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Planning

250153 Contract for the supply, delivery, and installation of a high accuracy, high performance, multifunctional, large volume co-ordinate measuring machine for the automated inspection of large volume, high value manufactured components

Queen's University Belfast

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-070577

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d942 ([view related notices](#))

Published 3 November 2025, 4:06pm

Scope

Reference

250153

Description

Queen's University of Belfast want to procure a high accuracy, high performance, multifunctional, large volume co-ordinate measurement machine for the automated inspection of large volume, high value, manufactured components for local aerospace, civil, maritime and green technology industries.

The co-ordinate measuring machine will be used as an all-purpose flexible CMM for the dimensional inspection of large components for general industry. Typical products

expected to be inspected are tooling and fixturing, machined parts, composite structures and assemblies for the aerospace industry. It will need to have the capability of accessing deep features as well as scanning and measuring complex free form shapes.

The machine will need to provide flexibility, high throughput, high accuracy, as well as high reliability with minimal maintenance.

The machine will be installed in a dedicated climate-controlled metrology laboratory, but we require the machine to be equipped with temperature compensation system and protection from airborne contaminants.

The machine will need to be equipped initially with an automatic indexing probe head and with tactile probing and tactile scanning capabilities. The machine connectivity, controls and software will need to be able to support the addition of other sensors in the future, such as laser scanners, non-contact sensors, optical sensors or surface roughness probes. It will need to have the ability to support the provision of automatic interchange of multiple sensors and styli.

The machine will be utilised primarily for research purposes, resulting in lower hours run compared to a manufacturing environment.

Total value (estimated)

- £450,000 excluding VAT
- £540,000 including VAT

Contract dates (estimated)

- 9 February 2026 to 9 February 2027
- Possible extension to 9 February 2037
- 11 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 38300000 - Measuring instruments
- 38340000 - Instruments for measuring quantities

Engagement

Engagement deadline

30 May 2025

The engagement was carried out before this notice was published.

Engagement process description

The engagement was carried out before this notice was published.

Queen's staff have undertaken pre market engagement activity including discussions with a

number of companies.

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The activity was undertaken in order to:

1- gain a better understanding of what the market can offer and if the market was capable of

responding to a tender in relation to this requirement;

2- identify potential suppliers for the requirement;

3- understand potential lead times, and

4- gain an understanding of the commercial profile for the requirement.

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

4 November 2025

Contracting authority

Queen's University Belfast

- Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: 101788

University Rd

Belfast

BT7 1NN

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@qub.ac.uk

Region: UKN06 - Belfast

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland