

United Kingdom-London: Supply services of personnel including temporary staff

OJ S 194/2013 05/10/2013

Contract notice

Services

Directive 2004/18/EC

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1. Name and addresses

Official name: Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (as host of the NHS London Procurement Partnership)

Postal address: Guy's Hospital, Great Maze Pond

Town: London

Postal code: SE1 9RT

Country: United Kingdom

Contact person: Please refer to the Additional Information for each Lot for details on how to obtain documentation, submit expression of interest and to communicate with us during this process.

For the attention of: Laura Whitworth, Sourcing Manager

Telephone: +44 2071886704

Internet address(es):

General address of the contracting authority: www.lpp.nhs.uk

Additional information can be obtained from:

the abovementioned address

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from:

the abovementioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted: the abovementioned address

I.2. Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.3. Main activity

Health

I.4. Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: yes

Official name: West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (as host of East of England NHS Collaborative Procurement Hub)

Postal address: West Suffolk Hospital, Hardwick Lane

Town: Bury St Edmonds, Suffolk

Postal code: IP33 2QZ

Country: United Kingdom

Official name: Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (as host of the North of England NHS Commercial Procurement Collaborative (NOE CPC))

Postal address: 2150 Century Way, Thorpe Park

Town: Leeds

Postal code: LS15 8ZB

Country: United Kingdom

Official name: Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (as host of NHS Commercial Solutions)
Postal address: 18, Mole Business Park
Town: Leatherhead, Surrey
Postal code: KT22 7AD
Country: United Kingdom

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1. Description

II.1.1. Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority

Framework for the Supply of Nursing Staff (through Employment Business or Employment Agency activity)

II.1.2. Type of contract and place of performance or delivery

Services

Service category No 22: Personnel placement and supply services

NUTS code UK United Kingdom

II.1.3. Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

II.1.4. Information about framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

Duration of the framework agreement

Duration in years: 4

Estimated total value of purchases for the entire duration of the framework agreement

Estimated value excluding VAT: 1 300 000 000 GBP

II.1.5. Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

Supply services of personnel including temporary staff. Supply services of nursing personnel. Placement services of personnel. Supply services of medical personnel. Recruitment services. Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (as host of the NHS London Procurement Partnership) in collaboration with NHS Commercial Solutions, East of England Collaborative Procurement Hub, North of England NHS Commercial Procurement Collaborative, as the 'Contracting Authorities' are establishing a pan health (NHS) and wider public sector framework agreement for the supply of nursing staff.

The Framework Agreement will be for use by the UK public sector bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to those organisations), which include health bodies, local authorities and HM Prison Service. These public sector bodies have a need for temporary, fixed term and permanent nurses (be they recruited from within the UK, the EU or the rest of the world) to provide cover for a variety of needs. This will include the provision of temporary agency staff, fixed term engagements and permanent recruitment (including overseas recruitment). The framework will be for the supply of nurses and midwives of all relevant bands and sub-job families under NHS Agenda for Change, including community service nurses, dental nurses, critical and general nurses, health visitors, midwives and theatre nurses, along with other related and specialist job profiles.

The standards of supply will be in accordance with all relevant legislation, regulations and guidelines pertinent to the provision of the services and as required by NHS bodies and other public sector organisations, including but not limited to the Department of Health, its executive

agencies and non-departmental public bodies and NHS Employers requirements for safer recruitment and employment checks.

II.1.6. CPV code(s)

79620000 Supply services of personnel including temporary staff, 79624000 Supply services of nursing personnel, 79610000 Placement services of personnel, 79625000 Supply services of medical personnel, 79600000 Recruitment services

II.1.7. Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: no

II.1.8. Lots

This contract is divided into lots: yes

Tenders may be submitted for one or more lots

II.1.9. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2. Scope of the procurement

II.2.1. Total quantity or scope

The framework agreement will provide the contracting bodies identified in VI.3 (and any future successors to those organisations) with a comprehensive range of temporary, fixed term and permanently recruited nurses. The Contracting Authorities are unable to guarantee volumes or calculate a value of participation by each of the contracting bodies identified in VI.3 but estimate the value of the contract at GBP 1,3 billion.

