Market Consultation

Oxygen Regulators and Oxygen Autochange Manifolds

Project: C143156

Version Number: 1

Date: 07/03/2023

# Introduction

* 1. This information note and accompanying information is being made publicly available to any organisations which are able to supply Oxygen Regulators and Oxygen Autochange Manifolds.
  2. For avoidance of doubt **THIS IS NOT** a call for competition
  3. This is a market consultation. The purpose is to advise suppliers of the potential Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) procurement, gain an understanding of the market appetite for supplying these products, and seek feedback from potential suppliers that may inform the final specifications and/or procurement approach to the services.
  4. This builds on a commitment to engage with the market, by sharing information and seeking input from the market to enable us to develop the final requirement and tender documentation in a fair and transparent manner. This exercise is to ensure that all tenderers have a clear understanding of the Department’s requirement and help reduce the number of questions that may be raised in the Tender Period.

# Background

* 1. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department purchased a range of medical devices to be used in the pandemic response and held them centrally. Equipment was deployed to support the local response of NHS hospitals to pandemic surges.
  2. Included within that stockpile were pressure regulators that enabled the use of high-pressure oxygen cylinders, improving oxygen capacity. The Department is now looking to consolidate that improved capacity within NHS hospitals with the potential purchase of further regulators and autochange manifolds that can be used with those higher capacity oxygen cylinders

1. **requirement** 
   1. DHSC may have a future requirement to purchase up to 4,000 Oxygen Regulators and up to 200 Oxygen Autochange Manifolds.
   2. These would be needed from April 2023.
   3. Further details on the Departments requirements for Oxygen Regulators and Oxygen Autochange Manifolds can be found in Annex A.
2. **Guidance for completion of questionairre** 
   * 1. The questionnaire which forms part of this consultation is to support the potential future procurement of Oxygen Regulators and Oxygen Autochange Manifolds.
     2. To maximise the success of this engagement and any subsequent procurement process we request that suppliers are open and honest in their responses and provide as much detail as possible.
     3. Participation in this market consultation is voluntary. It is not required to provide an answer to every question if questions are not relevant.
     4. The Department wishes to encourage participation at this stage in order to ensure a wide number of responses. This market consultation process does not form part of the formal procurement process. When and if the formal procurement process commences, any interested supplier will need to take the actions communicated by DHSC at that time in order to participate in the procurement. All supplier bids will be evaluated on the same basis.
     5. The completed questionnaire should be returned via email to [ccsinbox@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:ccsinbox@dhsc.gov.uk) quoting **‘Oxygen Regulators & Autochange Manifolds’ no later than 5pm on Thursday 23rd March 2023.**
     6. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) applies to the Department. You should be aware of the Department 's obligations and responsibilities under the FOIA to disclose, on written request, recorded information held. Information provided by you in connection with this procurement exercise, or with any Contract that may be awarded as a result of this exercise, may therefore have to be disclosed in response to such a request, unless the Department decides that one of the statutory exemptions under the FOIA applies. The Department may also include certain information in the publication scheme which it maintains under the FOIA.
     7. In certain circumstances, and in accordance with the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the FOIA or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Department may consider it appropriate to ask you for your views as to the release of any information before a decision on how to respond to a request is made. In dealing with requests for information under the FOIA, the Department must comply with a strict timetable and the Department would, therefore, expect a timely response to any consultation within two working days.
     8. You may provide information which is confidential in nature and which you may wish to be held in confidence. You must give a clear indication which type of material is to be considered confidential and why it is considered to be so, along with the time period for which it will remain confidential in nature. The use of blanket protective markings such as "commercial in confidence" will no longer be appropriate. In addition, marking any material as confidential or equivalent should not be taken to mean that the Department accepts any duty of confidentiality by virtue of such marking. Please note that even where you have indicated that information is confidential the Department may be required to disclose it under the FOIA if a request is received.
     9. The Department cannot accept that trivial information or information which by its very nature cannot be regarded as confidential should be subject to any obligation of confidence.
     10. In certain circumstances where information has not been provided in confidence, the Department may still wish to consult with you about the application of any other exemption such as that relating to disclosure that will prejudice the commercial interests of any party.
     11. The decision as to which information will be disclosed is reserved to the Department notwithstanding any consultation with you.
     12. Whilst the Department expects to proceed to procurement in due course, there is no obligation to do so as a consequence of this early market engagement activity.
     13. The publication of any documents at this stage is intended to provide potential suppliers with the opportunity to view and comment on a draft specification and proposed procurement routes for the requirement. The Department does not intend to be bound by any information at this stage. The Department makes no commitment to accept recommendations or suggestions. Once published, the Invitation to Tender will contain the final requirements in relation to this service. All previous versions, including any documents published at this stage should be disregarded.
     14. The Department of Health and Social Care (The Department) will make the final decision whether to proceed to a formal procurement and if so, on the content of the Invitation to Tender documentation having considered feedback.

