

567063-2026 - Direct award preannouncement

Ireland – Medical equipments, pharmaceuticals and personal care products – Supply of a Vega HiFi Long-Read Sequencing System, Associated Reagents, Consumables and Maintenance for Galway Reference Laboratory Services

OJ S 157/2026 17/08/2026

Voluntary ex-ante transparency notice

Supplies

1. Buyer

1.1. Buyer

Official name: Health Service Executive (HSE)

Email: procurement.helpdesk@hse.ie

Legal type of the buyer: Body governed by public law

Activity of the contracting authority: Health

2. Procedure

2.1. Procedure

Title: Supply of a Vega HiFi Long-Read Sequencing System, Associated Reagents, Consumables and Maintenance for Galway Reference Laboratory Services

Description: HSE Procurement intends to enter into a six-year arrangement with Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc. (PacBio) for the supply of one Vega HiFi long-read sequencing system, together with associated sequencing consumables, library preparation reagents, indexing reagents, maintenance and delivery, for use by Galway Reference Laboratory Services (GRLS). GRLS provides national reference laboratory services supporting human clinical laboratories in Ireland in relation to Salmonella, Shigella, Listeria monocytogenes and Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacterales (CPE), as well as supporting the investigation of other Carbapenemase Producing Organisms and antimicrobial-resistant organisms associated with suspected outbreaks. The requirement is to provide highly accurate native long-read sequencing capability to enhance the detection, characterisation and tracking of mobile genetic elements, including plasmids carrying antimicrobial resistance genes. Existing short-read sequencing is limited in its ability to generate complete sequences of these mobile genetic elements and to determine transmission where resistance genes move between different bacterial strains and species. To fulfil this operational requirement, the sequencing system must provide long sequencing reads while maintaining the high sequence accuracy required for national reference and outbreak investigation functions. In particular, GRLS requires greater than 90% of bases to achieve a quality score of Q30 or greater. The sequencing output must also integrate with the laboratory's existing bioinformatics analysis workflow and facilitate plasmid characterisation and clustering. Alternative long-read sequencing technology was considered. Oxford Nanopore technology was assessed but does not currently satisfy the laboratory's required raw-read accuracy, reporting raw-read accuracy of Q26 compared with the GRLS requirement for greater than 90% of bases at Q30 or greater. PacBio HiFi sequencing provides long reads with typical read accuracy of 99.9% and therefore satisfies the required combination of long-read capability and sequence accuracy. The Vega system also provides primary analysis on-instrument, including base calling, HiFi read generation, methylation calling, barcode demultiplexing and BAM file generation. Pacific Biosciences is the sole provider of its proprietary Single Molecule Real-Time (SMRT®)

sequencing technology and the sole manufacturer of the Vega sequencing system. The associated sequencing consumables, library preparation reagents and indexing reagents required for the proposed sequencing workflow are proprietary to PacBio. Having considered alternative long-read sequencing technology, HSE Procurement considers that no reasonable alternative or substitute currently meets the identified technical requirements and that competition is therefore absent for technical reasons. HSE Procurement intends to award the contract to Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc. in accordance with Article 32(2)(b)(ii) of Directive 2014/24/EU. HSE Procurement undertakes that no contract shall be awarded to Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc. for the supply of these items until a period of fourteen days has elapsed, commencing on the day after the date of publication of this notice at European level.

Procedure identifier: 58563f13-efae-4243-a352-0e12f2552cb2

Type of procedure: Negotiated without prior call for competition

2.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Supplies

Main classification (cpv): 33000000 Medical equipments, pharmaceuticals and personal care products

Additional classification (cpv): 38000000 Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses), 38430000 Detection and analysis apparatus

2.1.2. Place of performance

Country subdivision (NUTS): Dublin (IE061)

Country: Ireland

2.1.4. General information

Legal basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

5. Lot

5.1. Lot: LOT-0001

Title: Supply of a Vega HiFi Long-Read Sequencing System, Associated Reagents, Consumables and Maintenance for Galway Reference Laboratory Services

Description: HSE Procurement intends to enter into a six-year arrangement with Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc. (PacBio) for the supply of one Vega HiFi long-read sequencing system, associated sequencing consumables, library preparation reagents, indexing reagents, maintenance and delivery for Galway Reference Laboratory Services (GRLS). The system is required to provide highly accurate native long-read sequencing to support definitive characterisation and tracking of mobile genetic elements, including plasmids carrying antimicrobial resistance genes. GRLS requires greater than 90% of bases to achieve a quality score of Q30 or greater, together with sequencing output capable of integration with its existing bioinformatics workflow. Alternative long-read sequencing technology was considered but does not currently meet the laboratory's defined sequencing accuracy requirement. PacBio HiFi sequencing provides long reads with typical read accuracy of 99.9%. Pacific Biosciences is the sole provider of its proprietary SMRT® sequencing technology and the sole manufacturer of the Vega sequencing system. The associated sequencing consumables, library preparation reagents and indexing reagents required for the proposed workflow are proprietary to PacBio.

