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**Invitation to Quote**

**Instructions & Requirements Document**

**NHS England Commercial**

# Specialist Haemoglobinopathy Laboratory Advice/ Support Service

# Atamis Ref: C220594

**Document owner:** Commercial & Procurement Team, NHS England

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**Document History**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Version | Date | Status | Key Change Made | Author/s |
| 1.0 |  | Final Version |  | Charlie Stephens/Andrew Campan/Shared Business Services  |
| 2.0 |  | Final Version | Additional details relating to the Hive and where further information and guidance is available | Polly Feeney |
| 3.0 |  | Final Version | Updates made following initial user feedback. | Andrew Campan |
| 4.0 |  | Final Version | Updated to reflect new internal sub £150k process | Makaella Allison |

# **Purpose**

1. This document sets out the process for obtaining quotations for Goods and Services **up to £135,000.**

# **Introduction**

#### This Invitation to Quote (ITQ) has been prepared by NHS England (the ‘Authority’). The Authority is looking for a Supplier to deliver the provision of a laboratory support service, providing immediate technical and scientific support and advice to staff working in haemoglobinopathy screening laboratories and other health professionals across England.

#### The laboratory support service will support and advise all health professionals who need help with the correct interpretation of haemoglobinopathy results to avoid unnecessary problems for example unnecessary biological re-call or genetic testing.

###### A full description of the requirement can be found in section 2.

###### This procurement exercise is being carried out as an Invitation to Quote which will be published through the Government Contracts Finder portal.

###### The Authority has taken reasonable care to ensure that the information provided is accurate in all material respects. However, the Bidders attention is drawn to the fact that no representation, warranty or undertaking is given by The Authority in respect of the information provided in respect of this transaction and/or any related transaction.

###### The Authority does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information provided and shall not be liable for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly as a result of reliance on this ITT or any subsequent communication.

###### No warranties or opinions as to the accuracy of any information provided in this ITQ Pack shall be given at any stage by The Authority.

###### Any person considering making a decision to enter into contractual relationships with The Authority or any other person on the basis of the information provided should make their own investigations and form their own opinion of The Authority. The attention of Bidders is drawn to the fact that, by issuing this ITQ, The Authority is in no way committed to awarding any contract and that all costs incurred by Bidders in relation to any stage of the Tender process are for the account of the relevant Bidder only.

###### In accordance with The Authority’s internal financial instructions and general principles applicable to public procurement, The Authority seeks best value for money in terms of the Contract reached with the successful Bidder.

###### The Authority has endeavored, therefore, to express as clearly as possible in this ITQ the terms on which it would propose to contract with the successful Bidder and in particular the obligations, risks and liabilities which it expects to become the responsibility of the successful Bidder.

This document contains the following sections:

* **1. Instructions**
	+ Project Team Details
	+ Timeline
	+ Supplier Clarification Question process
	+ Evaluation Criteria
	+ Scoring
* **2. The Requirement:**
	+ Background Information
	+ Standards and Service Specification
	+ Essential Skills Deliverables
	+ Deliverables
	+ Proposed Terms and Conditions
* **3. Responding to the ITQ**
	+ Bidders Details
	+ Further Bidder Information
	+ Bidders Response
1. Instructions

Project Team Details and Contract Lead

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Team | Vaccinations and Screening: Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Programme  |
| Name and Title of Contract Lead | Patricia Connell |

Timeline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Date** |
| ITQ Release Date & Issue on Contract Finder\* | 01 November 2023 |
| ITQ Clarification Deadline | 11 November 2023 |
| ITQ Closing Date | 16 November 2023 |
| Estimated Award Date | 18 December 2023 |
| Estimated Contract Commencement Date | 01 January 2024 |

The timeline is indicative and may be subject to change.

Supplier Clarification Question Process

All clarification questions relating to this ITQ must be submitted via the procurement portal route (Atamis). Clarification questions received after this time will not be responded to. All Clarification questions will be responded to within 2 working days of the date received.

All clarification questions received via other routes will not be reviewed and responded to.

**Please Note: -** To ensure an open and fair process is followed, all bidders will receive a copy of the question(s) and answer(s).

Evaluation Criteria

The purpose of evaluation in the procurement process is to establish which supplier(s) have submitted the best quotation; ensuring that the assessment of quotes is undertaken in a transparent, fair and consistent manner so that an effective comparison can be made.

The Authority, reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of the quotation if you have failed to provide the information requested in this quotation or you have submitted any modification or any qualification to the terms and conditions of contract.

The Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest priced, or any quotation, nor guarantee any value or volume and shall not be liable to accept any costs you have incurred in the production of your quotation.

The Authority will check each quotation and submission for completeness and compliance with the requirements in this Invitation to Quote document, thus, you should ensure that you carefully examine this document in full.

Quotes will be evaluated on the following Quality and Costs basis;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Weighting (%)** |
| Stage 1 Technical/Quality | Pass/ Fail |
| Stage 2 Technical/Quality | 60 |
| Sustainability and Social Value | 10 |
| Commercial | 30 |

Tenderers should note that stage 1 Technical/Quality contains questions that, where the Tenderer’s response is ‘No’, the tender will be disqualified and cease to be evaluated any further.

