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Invitation to tender

Competitive dialogue – Procurement regulations part III

Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

on behalf of
Dept of Medical Genetics, Oslo University Hospital Trust

SYKEHUSINNKJØP

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1 General information

This competition is conducted by Sykehusinnkjøp HF (Client), on behalf of Oslo University Hospital Trust (Customer).

Sykehusinnkjøp HF is owned by the four regional health authorities; Helse Sør-Øst RHF, Helse Vest RHF, Helse Midt-Norge RHF and Helse Nord RHF, of which the share is 25 % each. For further information, see www.sykehusinnkjøp.no

For clarification, the term *Tenderer* is used as designation of the suppliers participating in this competition, while *Contractor* is used as designation of the supplier(s) awarded a contract.

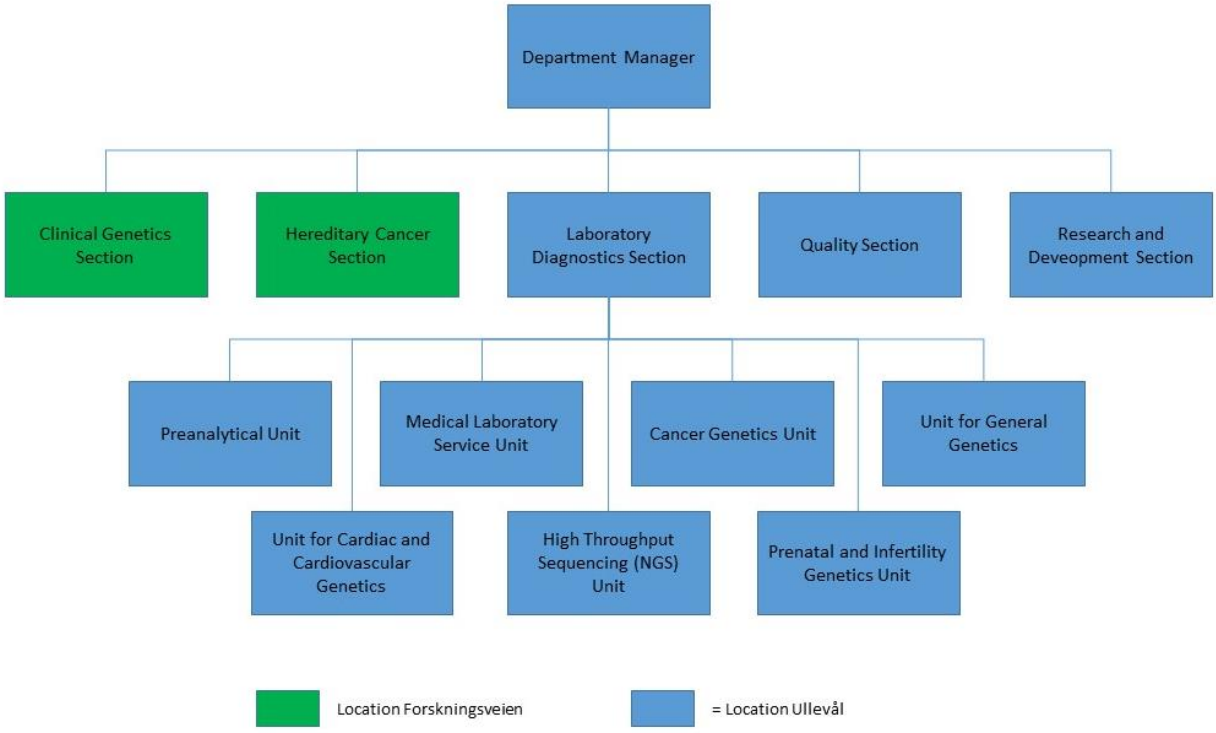
1.1 Oslo University Hospital Trust

Oslo University Hospital is a highly specialized hospital in charge of extensive regional and local hospital assignments and the provision of high quality services for the citizens of Oslo. The hospital has a nationwide responsibility for a number of national and multiregional assignments and has several national centers of competence. Oslo University Hospital is the largest hospital in Scandinavia, and performs more than 1.2 million patient treatments annually. Oslo University Hospital is a public hospital with more than 20 000 employees. For further information, see www.oslo-universitetssykehus.no