Estimated value excluding VAT: 1 300 000 000 GBP

II.2.2. Information about options

Options: yes

Description of options: The initial framework agreement duration is 24 calendar months. The Contracting Authorities shall be entitled (at their sole discretion) to extend the duration of the Framework Agreement by either 1 or 2, 12 calendar month periods.

Provisional timetable for recourse to these options:
in months: 24 (from the award of the contract)

II.2.3. Information about renewals

This contract is subject to renewal: yes

Number of possible renewals: 2

In the case of renewable supplies or service contracts, estimated timeframe for subsequent contracts:

in months: 12 (from the award of the contract)

II.3. Duration of the contract or time limit for completion

Duration in months: 24 (from the award of the contract)

Information about lots

Lot No: 1

Lot title: Supply of Nursing Staff on temporary assignments (Employment Business) and for direct employment or fixed term engagement (Employment Agency)- London

1) Short description

The required services are for the supply of nurses on temporary assignments or contracts, through employment business, by contracting bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to those organisations). The Lot will also include the supply of nurses for fixed

term engagements or direct employment by contracting bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to these organisations).

2) CPV code(s)

79620000 Supply services of personnel including temporary staff, 79624000 Supply services of nursing personnel, 79610000 Placement services of personnel, 79625000 Supply services of medical personnel

3) Quantity or scope

Bidders may submit offers for one or more lots. Pricing may vary by geography in accordance with regional trends.

Tenderers must offer a submission against the specification; no variants will be accepted. Suppliers are unable to bid solely for the provision of nurses for direct employment or fixed term engagement. Suppliers must also bid and be successful in being awarded on to the Framework Agreement as an Employment Business to be able to supply nurses for direct employment or fixed term engagement.

4) Indication about different time frame or duration

5) Additional information about lots

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (as host of the London Procurement Partnership) shall be the representative for all purposes connected with the management of the framework agreement (post award).

The framework conditions will be set out in the ITT. It is the intention to include certain contractual provisions regarding a management charge, which may be applied to purchases made under the framework awarded. Further details will be made available via the framework documentation and information released during the course of the tender process.

The contract duration is 24 months with an option to extend by a 12 calendar month period and a second option to extend by a further 12 calendar month period, to a total of 48 months. Participants may be eligible for the award of one or more Lots.

Submission of expressions of interest and procurement specific information: - this exercise will be conducted on Delta eSourcing portal. Bidders wishing to be considered must register their expression of interest at the following website: <https://www.delta-esourcing.com/> and log in to the portal with a username/password.

If you require any further advice, contact the eSourcing Helpdesk on +44 8452707050. The Helpdesk is open from 08:30am:5:30pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays. Please note the project access code to access the PQQ documents on the Delta portal is Z69EY546H3.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to use an electronic auction during the procurement process.

Lot No: 2

Lot title: Supply of Nursing Staff on temporary assignments (Employment Business) & for direct employment or fixed term engagement (Employment Agency): Midlands/East

1) Short description

The required services are for the supply of nurses on temporary assignments or contracts, through employment business, by contracting bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to those organisations). The Lot will also include the supply of nurses for fixed term engagements or direct employment by contracting bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to these organisations).

2) CPV code(s)

79620000 Supply services of personnel including temporary staff, 79624000 Supply services of nursing personnel, 79610000 Placement services of personnel, 79625000 Supply services of medical personnel

3) Quantity or scope

Bidders may submit offers for one or more lots. Pricing may vary by geography in accordance with regional trends.

Tenderers must offer a submission against the specification; no variants will be accepted. Suppliers are unable to bid solely for the provision of nurses for direct employment or fixed term engagement. Suppliers must also bid and be successful in being awarded on to the Framework Agreement as an Employment Business to be able to supply nurses for direct employment or fixed term engagement.

4) Indication about different time frame or duration

5) Additional information about lots

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (as host of the East of England NHS Collaborative Procurement Hub) shall be the representative for all purposes connected with the management of the framework agreement (post award).

The framework conditions will be set out in the ITT. It is the intention to include certain contractual provisions regarding a management charge, which may be applied to purchases made under the framework awarded. Further details will be made available via the framework documentation and information released during the course of the tender process.