A weighted scoring system will be applied to the response, the high-level evaluation criteria are given below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Weighting (%)** |
| **Stage 1** |
| 1. Is your laboratory accredited with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to ISO15189:2012?Yes/No | Pass/Fail |
| **Stage 2** |
| 1. Please provide examples or case scenarios that demonstrate your ability to deliver a laboratory support service (see section 3 of the statement of requirements). The response should evidence technical and scientific experience, knowledge, and skills responding to telephone or email enquiries. | 15% |
| 2. Please provide examples that demonstrate your ability to deliver face to face and virtual teaching and update sessions covering antenatal and newborn screening and molecular testing. The response should clearly evidence experience, knowledge, and skills of providing face-to-face and virtual sessions. | 15% |
| 3. Please supply evidence of in-depth knowledge of NHS antenatal and newborn screening processes. | 10% |
| 4 Please supply evidence of evaluation and or user feedback that demonstrates success for your service (see section 3 of the statement of requirements) | 10% |
| 5. Please provide examples of research, BLOGs or update materials/resources produced previously. | 10% |
| 6.How will you support meeting the requirements of this ITQ with social value and environmental commitments in mind, both in terms of the projects and as an organisation?For more information on the social value model - <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940828/Social-Value-Model-Quick-Reference-Table-Edn-1.1-3-Dec-20.pdf> | 10% |
| 7. Please provide a cost breakdown to undertake the service. | 30% |

**Scoring**

**Bidder information**

The ‘Bidders Detail’ will be ‘For Information Only’ and not scored.

**Quality**

The Authorities evaluation system is based on the familiar “weighted scoring approach”, in which the officer scores responses to the quality questions according to a pre-agreed scoring system 0-4 (see table below). The scores for the sections are then added together to give a total quality score for the quotation response.

| **Score** | **Interpretation** |
| --- | --- |
| 4Excellent | The Tenderer’s response provides full confidence that the Tenderer understands and can deliver the Requirements well and addresses all of the requirements set out in the question.   |
| 3Good | The Tenderer’s response provides a good level of confidence that the Tenderer understands and can deliver the services and the Tenderer's response addresses all or most of the requirements set out in the question.  |
| 2Satisfactory | The Tenderer’s response provides a satisfactory level of confidence that the Tenderer understands and can deliver the services and the Tenderer's response addresses at least some of the requirements set out in the question. However, the response is lacking in some areas. |
| 1Poor | There are weaknesses (or inconsistency) in the Tenderer’s understanding of the services and/or Tenderer's response fails to address some or all of the requirements set out in the question. |
| 0Unacceptable | No response and/or information provided is deemed inadequate to merit a score. |

**Scoring Cost**

The financial weighted score is calculated by using the following formula:

Tenderers Price Weighted Score = Lowest Total Cost offered Tenderer Total Cost

 x (% weighting)

(Lowest Total Cost divided by Tender Total Cost multiplied by 30)

The financial score will be calculated to two decimals places.

Therefore the bidder who submits the lowest compliant bid (based on the pricing model created for evaluation purposes) will receive the full 30% available.

# **The Requirement**

The Requirement is detailed below which provides background to the project/business need, the standards or specification required alongside the essential supplier skills and the objectives of the requirement.

**Requirements:**

|  |
| --- |
| *Please see attached specification.* |

**Proposed Terms and Conditions**

The proposed terms and conditions for this engagement are the NHS Standard Terms and Conditions of services: Purchase Order Version

No amendments shall be considered or accepted in relation to the Terms and Conditions. Failure to accept the terms will result in disqualification.

There are available to view on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-standard-terms-and-conditions-of-contract-for-the-purchase-of-goods-and-supply-of-services>.

The Purchase Order will serve as the contract.

1. Responding to ITQ

###### When responding to this ITQ, Bidders must ensure that their Tender covers all the information required. Bidders must complete their Tenders within the Authorities procurement portal (Atamis) set out in the "Supplier Response Form". Failure to do so may render the response non-compliant and it may be rejected.

### In evaluating Tenders, the Authority will only consider information provided in the Supplier Response Form.

### Bidders should not assume that the Authority has any prior knowledge of the Bidder, its practice or reputation, or its involvement in existing services, projects or procurements.

### If there are any questions that do not apply to a Bidder, please answer with a N/A and explanation where appropriate.

### Where any section of the ITQ indicates a word limit, any response will be reviewed to that word limit and any additional information beyond that word limit will not be considered. Bidders must provide a word count for each question response.

###### The Authority may at its own absolute discretion extend the Deadline for receipt of Tenders specified in the timetable. Any extension to the Deadline granted under this paragraph will apply to all Bidders.

###### Tenders must be submitted via the Authorities procurement portal (Atamis) no later than the ITQ submission Deadline specified in ‘Timetable’. Tenders may be submitted at any time before the Deadline.

###### Tenders received before this Deadline will be retained unopened until the opening date.

###### The Tender and any documents accompanying it must be formatted in Word or Excel as appropriate and be in the English language.