1.1.1 Department of Medical Genetics

The Department of Medical Genetics (DMG) at Oslo University Hospital is Norway's largest medical genetics department and provides diagnostics and research within the field of hereditary diseases. Our main areas are genetic diagnostics, genetic counselling and research. The laboratory offer more than 200 different tests, with a large amount of the samples analyzed by Next Generation Sequencing (NGS). The department has approximately 230 employees, spread across 5 sections in two different locations in Oslo. The diagnostic laboratory section is again divided into 7 units. The Oslo University Hospital is currently planning the construction of a new laboratory facility in Oslo with a tentative completion date in 2026.-2027. The laboratory part of Department of Medical Genetics will be part of the relocation to these new facilities, “The Life Science Building”.

Figure 1. Organization Department of Medical Genetics



The seven laboratory diagnostic units receive about 25 000 – 30 000 samples a year, doing about 60 000 diagnostic analyses. We offer more than 200 different analyses, performed by either of these methods:

- NGS-based methods, such as whole genome sequencing, whole exome sequencing and targeted NGS-panels
- Non Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT), by Veriseq NIPT Solution from Illumina
- Sanger sequencing
- Multiplex Ligation-dependent Probe Amplification (MLPA)
- Array CGH
- Fragment analyses

New methods are quite often established; right now, we are establishing methods for optical mapping (Saphyr Bionano), digital droplet PCR, and preimplantation genetic testing (PGT). Our diagnostic repertoire and instrument park is constantly changing, and there is a need for the new LIMS to support a department in rapid development.

Large amounts of our diagnostic analyses are based on next-generation sequencing (NGS). In 2021 we performed 10 000 NGS-based diagnostic analyses, of them 2700 where whole genome sequencing. In general, our laboratory is modern and well-equipped, focusing on automation of all processes. The diagnostic and research sections share instruments and ICT-infrastructure for NGS. Today, this NGS ICT-infrastructure is connected to secure big data storage facilities at University of

Oslo, and not to the network of Oslo University hospital. Clarity LIMS (see table 1) is the only LIMS in this network, while the other LIMS listed in table 1 are implemented in the hospital ICT-network.

There are three section/unit performing genetic counselling in the department; Hereditary Cancer Section, Clinical Genetics Section, and Cardio and cardiovascular Unit. All together, they do app. 12 000 genetic counseling each year, with a wide variety of indications. Their patient examination often involves counselling and genetic diagnostics of entire families.

The diagnostic laboratory including all analyses are accredited in compliance with NS-EN ISO 15189 (2011).

1.2 Telemark Hospital Trust, Section of Medical Genetics

Section of Medical Genetics at Telemark Hospital Trust is a smaller medical genetic department in South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority. This department would like to be included in the offer as an option for purchasing.

The department provides diagnostics, counselling and research within hereditary diseases. The department has approximately 30 employees and is part of the Medical Service Division, which has 300 full-time equivalents. The hospital has more than 3500 employees.

Their activity is also to a large extent based on NGS but have also diagnostics based on cytogenetics and other molecular genetic methods including Sanger sequencing, MLPA, Fragment analyses and array CGH. In 2021 the department completed 10 000 analyses of which 2000 where Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) analyses.

The diagnostic laboratory including all analyses are accredited in compliance with NS-EN ISO 15189 (2011).

1.3 Sykehuspartner Hospital Trust (Sykehuspartner HF)

Sykehuspartner HF currently delivers joint services within ICT, HR and Projects to all the health trusts in the South-Eastern Norway, and with its 1400 employees is one of the Nordic region's largest companies in the field. Sykehuspartner HF is responsible for the delivery of ICT services to all the health trusts in the South-Eastern Norway. For further information, see www.sykehuspartner.no

1.4 South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority

The South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Sør-Øst RHF) is the state health trust group that is responsible for specialist health services in the South-Eastern part of Norway (the county municipalities Viken, Oslo, Innlandet, Telemark, Vestfold and Agder). The enterprise is organized as a parent company (Regional Health Trust), with 11 underlying subsidiaries that are organized as independent health trusts with their own responsibility for results and with employer responsibility for their employees.

South-Eastern Norway is the country's largest health region with responsibility for specialist health services for a population of 2.85 million people. The health region has about 77 000 employees (including temps). Turnover is approx. 77 billion kroner. The head office of the South-Eastern

Norway Regional Health Authority is located in Hamar, with another administration office location in Skien. For further information, see www.helse-sorost.no.