The contract duration is 24 months with an option to extend by a 12 calendar month period and a second option to extend by a further 12 calendar month period, to a total of 48 months. Participants may be eligible for the award of one or more Lots.

Submission of expressions of interest and procurement specific information: - this exercise will be conducted on Delta eSourcing portal. Bidders wishing to be considered must register their expression of interest at the following website: <https://www.delta-esourcing.com/> and log in to the portal with a username/password.

If you require any further advice, contact the eSourcing Helpdesk on +44 8452707050. The Helpdesk is open from 08:30am:5:30pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays. Please note the project access code to access the PQQ documents on the Delta portal is Z69EY546H3.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to use an electronic auction during the procurement process.

Lot No: 3

Lot title: Supply of Nursing Staff on temporary assignments (Emp Business) & for direct employment or fixed term engagement (Emp Agency)-North of England

1) Short description

The required services are for the supply of nurses on temporary assignments or contracts, through employment business, by contracting bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to those organisations). The Lot will also include the supply of nurses for fixed term engagements or direct employment by contracting bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to these organisations).

2) CPV code(s)

79620000 Supply services of personnel including temporary staff, 79624000 Supply services of nursing personnel, 79610000 Placement services of personnel, 79625000 Supply services of medical personnel

3) Quantity or scope

Bidders may submit offers for one or more lots. Pricing may vary by geography in accordance with regional trends.

Tenderers must offer a submission against the specification; no variants will be accepted. Suppliers are unable to bid solely for the provision of nurses for direct employment or fixed term engagement. Suppliers must also bid and be successful in being awarded on to the Framework Agreement as an Employment Business to be able to supply nurses for direct employment or fixed term engagement.

4) Indication about different time frame or duration

5) Additional information about lots

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (as host of the North of England Commercial Procurement Collaborative (NOE CPC) shall be the representative for all purposes connected with the management of the framework agreement (post award). The framework conditions will be set out in the ITT. It is the intention to include certain contractual provisions regarding a management charge, which may be applied to purchases made under the framework awarded. Further details will be made available via the framework documentation and information released during the course of the tender process.

The contract duration is 24 months with an option to extend by a 12 calendar month period and a second option to extend by a further 12 calendar month period, to a total of 48 months. Participants may be eligible for the award of one or more Lots.

Submission of expressions of interest and procurement specific information: - this exercise will be conducted on Delta eSourcing portal. Bidders wishing to be considered must register their expression of interest at the following website: <https://www.delta-esourcing.com/> and log in to the portal with a username/password.

If you require any further advice, contact the eSourcing Helpdesk on +44 8452707050. The Helpdesk is open from 08:30am:5:30pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays. Please note the project access code to access the PQQ documents on the Delta portal is Z69EY546H3.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to use an electronic auction during the procurement process.

Lot No: 4

Lot title: Supply of Nursing Staff on temporary assignments (Employment Business) & for direct employment or fixed term engagement (Employment Agency)- South

1) Short description

The required services are for the supply of nurses on temporary assignments or contracts, through employment business, by contracting bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to those organisations). The Lot will also include the supply of nurses for fixed term engagements or direct employment by contracting bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to these organisations).

2) CPV code(s)

79620000 Supply services of personnel including temporary staff, 79624000 Supply services of nursing personnel, 79610000 Placement services of personnel, 79625000 Supply services of medical personnel

3) Quantity or scope

Bidders may submit offers for one or more lots. Pricing may vary by geography in accordance with regional trends.

Tenderers must offer a submission against the specification; no variants will be accepted.

Suppliers are unable to bid solely for the provision of nurses for direct employment or fixed term engagement. Suppliers must also bid and be successful in being awarded on to the Framework Agreement as an Employment Business to be able to supply nurses for direct employment or fixed term engagement.

4) Indication about different time frame or duration

5) Additional information about lots

Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (as host of NHS Commercial Solutions) shall be the representative for all purposes connected with the management of the framework agreement (post award).

The framework conditions will be set out in the ITT. It is the intention to include certain contractual provisions regarding a management charge, which may be applied to purchases made under the framework awarded. Further details will be made available via the framework documentation and information released during the course of the tender process.

