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**United Kingdom-London: Health and social work services
2020/S 250-626930**

Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Services

Legal Basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Official name: Public Health England
National registration number: na
Postal address: Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road
Town: London
NUTS code: UK UNITED KINGDOM
Postal code: SE1 8UG
Country: United Kingdom
Contact person: Craig Stephens
E-mail: craig.stephens@nhs.net

Internet address(es):

Main address: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title:

Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Services (NIPT)
Reference number: NIPT/VEAT/Dec20

II.1.2) Main CPV code

85000000 Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description:

Public Health England are commissioning a Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Service (NIPT) on a 3-year evaluative rollout basis. This notice is to confirm the proposed award going forward.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: yes

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: 9 900 000.00 GBP

II.2) **Description**

II.2.1) **Title:**

Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Services (NIPT) Region 1
Lot No: 1

II.2.2) **Additional CPV code(s)**

71900000 Laboratory services
85000000 Health and social work services

II.2.3) **Place of performance**

NUTS code: UK UNITED KINGDOM
Main site or place of performance:
ENGLAND.

II.2.4) **Description of the procurement:**

Public Health England are commissioning a Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Service (NIPT) on a 3-year evaluative roll-out basis. In order to ensure that the genomic testing element of the NIPT service is an integrated part of the National Genomic Testing Service the NIPT Provider must be part of a Genomic Laboratory Hub (GLH) and the service GLH-led. The NIPT Provider must be UKAS and ISO 15189:2012 accredited for NIPT and must participate in an ISO 17043 NIPT accredited EQA scheme. Accreditation for NIPT as part of NHS FASP shall be assessed.

In July 2020, Public Health England placed a PIN (in OJEU and Contracts Finder) containing the proposed specification (including the need for the service to be GLH-led) and invited feedback from providers. This feedback was included to help finalise the specification and aid the decision-making process.

In November 2020 the seven GLH providers were invited to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) in providing the NIPT service going forward. From the seven invited, three expressions of interest were received. The three GLH providers offer sufficient capacity to fulfil the needs of the service going forwards.

Therefore, the Commissioner has undertaken a negotiated procedure without prior publication in line with internal governance mechanisms/processes to award these NIPT services to the three GLH providers. These providers were required to complete a self-assessment questionnaire and engaged in dialogue with the Commissioner to ensure quality of NIPT service provision, as outlined in the specification. The activity is being split between the three GLH providers as it is not restricted by geography. Neither the awarded spend value per provider nor the associated activity is currently confirmed but will be based on a tariff rate of GBP 275 with indicative activity of 12 000 tests (total across England) per annum. The proposed contracts will start from 4 May 2021 and continue for 3 years.

II.2.5) **Award criteria**

II.2.11) **Information about options**

Options: no

II.2.13) **Information about European Union funds**

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

II.2.14) **Additional information**

II.2) **Description**

II.2.1) **Title:**

Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Services (NIPT) Region 2
Lot No: 2

II.2.2) **Additional CPV code(s)**

71900000 Laboratory services

85000000 Health and social work services

II.2.3) **Place of performance**

NUTS code: UK UNITED KINGDOM

Main site or place of performance:

ENGLAND.

II.2.4) **Description of the procurement:**

Public Health England are commissioning a Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Service (NIPT) on a 3-year evaluative rollout basis. In order to ensure that the genomic testing element of the NIPT service is an integrated part of the National Genomic Testing Service the NIPT Provider must be part of a Genomic Laboratory Hub (GLH) and the service GLH-led. The NIPT Provider must be UKAS and ISO 15189:2012 accredited for NIPT and must participate in an ISO 17043 NIPT accredited EQA scheme. Accreditation for NIPT as part of NHS FASP shall be assessed.

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In November 2020 the seven GLH providers were invited to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) in providing the NIPT service going forward. From the seven invited, three expressions of interest were received. The three GLH providers offer sufficient capacity to fulfil the needs of the service going forwards.

Therefore, the Commissioner has undertaken a negotiated procedure without prior publication in line with internal governance mechanisms/processes to award these NIPT services to the three GLH providers. These providers were required to complete a self-assessment questionnaire and engaged in dialogue with the Commissioner to ensure quality of NIPT service provision, as outlined in the specification. The activity is being split between the three GLH providers as it is not restricted by geography. Neither the awarded spend value per provider nor the associated activity is currently confirmed but will be based on a tariff rate of GBP 275 with indicative activity of 12 000 tests (total across England) per annum. The proposed contracts will start from 4 May 2021 and continue for 3 years.

II.2.5) **Award criteria**

II.2.11) **Information about options**

Options: no

II.2.13) **Information about European Union funds**

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

II.2.14) **Additional information**

II.2) **Description**

II.2.1) **Title:**

Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Services (NIPT) Region 3

Lot No: 3

II.2.2) **Additional CPV code(s)**

71900000 Laboratory services

85000000 Health and social work services

II.2.3) **Place of performance**

NUTS code: UK UNITED KINGDOM

Main site or place of performance:

ENGLAND.

II.2.4) **Description of the procurement:**

Public Health England are commissioning a Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Service (NIPT) on a 3-year evaluative roll-out basis. In order to ensure that the genomic testing element of the NIPT service is an integrated part of the National Genomic Testing Service the NIPT Provider must be part of a Genomic Laboratory Hub (GLH) and the service GLH-led. The NIPT Provider must be UKAS and ISO 15189:2012 accredited for NIPT and must participate in an ISO 17043 NIPT accredited EQA scheme. Accreditation for NIPT as part of NHS FASP shall be assessed.