1.5 Purpose and scope

1.5.1 Purpose

The purpose of this invitation to tender is to acquire a new, modern Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) covering the needs for Department of Medical Genetics (DMG). DMG will during the dialogue with the Tenderers identify and define how the needs can best be met.

The LIMS must cover all needs in DMGs diagnostic laboratory; from registration of the referred analyses and all patient/family details, and support the workflow in the laboratory ending with a clinical report to the clinicians. Ideally, it also should support genetic counselling in DMGs clinical sections, or be seamlessly integrated with such systems. The LIMS should be suitable for a modern diagnostics laboratory within medical genetics and be flexible enough to handle the demands arising within a more and more digitized healthcare system. Genetics is a technologic driven field, and the LIMS will need to support this development, hence, be flexible for frequent changes.

Table 1. The ICT-system/LIMS in the department today, their functionality, and the priority of being replaced by the new acquired LIMS. All, despite Clarity LIMS, are patient administrative systems, to some extent integrated with the hospital's electronic health record (EHR) system; DIPS.

Todays' ICT-system	Units in the organization where it is in use	High level functionality	Priority to be replaced
Swisslab (Nexus)	Preanalytic Unit, High Throughput Sequencing Unit, Prenatal and Infertility Genetics Unit, Cancer Genetic Unit, Unit for General Genetics, Medical Laboratory Service Unit	Laboratory system. Receiving electronic referrals/manual registration of patient/family info. Supports workflows throughout the lab, MD-integrations. Integrated with EHR, patient registry and invoicing system. Patient reports. Statistics.	1
FileMakerPro laboratory functions (in-house developed)	Unit for Cardiac and Cardiovascular Genetics	Laboratory system. Same as Swisslab, but used in another unit. Some additional features.	1
Clarity LIMS (Illumina)	High Throughput Sequencing Unit, Research and Development Section, Cancer Genetic Unit	Laboratory system. Support NGS workflows, integrated with NGS-instrument and other MDs. Reagent tracking. Today in a separate network.	2
FileMakerPro clinical functions	Unit for Cardiac and Cardiovascular Genetics	Clinical. Pedigrees.	3

(in-house developed), and Cyrillic pedigree drawing		Family data and genetic information.	
CGEN (in-house developed Oracle database)	Hereditary Cancer Section	Clinical. Pedigrees. Family data and genetic information.	4
MedInsight	Clinical Genetics Section	Clinical. Family data and genetic information.	5

MD=Medical devices
NGS=next generation sequencing

DMG currently use several systems that we hope to combine into a single one. DMG consider that a gradual merge to be easier and less risky, and can open up for alternative replacement systems if they cannot be combined into one big LIMS.

Today, the laboratory has three different LIMS; Swisslab (Nexus), a homemade LIMS based on FileMakerPro (internally called “Lipidregisteret”), and Clarity LIMS (Illumina). FileMakerPro is used in Unit for Cardiac and Cardiovascular Genetics, and Swisslab is used in all other laboratory units in Section for Laboratory Diagnostics. Both systems are handling the entire workflow in DMGs laboratories, despite the integration and monitoring of to DMGs next generation sequencing instruments and workflow, which is covered by the Clarity LIMS. The new system shall replace Swisslab and the laboratory managing part of the FileMakerPro application. It should also have modules for Next generation sequencing, aiming to also replace Clarity LIMS.

Our department also embrace extensive policlinic activity with genetic counselling of individuals and families. It will therefore be an advantage if the LIMS also has a clinical module supporting the needs for this activity. If so, we aim to replace three system today used for handling genetic counselling. In Unit for Cardiac and Cardiovascular Genetics uses FileMakerPro and Cyrillic to cover their needs in the clinic. Hereditary cancer section is using an Oracle-based system developed in-house; internally called “CGEN”. Clinical Genetic Section is using MedInsight for the same purpose. Ideally, the new LIMS can replace all these clinical systems. The FileMakerPro application holds the highest priority to be replaced also for its clinical module, thereafter “CGEN”, and desirable; MedInsight. It should be noted that DIPS is used as the hospital’s electronic patient journal system (EPJ), and integration between this EPJ and the new LIMS will be needed.

Historical data from the replaced systems will need to be converted into the new LIMS. This applies both to the laboratories LIMS and the clinical systems.