The contract duration is 24 months with an option to extend by a 12 calendar month period and a second option to extend by a further 12 calendar month period, to a total of 48 months. Participants may be eligible for the award of one or more Lots.

Submission of expressions of interest and procurement specific information: - this exercise will be conducted on Delta eSourcing portal. Bidders wishing to be considered must register their expression of interest at the following website: <https://www.delta-esourcing.com/> and log in to the portal with a username/password.

If you require any further advice, contact the eSourcing Helpdesk on +44 8452707050. The Helpdesk is open from 08:30am:5:30pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays. Please note the project access code to access the PQQ documents on the Delta portal is Z69EY546H3.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to use an electronic auction during the procurement process.

Lot No: 5

Lot title: Employment Agency for International Recruitment Services- All regions

1) Short description

The required services are for the supply of nurses sourced from outside of the UK (either EU or non-EU) for direct employment or fixed term engagement through employment agencies by the contracting bodies identified at VI.3 (and any future successors to those organisations).

2) CPV code(s)

79620000 Supply services of personnel including temporary staff, 79624000 Supply services of nursing personnel, 79610000 Placement services of personnel, 79625000 Supply services of medical personnel, 79600000 Recruitment services

3) Quantity or scope

Bidders may submit offers for one or more lots. Suppliers do not have to bid for one of the Lots 1-4 in order to bid for Lot 5.

Pricing may vary by geography in accordance with regional trends.

Tenderers must offer a submission against the specification; no variants will be accepted.

4) Indication about different time frame or duration

5) Additional information about lots

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (as host of the London Procurement Partnership) shall be the representative for all purposes connected with the management of

the framework agreement (post award).

The framework conditions will be set out in the ITT. It is the intention to include certain contractual provisions regarding a management charge, which may be applied to purchases made under the framework awarded. Further details will be made available via the framework documentation and information released during the course of the tender process.

The contract duration is 24 months with an option to extend by a 12 calendar month period and a second option to extend by a further 12 calendar month period, to a total of 48 months. Participants may be eligible for the award of one or more Lots.

Submission of expressions of interest and procurement specific information: - this exercise will be conducted on Delta eSourcing portal. Bidders wishing to be considered must register their expression of interest at the following website: <https://www.delta-esourcing.com/> and log in to the portal with a username/password.

If you require any further advice, contact the eSourcing Helpdesk on +44 8452707050. The Helpdesk is open from 08:30am:5:30pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays. Please note the project access code to access the PQQ documents on the Delta portal is Z69EY546H3.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to use an electronic auction during the procurement process.

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1. Conditions related to the contract

III.1.1. Deposits and guarantees required

Parent company or other guarantees may be required in certain circumstances. See the invitation to offer for further details.

III.1.2. Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions governing them

Not applicable

III.1.3. Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded

If the framework agreement is awarded to a consortium of economic operators, the members of that consortium may be required to form a legal entity before entering into the framework agreement and may be required to provide parent or director guarantees. Or, if not required to form a legal entity, members of a consortium may be required to accept joint or several liability both to the Contracting Authorities of the framework agreement and to contracting bodies (identified at VI.3) and any future successor to those organisations) awarding call-off contracts under the framework agreement.

Any economic operator awarded to the framework agreement, who proposes a sub-contract solution, shall be responsible for the compliance of the other sub-contractors used, with regards to all the terms and conditions of the framework agreement and with all relevant legislative and regulatory requirements.

III.1.4. Contract performance conditions

The performance of the contract is subject to particular conditions: yes

Description of particular conditions: Please refer to full Invitation to Tender

III.2. Conditions for participation

III.2.1.

Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions: The Authority will apply all the offences listed in Article 45(1) of Directive 2004/18/EC (implemented as Regulation 23(1) of the Public Contract Regulations (PCR) 2006 in the UK) and all of the professional misconducts listed at Article 45 (2) of Directive 2004/18/EC (see also Regulation 23(2) in the PCR 2006) to the decision of whether a Candidate is eligible to be invited to tender.