###### Price and any financial data provided must be submitted in or converted into pounds sterling. Where official documents include financial data in a foreign currency, a sterling equivalent must be provided. Tender pricing must be provided excluding Value Added Tax (VAT).

Bidders Details:

The following is an outline of what will be required and found on Atamis. Please complete this on the Atamis portal directly.

*Please ensure a response is provided for all the sections below.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Company Name* |  |
| *Company Address* |  |
| *Company’s representative name and title* |  |
| *Contact telephone number* |  |
| *Email address* |  |
| *Address for correspondence* |  |
| *Date of Submission* |  |
| *Company Registration Number* |  |
| *VAT Registration Number* |  |

# Further Bidder Information:

*Please ensure a response is provided for all the questions below.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***1.*** | *Has your organisation met all its obligations to pay its creditors and staff during the past year?* |  |
| ***2.*** | *If your answer to the above is No, have you rectified the situation resulting in your organisation now being able to pay its creditors and staff?* |  |
| ***3.*** | *Is your company or any group company (your Organisation) or are any of the directors/partners/proprietors in a state of bankruptcy, insolvency, compulsory winding up, and receivership, composition with creditors or subject to relevant proceedings?* |  |
| *4.* | *Please confirm that data is stored in line with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 where applicable* |  |
| *5a.* | *Please confirm that you accept NHS England’s Purchase Order Terms and Conditions in full with no modifications. This offer and any contract arising from it shall be subject to these Terms and Conditions and all other items or instructions as issued in this bidder response.* [*https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-standard-terms-and-conditions-of-contract-for-the-purchase-of-goods-and-supply-of-services*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-standard-terms-and-conditions-of-contract-for-the-purchase-of-goods-and-supply-of-services) |  |
| *5b.*  | *Please confirm that you accept that any modifications to the Terms and Conditions will be rejected and may result in the bid being rejected.*  |  |
| *6*. | *Please confirm that all invoicing shall be processed through Tradeshift in line with NHS England processes.* |  |

Bidder’s Response

Please ensure a response is provided for all sections below: pass/fail (Stage1) the Quality (A) and Commercial (B) sections on Atamis by downloading the attachments and reuploading once completed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Stage 1**  |  | **Question % Weighting** | Pass/Fail |
|  |  |
| Is your laboratory accredited with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to ISO15189:2012 ? |
| **Supplier Response** |
| YES/NO |

1. Quality

The questions below are for reference only and will be found within Atamis.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 1** |  | **Question % Weighting** | 15% |
|  |  |
| Please provide examples or case scenarios that demonstrate your ability to deliver a laboratory support service (see section 3 of the statement of requirements). The response should evidence technical and scientific experience, knowledge, and skills responding to telephone or email enquiries. |
| **Supplier Response** |
| The maximum total word count for this section is 1,000 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 2** |  | **Question % Weighting** | 15% |
|  |  |
| Please provide examples that demonstrate your ability to deliver face to face and virtual teaching and update sessions covering antenatal and newborn screening and molecular testing. The response should clearly evidence experience, knowledge, and skills of providing face-to-face and virtual sessions. |
| **Supplier Response** |
| The maximum total word count for this section is 1,000 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 3** |  | **Question % Weighting** | 10% |
|  |  |
| Please supply evidence of in-depth knowledge of NHS antenatal and newborn screening processes. |
| **Supplier Response** |
| The maximum total word count for this section is 1,000 |
| **Question 4** |  | **Question % Weighting** | 10% |
|  |  |
| 4 Please supply evidence of evaluation and or user feedback that demonstrates success for your service (see section 3 of the statement of requirements) |
| **Supplier Response** |
| The maximum total word count for this section is 1,000 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 5** |  | **Question % Weighting** | 10% |
|  |  |
| Please provide examples of research, BLOGs or update materials/resources produced previously. |
| **Supplier Response** |
| The maximum total word count for this section is 1,000 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 6** |  | **Question % Weighting** | 10% |
|  |  |
| How will you support meeting the requirements of this ITQ with social value and environmental commitments in mind, both in terms of the projects and as an organisation?For more information on the social value model - <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940828/Social-Value-Model-Quick-Reference-Table-Edn-1.1-3-Dec-20.pdf> |
| **Supplier Response** |
| The maximum total word count for this section is 1,000 |

B) Commercial

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Commercial** |  |
|  |  |
| Please provide a cost breakdown to undertake the work in. Your breakdown should also include the total cost exclusive of VAT to the Authority.  |
| **Supplier Response** |
| *SUPPLIERS PLEASE DO NOT ENTER YOUR COMMERCIALS HERE – PLEASE COMPLETE THE COMMERCIAL BREAKDOWN AND UPLOAD IT SEPARATE TO THIS DOCUMENT ON ATAMIS.* |

**C) Confirmation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Confirmation** |  |
|  |  |
| Please provide an electronic signature with name and contact details as confirmation the detail submitted is correct and agree to the *NHS England’s Purchase Order Terms and Conditions in full as outlined in ‘Point 5 Further Bidder Information’*:(If using Atamis, this shall be completed electronically) |
| **Supplier Response** |
| *Electronic Signature Insert …………..**Name:**Job Title:**Date:* |