Kind regards,

**Corporate and Clinical Services, Commercial Lifecycle**

**Commercial Directorate, Department of Health & Social Care**

**39 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Name of Supplier:**

Name of authorised representative in block letters:

Position:

Date:

Signature:

**(This should be completed by the Supplier or an authorised representative in his / her own name and on behalf of the company / organisation completing this questionnaire)**

**Please do not sell your organisation, this is just to understand your interest in the project and gather feedback.**

1. **gauging the level of interest**
   1. Are you a supplier of the required products?

*Enter text here*

* 1. If you have answered yes to the above, what option applies to you?
     1. We can only supply Oxygen Regulators
     2. We can only supply Oxygen Autochange Manifolds
     3. We can supply both Oxygen Regulators and Oxygen Autochange Manifolds
  2. What delivery capacity does your organisation have for these products in Q1 or Q2 of 2023/24?

1. **requirements**
   1. Do the Requirements provide you with a clear understanding of the products that may be procured? Would you require any additional information in a full specification?
2. **Implementation activities**
   1. How long would you require for delivery of these products from the contract signature date?
3. **COmmercial**
   1. Are you currently on, or in the process of joining, a Framework Agreement suitable for Central Government Buyers?
   2. If you have answered yes to the question above, please name the framework(s) below.
   3. Is the budget specified for Oxygen Regulators in Annex A reasonable for the Departments potential purchasing requirements?

Please clearly explain the rational for your answer.

* 1. Is the budget specified for Oxygen Autochange Manifolds in Annex A reasonable for the Departments potential purchasing requirements?

Please clearly explain the rational for your answer.

* 1. Could the Department make these purchases with a lower budget? How might this be achieved?

1. **Other feedback**
   1. Please use this section to provide any additional information or questions which you feel might be of value or to highlight any additional items that need to be taken into consideration.

**Annex a – statement of requirements**

**Oxygen Regulators**

The Department may look to purchase up to 4,000 single stage medical oxygen regulators. These would enable high capacity/pressure medical Oxygen cylinders without integral valves to be used as temporary medical Oxygen supplies directly from the cylinder, where a continuous supply isn’t needed.

The oxygen regulators that may be required must:

* + Have an Inlet connection ISO 5145
  + Have an Outlet connection BS 5682
  + Have an inlet pressure of 10 to 300 bar to enable use of a range of medical Oxygen cylinders without an integral valve
  + Have an outlet pressure of 4 bar
  + Comply with all relevant regulations and guidelines for use in the English NHS, including:
    - * 1. ISO 10524-2 Pressure regulators for use with medical gases
        2. UKCA / CE marked medical device

The maximum budget available for the purchase of up to 4,000 oxygen regulators is £458,333 (Excl. VAT).

**Oxygen Autochange Manifold**

The Department may look to purchase up to 200 devices that:

* + Will be used as a temporary, continuous medical Oxygen supply system to supplement an existing pipeline system e.g. ward level supply where the ordinary medical gas pipeline system supply has temporary failure / interruption.
  + Will be used as a temporary, plural (up to four) continuous medical Oxygen supply directly from the device e.g. for stand up/escalation patient beds where there isn’t access to a medical gas pipeline system

The oxygen autochange manifolds must:

* + Have the capacity to use at least two cylinders with an autochange manifold so that each device provides a continuous supply of medical Oxygen but remains easily portable within a medical setting
  + Provide a flow of up to 75l/min per outlet
  + Have an Inlet connection ISO 5145
  + Have Outlet connections with a combination of both BS 5682 and NIST
  + Have an inlet pressure of 230 bar to enable use of a range of medical Oxygen cylinders
  + Have an outlet pressure of 4 bar
  + Comply with all relevant regulations and guidelines for use in the English NHS, including:

1. ISO 15001 Aesthetic and respiratory equipment.
2. ISO 10524-2 Pressure regulators for use with medical gases
3. ISO 60601-1 Medical Electrical Equipment
4. UKCA / CE marked medical device

The maximum budget available for the purchase of up to 200 oxygen autochange manifolds is £1,333,333 (Excl. VAT).