A full list of the Regulation 23(1) and 23(2) criteria are at <http://www.delta-esourcing.com/delta/project/reasonsForExclusion.html#pcr>

Candidates will be required to answer these questions as part of the qualification process. For candidates who are registered overseas, you will need to declare if you have any offences /misconduct under your own countries laws, where these laws are equivalent to the Regulation 23 lists.

Candidates who have been convicted of any of the offences under Article 45(1) are ineligible and will not be selected to bid, unless there are overriding requirements in the general interest for doing so.

Candidates who are guilty of any of the offences, circumstances or misconduct under Article 45 (2) may be excluded from being selected to bid at the discretion of the Authority.

1) Evaluating general PQQ supplier information the Contracting Authorities will utilize the Supplier Information Database (sid4gov) to manage and assess general pre-qualification information in the form of a profile. Candidates are requested to provide their profile in sid4gov as follows:

- i) candidates should register on sid4gov at <https://sid4gov.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/organisation/register> and submit their sid4gov company profile for publication to the system. Candidates already registered on sid4gov must ensure that information is up to date;
- ii) candidates should ensure all the relevant sections of their sid4gov profile are completed to demonstrate their ability to meet the short-listing criteria applicable to this contract;
- iii) where access to sid4gov is unavailable, please contact the sid4gov Helpdesk at: support@ngc.com. telephone: - 0845 299 2994
- iv) please note that sid4gov replaced sid4health from the 1st May 2013. You must ensure you are registered on the new sid4gov system even if you were previously registered on sid4health.

III.2.2. Economic and financial ability

List and brief description of conditions: (a) Appropriate statements from banks or, where appropriate, evidence of relevant professional risk indemnity insurance

(b) The presentation of balance-sheets or extracts from the balance-sheets, where publication of the balance-sheet is required under the law of the country in which the economic operator is established

(c) A statement of the undertaking's overall turnover and, where appropriate, of turnover in the area covered by the contract for a maximum of the last three financial years available, depending on the date on which the undertaking was set up or the economic operator started trading, as far as the information on these turnovers is available

(a) appropriate statements from banks or, where appropriate, evidence of relevant professional risk indemnity insurance;

(b) the presentation of balance-sheets or extracts from the balance-sheets, where publication of the balance-sheet is required under the law of the country in which the economic operator is established;

(c) a statement of the undertaking's overall turnover and, where appropriate, of turnover in the area covered by the contract for a maximum of the last 3 financial years available, depending on the date on which the undertaking was set up or the economic operator started trading, as

far as the information on these turnovers is available. Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if requirements are met (if applicable) minimum level(s) of standards possibly required (if applicable) average turnover for the past 3 years is 3 times greater than the average annual estimated contract value.

A Pre-qualification questionnaire will be issued to all interested operators that respond within the time limit set out at section IV.3.4 detailing the conditions for participation in respect of the operator's personal situation.

Any supplier may be disqualified who does not respond to the following in the requisite manner:

Submission of expression of interest ("EOI"), general PQQ supplier information and procurement specific information. This procurement exercise will be conducted on the Delta eSourcing portal <https://www.delta-esourcing.com>.

Operators wishing to be considered for this contract must register their expression of interest and provide pre-qualification information as specified in the PQQ through the Delta portal as follows:

- i) Operators register on the eTendering portal at <https://www.delta-esourcing.com>.
- ii) Once registered, operators must express interest as follows <https://www.delta-esourcing.com>.
- iii) Once you have expressed interest, access to PQQ documentation will be via <https://www.delta-esourcing.com>, using access code Z69EY546H3.

For any support in submitting your expression of interest please contact the Delta eSourcing Help-desk on +448452707050.

For details of the selection criteria, marking, minimum standards and questions which may lead to elimination from the process, please see the explanatory notes for the PQQ which you can download from <https://www.delta-esourcing.com>.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required: A pre-qualification questionnaire will be issued to all interested operators that respond within the time limit set out at section IV.3.4 detailing the conditions for participation in respect of operator's economic and financial capacity. As part of this process the contracting authorities will undertake an inspection of the services.

