quality Assessment (EQA) service for the tests listed in the Genomic Test Directory services across England from potential providers within this specialised commissioning area.

Interested parties are encouraged to register their interest and participate in the market questionnaire which will provide feedback to commissioners. Please note that this is not a call for competition although the commissioner would encourage all potential providers to respond to this market engagement exercise.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £2,400,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit (AGCSU), on behalf of NHS England Specialised Commissioning (referred to as the Commissioner), is undertaking a market engagement exercise to understand the current and future capacity and capability for the provision of NHS Genomic Medicine Service (GMS) External Quality Assessment (EQA) service for the tests listed in the Genomic Test Directory services across England from potential providers within this specialised commissioning area.

Interested parties are encouraged to register their interest only if they are able to deliver the full list of the requirements. Participation to this market engagement will close at 12 noon of Friday 21st November 2025.

The NHS Genomic Laboratory Hub (GLH) Service Specification requires each NHS GLH to:

The NHS Genomic Laboratory Hub (GLH) Service Specification requires each NHS GLH to:

- Deliver the genomic tests which are prescribed in the NHS National Genomic Testing Directory (the Directory);
- Participate and achieve satisfactory performance in UKAS-accredited (or newly developed pilots offered in compliance with ISO 17043) external quality assurance schemes to assure the quality of testing, analysis, interpretation and reporting of tests prescribed in the Directory, including Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), in the following areas:

The anticipated contract duration for this service is 2 years, with an option to extend the contract by a further 1 year period at the Commissioner's discretion. The total contract value of £2,400,000.00 includes the 1 year option to extend.

If, as a result of the market engagement, competition is absent or minimal, the Commissioner may use the Most Suitable Provider Process or Direct Award Process C. Where competition is absent, Direct Award Process A will be utilised.

Following market engagement and review of capable providers, the Commissioner will consider the most appropriate PSR process to formally commission this service.

NHS England (National) Specialised Commissioning is the contracting and commissioning authority for this service. To register your interest and access the questionnaire, please follow this link:

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

The project reference is C397948 and the closing date for submission of the completed questionnaire is: 12 noon Friday 21st November 2025.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

30 January 2026

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