Request for Information (RFI) – Procurement of a Digital Slide Scanner Solution for the UKHSA (United Kingdom Health Security Agency)

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| Supplier Name |   |
| Contact Name |   |
| Contact Email Address |   |
| Contact Tel Number |   |

**Instructions:**

UKHSA is seeking to appoint a provider for the provision of a digital microscope slide scanner and supporting services. The digital microscope slide scanner is required for the development and implementation of new virtual External Quality Assessment schemes (EQA) and teaching schemes for the United Kingdom National External Quality Assessment Service (NEQAS) for Microbiology.

NEQAS for Microbiology is a not-for-profit department that aims to provide external quality assessment services for microbiology tests and methodologies offered by clinical and reference labs globally. By introducing new schemes and utilising a digital microscope slide scanner, UKHSA aims to increase the number of schemes available to participants and expand its reach to countries previously restricted by shipping limitations.

Please review the specification outlined in this Request for Information (RFI) and provide responses to the questions and requirements mentioned. Your input will help shape UKHSA's sourcing strategy for this procurement.

Should you have any questions or queries relating to this RFI, please contract:

Science.CPH@ukhsa.gov.uk For the Attention of (FAO) Kallie Rivers

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| RESPONSE DEADLINE | **24/07/2023 12:00** |

If a response is not received by the RFI response deadline, it will have no impact on your ability to participate in the procurement process in the future. UKHSA will not enter contracts based on replies to this RFI.

**Description of Scope of Requirements:**

The digital microscope slide scanner is required to support NEQAS for Microbiology in the development and implementation of new External Quality Assessment (EQA) schemes and teaching schemes. The scanner should meet specific technical requirements and be capable of providing high-quality imaging for various sample types.

The supplier will be responsible for the entire lifecycle of the equipment, including delivering, installing, and commissioning of the digital microscope slide scanner at the Colindale NEQAS laboratory.

Additionally, training for a minimum of six on-site staff members should be provided. The supplier must also offer after-sales services, including maintenance, repair, warranty, troubleshooting and support, decommissioning, and disposal to ensure continued operational delivery throughout the contract term.

**Technical Requirements:**

The digital microscope slide scanner must meet the following mandatory technical requirements:

* The system should be a complete solution and not require additional components or licenses to be fully functional.
* The software must be up to date throughout the contract term and included in the contract price.
* The hardware must meet specified dimensions:
	1. Be able to fit onto a benchtop and be smaller than 1300mm (L), 575mm (D) and 70mmm (H)
	2. allow for samples to be viewed at magnifications of x10, x20, x40, and x100 (with oil immersion or an alternative solution for high magnification) with a small degree of flexibility allowed;
* The scanner should have an automatic slide scanning facility for 3 to 5 slides, be capable of bright-field illumination and fluorescence microscopy and produce images for samples stained with specific substances.
* It should support the addition of different objective lenses and filters.
* The software requirements include compatibility with the existing Microsoft SQL Server database, image uploading capabilities with compression options, cloud system for image hosting with group permissions, and storage space of at least 1TB per annum.

**Service Requirements:**

The supplier must fulfil the following service requirements:

* Delivery of the digital microscope slide scanner to the Colindale laboratory.
* Installation, commissioning, and testing of the scanner to ensure full working condition.
* Training of at least six on-site staff members on the usage and troubleshooting of the scanner.
* Provision of servicing, repair, and maintenance support to minimize operational downtime.
* Timely response and resolution of technical issues to meet specified key performance indicators (KPIs).

**Regulatory Requirements:**

* The supplier must comply with ISO9001 (Quality Management) and ISO 2230 (Business Continuity) standards throughout the contract term. Additionally, adherence to relevant health and safety guidelines to prevent injury is required.

**Questions:**

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| UKHSA Question | Supplier Response |
| Please confirm whether your organisation would have an interest in bidding for the procurement of the digital microscope slide scanner for UKHSA | YES [ ]  | NO [ ]  |
| If no, please explain why? |  |
| Please provide details of your digital microscope slide scanner, including its technical specifications and capabilities. Ensure that it meets the mandatory hardware and software requirements mentioned in the specification. | [Insert response here of attach a PDF product specification to your submission] |
| Please confirm whether your organisation would have an interest in providing the required services, including delivery, installation, commissioning, training, and after-sales support, decommissioning, and disposal. | YES [ ]  | NO [ ]  |
| If no, please explain why? |  |
| Please provide pricing information for the procurement of the digital microscope slide scanner, including any associated services and maintenance plans. Specify if the prices would be inclusive of all required deliverables. | [Insert response here of attach a PDF product specification to your submission] |
| Based on the specified dimensions and technical requirements, please confirm the expected delivery timeline for the digital microscope slide scanner to the Colindale laboratory by March 2024. | [Supplier's response] |
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We kindly request that you submit your responses to the above questions and requirements by the RFI response deadline mentioned.