Participants shall be expected to provide the services required under this framework agreement in accordance with all relevant legislation, regulations, standards and guidelines pertinent to the provision of the services and as required by the contracting bodies identified in VI.3 (and any future successor to those organisations) and other organisations including but not limited to, the Department of Health, its Executive Agencies and non-departmental public bodies and NHS Employers requirements for safer recruitment and employment checks.

III.2.3. Technical and professional ability

List and brief description of conditions:

As per requirements to complete sid4gov profile - see III.2.1 for more information on how to complete a sid4gov profile.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required:

A Pre-Qualification Questionnaire will be issued to all interested operators that respond within the time limit set out at section IV.3.4 detailing the conditions for participation in respect of operator's economic and financial capacity

III.2.4. Information about reserved contracts

III.3. Conditions specific to services contracts

III.3.1. Information about a particular profession

Execution of the service is reserved to a particular profession: yes

Reference to the relevant law, regulation or administrative provision: Employment Agencies Act 1973, Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Business Regulations 2003 (as amended); and as further detailed in the Invitation to Tender documentation of this procurement.

III.3.2. Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Obligation to indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to performing the contract: no

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1. Type of procedure

IV.1.1. Type of procedure

Restricted

IV.1.2. Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Envisaged minimum number 50: and Maximum number 200

IV.1.3. Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during negotiation or dialogue

IV.2. Award criteria

IV.2.1. Award criteria

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

IV.2.2. Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction will be used: yes

Additional information about electronic auction: An e-Auction may be used as part of this procurement process for this requirement. Specific relevant information on Auction usage will be given in the Invitation to Tender.

IV.3. Administrative information

IV.3.1. File reference number attributed by the contracting authority

LPP/2013/00005

IV.3.2. Previous publication concerning this procedure

no

IV.3.3. Conditions for obtaining specifications and additional documents or descriptive document

Payable documents: no

IV.3.4. Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

11.11.2013 - 17:00

IV.3.5. Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

IV.3.6. Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English.

IV.3.7. Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

IV.3.8. Conditions for opening of tenders

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1. Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.2. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds:
no

VI.3. Additional information

The contracting authority considers that this contract may be suitable for economic operators that are small or medium enterprises (SMEs). However, any selection of tenderers will be based solely on the criteria set out for the procurement, and the contract will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender. Duration of the agreement: 4 years (maximum)- initial 2 years duration , with a possible further two 1 year extensions, totalling a maximum duration of 4 years. Any extensions will be at the sole discretion of the individual contracting authority managing the individual Lot).

This is a voluntary notice. Operators should note that this procurement falls under Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC and part B of schedule 3 of The Public Contracts Regulations 2006. Neither the choice of a procedure under the Directive 2004/18/EC or The Public Contracts Regulations 2006, nor the inclusion of a selection stage, nor the use of the term 'pre-qualification questionnaire', nor any other indication shall be taken to mean that the contracting authority intends to hold itself bound by any of the provisions of Directive 2004/18/EC or the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, other than those applicable to part B services.

All dates and times are provisional only. The Contracting Authority reserves the right (i) not to award a framework agreement as a result of the procurement process commenced by publication of this voluntary notice; and (ii) to make whatever changes they see fit to the content and structure of the tendering competition and (iii) to award the framework Agreement for part or parts of the services only. In no circumstances will the Contracting Authorities be liable for any costs incurred by the participants.

Participating Authorities may call-off from any of the Lots awarded as part of the Framework Agreement, by either direct call-off award or through a Mini-Competition process, as per further details to be issued in the Invitation to Tender document. The successful award of a bidder to the framework agreement does not mean that there is any guarantee of subsequent call-off contracts being awarded by the contracting bodies (and any future successors to those organisations) identified in this section. Participants should note that there will be no guaranteed volumes under any framework agreement awarded. The value provided in Section II.1.4 is only an estimate. Any expenditure or effort undertaken prior to framework award is a matter solely for the commercial judgment of the participant. Any call-off contracts entered into under this framework agreement will form a separate contract, under the scope of this framework agreement, between the successful participant and the specific contracting body (and any future successor to that organisation).

Any timescales are indicative only.

We anticipate that the procurement process will include the following stages:

Target Timescales for this activity are detailed in the PQQ Guidance document however it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in May 2014.