Internal identifier: 1

5.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Supplies

Main classification (cpv): 33000000 Medical equipments, pharmaceuticals and personal care products

5.1.2. Place of performance

Country subdivision (NUTS): Dublin (IE061)

Country: Ireland

5.1.6. General information

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA): yes

5.1.7. Strategic procurement

Aim of strategic procurement: No strategic procurement

5.1.16. Further information, mediation and review

Review organisation: The High Court of Ireland

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures: The High Court of Ireland

6. Results

Value of all contracts awarded in this notice: 1 303 701,00 EUR

Direct award

:

Justification for direct award: The contract can be provided only by a particular economic operator because of an absence of competition for technical reasons

Other justification: Galway Reference Laboratory Services requires highly accurate native long-read sequencing to enable definitive characterisation and tracking of mobile genetic elements, including plasmids carrying antimicrobial resistance genes, between different bacterial strains, species, patients and the healthcare environment. Existing short-read sequencing does not provide the required capability to fully resolve and track these mobile genetic elements. To fulfil this operational requirement, the sequencing system must provide long sequencing reads while maintaining the high sequence accuracy required for national reference and outbreak investigation functions. In particular, GRLS requires greater than 90% of bases to achieve a quality score of Q30 or greater. The sequencing output must also integrate with the laboratory's existing bioinformatics analysis workflow and facilitate plasmid characterisation and clustering. Alternative long-read sequencing technology was considered. Oxford Nanopore technology was assessed but does not currently satisfy the laboratory's required raw-read accuracy, reporting raw-read accuracy of Q26 compared with the GRLS requirement for greater than 90% of bases at Q30 or greater. PacBio HiFi sequencing provides long reads with typical read accuracy of 99.9% and therefore satisfies the required combination of long-read capability and sequence accuracy. Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc. is the sole provider of its proprietary Single Molecule Real-Time (SMRT®) sequencing technology and the sole manufacturer of the Vega sequencing system. The associated sequencing consumables, library preparation reagents and indexing reagents required for the proposed sequencing workflow are proprietary to PacBio. Having considered alternative long-read sequencing technology, HSE Procurement considers that no reasonable alternative or substitute currently meets the identified technical requirements and that competition is therefore absent for technical reasons.

6.1. Result lot identifier: LOT-0001

6.1.2. Information about winners

Winner:

Official name: Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc.

Tender:

Tender identifier: PacBio Vega Direct Award

Identifier of lot or group of lots: LOT-0001

Value of the tender: 1 303 701,00 EUR

The tender was ranked: no

Contract information:

Identifier of the contract: Lot-0001

Date on which the winner was chosen: 12/08/2026

8. Organisations

8.1. ORG-0001

Official name: Health Service Executive (HSE)

Postal address: Oak House, Millennium Park Naas Co. Kildare

Town: Kildare

Postcode: RE

Country subdivision (NUTS): Mid-East (IE062)

Country: Ireland

Email: procurement.helpdesk@hse.ie

Telephone: +353 1 8886000

Internet address: <https://www.hse.ie>

Buyer profile: <https://www.hse.ie>

Roles of this organisation:

Buyer

8.1. ORG-0002

Official name: The High Court of Ireland

Registration number: The High Court of Ireland

Department: The High Court of Ireland

Postal address: Four Courts, Inns Quay, Dublin 7

Town: Dublin

Postcode: D07 WDX8

Country subdivision (NUTS): Dublin (IE061)

Country: Ireland

Email: HighCourtCentralOffice@courts.ie

Telephone: +353 1 8886000

Roles of this organisation:

Review organisation

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures

8.1. ORG-0003

Official name: European Dynamics S.A.

Registration number: 002024901000

Department: European Dynamics S.A.

Town: Athens

Postcode: 15125

Country subdivision (NUTS): Βόρειος Τομέας Αθηνών (EL301)

Country: Greece
Email: eproc-esender@eurodyn.com
Telephone: +30 2108094500
Roles of this organisation:
TED eSender

8.1. ORG-0004

Official name: Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc.
Town: 1305 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park, California
Postcode: 94025
Country: United States
Internet address: www.pacb.com

Roles of this organisation:

Tenderer

Winner of these lots: LOT-0001

Notice information

Notice identifier/version: bc3df319-b94b-4cc6-b8a3-31a9e739461f - 01
Form type: Direct award preannouncement
Notice type: Voluntary ex-ante transparency notice
Notice subtype: 25
Notice dispatch date: 13/08/2026 15:36:40 (UTC+01:00) Central European Time, Western European Summer Time
Languages in which this notice is officially available: English
Notice publication number: 567063-2026
OJ S issue number: 157/2026
Publication date: 17/08/2026