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Contract

Anatomical Pathology Automation

Mid South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-079230

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051b20 ([view related notices](#))

Published 3 December 2025, 10:43am

Scope

Reference

PR-4808

Description

This Framework provides access to laboratory automation equipment for anatomical pathology across five lots: tissue embedding, block facing, slide preparation, storage systems, and block transportation.

Commercial tool

Establishes an open framework

A series of frameworks with substantially the same terms. Awarded suppliers are carried over and new suppliers can bid.

Lot 1. Automated Tissue Embedding Systems

Description

Provision of a system that is able to automate the process of embedding tissue specimens in paraffin to create tissue blocks and all associated services.

Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems

Description

Provision of a system that is able to provide automated facing of formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue blocks and all associated services.

Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems

Description

Provision of a system that is able to automate the process of sectioning paraffin blocks and mounting tissue sections onto glass slides and all associated services.

Lot 4. Storage and Archiving Systems (for both blocks and slides)

Description

Provision of a system that is able to provide organised storage and retrieval of histological specimens, including both FFPE tissue blocks and microscope slides and all associated services.

Lot 5. Block Transportation Systems

Description

Provision of a system that is able to automate the transport of FFPE blocks between laboratory workstations including embedding, microtomy, and storage areas and all associated services.

Lot 6. Aggregated Lot

Description

Aggregation of Lot option (1-5) is designed to accommodate suppliers who can offer more than one lot service provision, combining them under a single agreement. This approach ensures that the Participating Authorities have access to a variety of services either from a single supplier or a cooperative of suppliers, enhancing the convenience and adapting a solution to their needs.

Framework

Open framework scheme end date (estimated)

6 November 2033

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

3%

Framework operation description

Commencement Date of first Framework.

Duration of first framework: 2 years.

Re-opening of first framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Second framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

Re-opening of second framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Third framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

Re-opening of third framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Forth framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

HTE reserves the right to extend each of the frameworks above by a further 12 months in line with section 49 of the Procurement Act. The maximum period of the Framework shall be 8 years including any extension options that have been applied.

Award method when using the framework

Either with or without competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

The framework will be open to all UK contracting authorities as defined in Section 1 of the Procurement Act 2023. In particular, entities of a health and/or social care nature listed in

the spreadsheet at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/economicstatisticsclassifications/introductiontoeconomicstatisticsclassifications> are envisaged as users.

This includes each organisation's successors, assigns, equivalents, and associated bodies formed through organisational changes. The framework is open to: any UK health/social care bodies; organisations with similar procurement needs; and UK central government authorities listed in Annex I of Directive 2014/24/EU, where still relevant under retained EU law and consistent with the Procurement Act 2023.

Contract 1. HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions - Axlab Ltd

Lots

Lot 1. Automated Tissue Embedding Systems

Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems

Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems

Lot 4. Storage and Archiving Systems (for both blocks and slides)

Lot 5. Block Transportation Systems

Lot 6. Aggregated Lot

Supplier

- Axlab Ltd

Contract value

- £40,000,000 excluding VAT
- £42,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Below the relevant threshold

Date signed

6 November 2025

Contract dates

- 6 November 2025 to 5 November 2027
- Possible extension to 5 November 2033
- 8 years

Description of possible extension:

Commencement Date of first Framework.

Duration of first framework: 2 years.

Re-opening of first framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Second framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

Re-opening of second framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Third framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

Re-opening of third framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Forth framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

HTE reserves the right to extend each of the frameworks above by a further 12 months in line with section 49 of the Procurement Act. The maximum period of the Framework shall be 8 years including any extension options that have been applied.

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 33124110 - Diagnostic systems
- 33124100 - Diagnostic devices
- 33910000 - Pathology dissection instruments and supplies
- 48921000 - Automation system

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Signed contract documents

[HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions - Axlab Ltd CDN.pdf](#)

Contract 2. HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions - Technopath Distribution Ltd

Lots

Lot 2. Tissue Block Facing Systems

Lot 3. Automated Slide Preparation Systems

Lot 6. Aggregated Lot

Supplier

- Technopath Distribution Ltd

Contract value

- £40,000,000 excluding VAT
- £42,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Below the relevant threshold

Date signed

6 November 2025

Contract dates

- 6 November 2025 to 5 November 2027
- Possible extension to 5 November 2033
- 8 years

Description of possible extension:

Commencement Date of first Framework.

Duration of first framework: 2 years.

Re-opening of first framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Second framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

Re-opening of second framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Third framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

Re-opening of third framework to Tenderers 6 months before expiry.

Fourth framework commencement and duration: 2 years.

HTE reserves the right to extend each of the frameworks above by a further 12 months in line with section 49 of the Procurement Act. The maximum period of the Framework shall be 8 years including any extension options that have been applied.

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 33124110 - Diagnostic systems
- 33124100 - Diagnostic devices
- 33910000 - Pathology dissection instruments and supplies
- 48921000 - Automation system

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Signed contract documents

[HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions - Technopath Distribution Ltd CDN.pdf](#)

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Suppliers

Axlab Ltd

- Companies House: 14471643

112c High Street

Ipswich

IP7 5EL

United Kingdom

Email: matt.anderton@axlab.co.uk

Website: <https://axlab.co.uk/>

Region: UKH14 - Suffolk

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions -
Axlabs Ltd

Technopath Distribution Ltd

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYBC-6237-DXNL

1A-1D Fort Henry Business Park

Tipperary

V94 N248

Ireland

Email: mary.doyle@techno-path.com

Website: <https://www.techno-path.com/>

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 2. HTE Framework Anatomical Pathology Automation Terms and Conditions -
Technopath Distribution Ltd

Contracting authority

Mid South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

- NHS Organisation Data Service: RAJ

Nether Mayne

Basildon

SS16 5NL

United Kingdom

Contact name: Customer Care

Telephone: 01268 524900

Email: customercare@htepg.com

Website: <https://www.mse.nhs.uk/>

Region: UKH37 - Essex Thames Gateway

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

HealthTrust Europe LLP

Summary of their role in this procurement: On 11th August 2021, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSE) published a contract notice for procurement partner services. HealthTrust Europe LLP (HTE) was selected to provide these services under the

MSE Framework, including access to HTE's public sector frameworks. HTE is now conducting this procurement exercise as part of its services to the Customers under the MSE Framework.

- Companies House: OC358224

19 George Road

Birmingham

B15 1NU

United Kingdom

Contact name: Customer Care

Telephone: 08458875000

Email: customercare@htepg.com

Website: <https://www.healthtrusteurope.com>

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Contact organisation

Contact HealthTrust Europe LLP for any enquiries.