Following PQQ receipt a clinical governance audit is expected to take place between 11.11.13

and 13.12.13. The process and scoring methodology for the clinical governance audit will be available to suppliers who successfully complete the PQQ stage in advance of the start of the audit.

An auction, conducted using electronic means, may be used as part of the procurement process for this requirement. Specific relevant information on Auction usage will be given in the Invitation to Tender. The Contracting Authorities and contracting bodies (and any future successors to those organisations) utilising the framework agreement reserve the right to use any electronic portal during the term of the framework agreement and call-off contract(s) respectively.

There will be a standstill (Alcatel) period of a minimum of 10 calendar days between the notification of the intention to award and the final award of contract.

It will be a condition of award to the Framework that bidders will upload the Contract Management Information Data to my.LPP and/or the nominated platform for NHS Commercial Solutions, East of England Collaborative Procurement Hub and the North of England Commercial Procurement Collaborative, or on such other systems as may be notified to the Supplier by any of the Contracting Authorities. The Contract Management Information Data must be uploaded in electronic format (MS Excel or CSV) on the standard template to the Contracting Authorities at regular time intervals to be advised in the tender documentation. The public sector bodies to whom the use of this framework agreement will be open include, in particular, the following in the United Kingdom and their respective statutory successors and organisations created as a result of re-organisations or organisational changes, and any private sector entities having similar procurement needs.

- Central Government Departments & their executive agencies (a list of such Departments and executive agencies can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/cabinet-office-structure>),
- Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) (a list of NDPBs can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/cabinet-office-partners>),
- National Health Service (NHS) bodies, including hospital Trusts, which in turn include acute Trusts, Trusts operating community hospitals and the provider functions of Primary Care Trusts; Clinical Support Units (CSUs); Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs); Primary Care Trusts, General Practitioners and General Practitioner commissioning consortia; Care Trusts; Care Trusts Plus; Ambulance Trusts; Mental Health Trusts; Strategic Health Authorities; Special Health Authorities; Community Health Councils; Local Health Boards; NHS Foundation Trusts,
- Health Boards, NHS Trusts, Community Health Councils and other constituent bodies of the NHS in Wales,
- NHS Scotland and its constituent bodies including: the Scottish Ambulance Service, Special NHS Boards and the other constituent organisations of the Scottish National Health Service; and,
- Health and Social Care Trusts, Health Agencies and other constituent bodies of the NHS in Northern Ireland.

Lists of all of such NHS Authorities, Trusts, Councils, Boards and other bodies can be found at: <http://www.nhs.uk/servicedirectoriest/pages/primarycaretrustlisting.aspx> <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/nhswalesaboutus/structure>, <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/organisations/index.aspx>, and <http://www.hscni.net/index.php?link=hospitals>

— Local Authorities (as defined in Regulation 3(2) to 3(5) inclusive of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006('the Regulations'), a list of such authorities being available at: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/D11/Directoriest/Localcouncils/AToZOfLocalCouncils/DG_A-Z_LG,

— Police Forces and other emergency services, including Fire and Rescue Services, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and other rescue authorities (a list of Police Authorities

- and Fire and Rescue Services can be found respectively at the following: http://www.police.uk/?view=force_sites and <http://www.fireservice.co.uk/information/ukfrs>
- Educational establishments (i.e. schools maintained by Local Authorities; Academies; City Technology Colleges; the Learning and Skills Council; further education establishments, and universities,
 - Registered social landlords (RSLs),
 - Registered Charities, as detailed at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/> and Hospices in the UK.
 - Social Enterprises and Community Interest Companies (CICs)
 - Devolved and other administrations within the British Isles, including those detailed at: (in the case of Scotland) <http://scotland.gov.uk/Home>, and <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/>, (in the case of Wales) <http://new.wales.gov.uk/?llang=en>
 - Her Majesty's Prison Service,
 - The Ministry of defence as detailed at www.mod.uk

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VI.4. Procedures for review

VI.4.1. Review body

VI.4.2. Review procedure

VI.4.3. Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

VI.5. Date of dispatch of this notice

1.10.2013