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Tender

DNA, Anthropology & Genealogy Services

Ministry of Defence

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-073712

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05e0dd

Published 13 November 2025, 4:48pm

Scope

Reference

715683456

Description

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), Commemorative casework team are responsible for co-ordinating efforts to establish the identity of historic human remains recovered from battlefields and aircraft crash sites involving British service personnel and arranging a fitting burial. Anthropology and DNA analysis may be required to assist with confirming the identities of the remains where other methods have

proved inconclusive. Genealogy services may also be required to assist in the identification process.

Key Requirements

The Contractor must be compliant with the Forensic Science Society or other appropriate industry standards including ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (General Requirements for the

Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories) and ISO9001:2000 (Quality Management Systems).

The Contractor will be required to obtain DNA profiles from both human remains (teeth or bone samples) and individuals who volunteer to provide a comparison sample.

The Contractor must be able to undertake DNA profiling of the Y chromosome, to access the paternal lineage and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) to determine the maternal lineage of human remains such as bone and/or tissue samples (within 1 month of receiving a sample for Y and 2 months for mtDNA).

The Contractor must have the resources and expertise to process and obtain DNA profiles for the Authority and produce a report within the time frames specified. (Whilst the number of profiles required will vary depending on casework volumes the estimated requirement will be for comparison tests on between 10 and 100 sets of remains per year):

The Contractor must be able to visit any global location deemed safe to travel to by FCDO, to undertake either a basic or full anthropological, osteological and genetic analysis of remains within 2 months of requesting. If the remains are co-mingled, the contractor will be expected to sort the skeletons into individuals, where possible, to make identification easier. The Contractor must be able to obtain the most effective DNA sample typically from teeth or long bones from recovered remains.

The number of cases will vary depending on the number of remains recovered and therefore it is not possible to say how many cases the Authority will require the Contractor to undertake, however as a guide there have been 15 cases in the last 12 months. The contractor will be requested to undertake cases as required on a call-off basis. No business whatsoever is guaranteed under any resulting framework agreement or contract indeed there is no guarantee that any framework agreement or contract will be put in place in relation to this notice. No compensation etc. will be paid if a tender or resulting framework agreement is withdrawn for any reason. Bidders should take part in this process only on the basis that they fully understand and accept this position.

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Total value (estimated)

- £416,666.67 excluding VAT
- £500,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2028
- Possible extension to 30 April 2030
- 4 years

Description of possible extension:

In this contract there will be 2x1 year extension options where the Authority can enact at their discretion.

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

In this contract there will be 2x1 year extension options where the Authority can enact at their discretion.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 71900000 - Laboratory services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom
-

Framework

Maximum number of suppliers

1

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

0%

Framework operation description

This contract will be with one supplier, where tasks will be called-off on an adhoc basis.

Award method when using the framework

With competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

Establishing party only

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

As detailed on the Defence Sourcing Portal Qualification Envelope.

Technical ability conditions of participation

As detailed on the Defence Sourcing Portal Qualification Envelope, where suppliers will be required to demonstrate that they or the nominated supply chain have the technical capability/capacity to fulfill the requirement .

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

9 February 2026, 10:00am

Tender submission deadline

17 February 2026, 10:00am

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://contracts.mod.uk/esop/guest/go/opportunity/detail?opportunityId=60381>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

30 April 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 13 November 2027

Award criteria

Name	Type
Value for Money Index	Cost

Weighting description

Value for Money Index (where the technical score will be divided by the price)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Justification for not publishing a preliminary market engagement notice

A review of the supply market shows that although there is the provision of DNA services, like paternity testing by several suppliers, there is a low number of suppliers that can meet the specific forensic services sought after by the Authority. This market is oligopolistic. Because of this, and low engagement of previous renditions of this contract, the Authority believes there is no need to conduct preliminary engagement for this requirement.

Contracting authority

Ministry of Defence

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHVX-4316-ZVGZ

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Gloucester

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Email: DefComrcl-HOBP4Team@mod.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence>

Region: UKK13 - Gloucestershire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government