In July 2020, Public Health England placed a PIN (in OJEU and Contracts Finder) containing the proposed specification (including the need for the service to be GLH-led) and invited feedback from providers. This feedback was included to help finalise the specification and aid the decision-making process.

In November 2020 the seven GLH providers were invited to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) in providing the NIPT service going forward. From the seven invited, three expressions of interest were received. The three GLH providers offer sufficient capacity to fulfil the needs of the service going forwards.

Therefore, the Commissioner has undertaken a negotiated procedure without prior publication in line with internal governance mechanisms/processes to award these NIPT services to the three GLH providers. These providers were required to complete a self-assessment questionnaire and engaged in dialogue with the Commissioner to ensure quality of NIPT service provision, as outlined in the specification. The activity is being split between the three GLH providers as it is not restricted by geography. Neither the awarded spend value per provider nor the associated activity is currently confirmed but will be based on a tariff rate of GBP 275 with indicative activity of 12 000 tests (total across England) per annum. The proposed contracts will start from 4 May 2021 and continue for 3 years.

II.2.5) **Award criteria**

II.2.11) **Information about options**

Options: no

II.2.13) **Information about European Union funds**

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

II.2.14) **Additional information**

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) **Description**

IV.1.1) **Type of procedure**

Negotiated procedure without prior publication

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

There is currently no NIPT service provision in England. However, NIPT is offered in Scotland and Wales therefore there is a requirement for the service to be in place to ensure equity across the health service as soon as possible, with a target start date of 4 May 2021. In order to ensure that the genomic testing element of the NIPT service is an integrated part of the National Genomic Testing Service the NIPT Provider must be part of a GLH and the service GLH-led. The NIPT Provider must be UKAS and ISO 15189:2012 accredited for NIPT services and must participate in an ISO 17043 NIPT accredited EQA scheme. Accreditation for NIPT services as part of NHS FASP shall also be assessed. It was determined that only the GLHs are able to meet the technical requirements of the specification. Therefore, the Commissioner has undertaken a negotiated procedure without prior publication in line with internal governance mechanisms/processes. All seven GLH providers were given equal opportunity to express an interest in providing the service. Upon conclusion of the process the Commissioner is moving forward and awarding these services to the three GLH providers who expressed an interest in providing the service.

IV.1.3) **Information about framework agreement**

IV.1.8) **Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: no

IV.2) **Administrative information**

Section V: Award of contract/concession

Contract No: 1

Lot No: 1

Title:

Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Services (NIPT) Region 1

V.2) **Award of contract/concession**

V.2.1) **Date of contract award decision:**

18/12/2020

V.2.2) **Information about tenders**

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: no

V.2.3) **Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Official name: South East GLH

Postal address: The SAFE Test Laboratory, St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Blackshaw Road, Tooting

Town: London

NUTS code: UK UNITED KINGDOM

Postal code: SW17 0QT

Country: United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire will be an SME: no

V.2.4) **Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: 3 300 000.00 GBP

V.2.5) **Information about subcontracting**

Section V: Award of contract/concession

Contract No: 2

Lot No: 2

Title:

Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Services (NIPT) Region 2

V.2) **Award of contract/concession**

V.2.1) **Date of contract award decision:**

18/12/2020

V.2.2) **Information about tenders**

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: no

V.2.3) **Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Official name: Central and South GLH
Postal address: Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Mindelsohn Way,
Edgbaston
Town: Birmingham
NUTS code: UK UNITED KINGDOM
Postal code: B15 2TG
Country: United Kingdom
The contractor/concessionaire will be an SME: no

V.2.4) **Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: 3 300 000.00 GBP

V.2.5) **Information about subcontracting**

Section V: Award of contract/concession

Contract No: 3

Lot No: 3

Title:

Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Services (NIPT) Region 3

V.2) **Award of contract/concession**

V.2.1) **Date of contract award decision:**

18/12/2020

V.2.2) **Information about tenders**

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: no

V.2.3) **Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Official name: North Thames GLH
Postal address: Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, Great Ormond Street
Town: London
NUTS code: UK UNITED KINGDOM
Postal code: WC1N 3JH
Country: United Kingdom
The contractor/concessionaire will be an SME: no

V.2.4) **Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: 3 300 000.00 GBP

V.2.5) **Information about subcontracting**

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.3) **Additional information:**

- This is a voluntary ex ante transparency notice for the award of three contracts for Non-invasive Prenatal Testing Services (NIPT) for England as a whole.
- This notice has been published to notify the market of the Commissioners' intention to enter into a contract with the providers named within. There will be no further standstill period and the Commissioner will enter into contracts following conclusion of this notice.
- The values per provider stated are indicative only and are not confirmed. The split is dependent on activity and region split and may alter in line with the requirements of the service. This will be confirmed in January 2021.
- Any legal action must be brought promptly in the High Court and within the time limits as defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

VI.4) **Procedures for review**

VI.4.1) **Review body**

Official name: Arden and GEM Commissioning Support Unit

Town: Derby

Country: United Kingdom

VI.4.2) **Body responsible for mediation procedures**

Official name: Arden and GEM Commissioning Support Unit

Town: Derby

Country: United Kingdom

VI.4.4) **Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained**

Official name: Arden and GEM Commissioning Support Unit

Town: Derby

Country: United Kingdom

VI.5) **Date of dispatch of this notice:**

18/12/2020