More than one system can be selected to cover the functionalities, given the possibility of an integration between them.

1.5.2 Desired functionality and possibilities in the solution

1. A new Laboratory Information Management System that should be flexible and user-friendly and that meets the following needs for the department:
    - Efficient workflow handling to save time and reduce risk of errors

- Allow for integration with instruments and ICT systems in use at the hospital
- High degree of traceability throughout the work flow, with particular emphasis on DNA indexing for sequencing methods that require library preparation
- Sample registration, from numbering and marking of received samples to test completion and reporting of results for efficient and quality assured processing of samples.
- Biobank functionality
- Customization of user interfaces and workflows
- Automatic registration of user information and time stamp throughout the process from sample registration through technical and medical validation steps and reporting.
- Advanced and flexible tools for statistics and reporting
- Efficient and clear solution for multidiscipline follow up of genetic testing of families and family screening when pathogenic variant is discovered preferably through the use of pedigree functionality

2. Migration of data from various existing systems into new LIMS
3. User manuals and user training
4. Support during and after implementation of new system

1.5.3 Scope

Oslo University Hospital Trust intends to enter into agreements with one Contractor.

Section of Medical Genetics at Telemark Hospital Trust is included in the procurement with an option for purchasing.

1.6 Agreement form and duration

The Customer plans to use the following agreements;

- Development and Customisation Agreement (SSA-T)
  - Agreement governing the delivery of software that is developed or customised for the Customer
- Maintenance Agreement (SSA-V)
  - Agreement governing the maintenance and servicing of software and equipment

The agreements are based on The Norwegian Government's Standard Terms and Conditions for IT Procurements.

A Data Processor Agreement between Sykehuspartner HF and Subcontracting Data Processor will be used if the solution requires this in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The draft agreement is attached as Attachment 9.

1.7 The Tender Document

The Tender Document consists of this document (Invitation to tender) and the following attachments:

Document	Name	Comments
Attachment 1	Application letter	Template
Attachment 2	Answer form technical and professional qualifications	Please use the template for answering the qualification requirements 5.3 and 5.4.
Attachment 3a	Functional requirement specification – draft	Preliminary requirements.
Attachment 3b	Technical requirement specification – draft	Preliminary requirements.
Attachment 4a	Current preanalytic workflow	Attached to create a better understanding of the need.
Attachment 4b	Flowchart_Integrations LIMS AMG	Attached to create a better understanding of the need.
Attachment 5	Development and Customisation Agreement (SSA-T)	
Attachment 6	Appendices to SSA-T	
Attachment 7	Maintenance Agreement (SSA-V)	
Attachment 8	Appendices to SSA-V	
Attachment 9	Data Processor Agreement between Sykehuspartner HF and Subcontracting Data Processor	
Attachment 10	Guidance regarding redacting documents	Only available in Norwegian.
Attachment 11	Public access to Application and Tender	Only available in Norwegian.
Attachment 12	Declaration of commitment	Template.

The Tender Document may be changed throughout the dialogue phase. The Client reserves the right to update draft requirements specification and publish other relevant documents together with inviting Tenderers to the dialogue phase.

1.8 Schedule

The competition is conducted as a competitive dialogue and is divided into three phases: the qualification phase, the dialogue phase, and the tender phase.

During the qualification phase, all interested suppliers can submit an application to participate in the competition. Only qualified Tenderers who are invited by the Client to submit solution proposals will participate in the subsequent phases.

In the dialogue phase qualified Tenderers are invited to participate in the dialogue by delivering a first solution proposal. Based on the solution proposals, a first dialogue will be held. In the dialogue,

Tenderers are asked to provide input on (parts of) the requirements specifications and other documents related to the competition. The Tenderer's solution proposals and other input will be used to revise the requirement specification and other relevant documents which in turn will be the basis for a new solution proposal. The dialogue ends when the Client is satisfied with the solutions that have been presented during the dialogue and is ready to finalize the requirements and content of the contract.

The tender phase starts with an invitation to submit a final offer. In the invitation to submit a final offer, all requirements specifications, contract documents, award criteria etc. are final. There is no opportunity to negotiate after final offers have been submitted. See section 2.1 for more information about the procurement procedure.

The Client reserves the right, in whole or partial, to close parts of the Tender Documents for further discussion during the dialogue, typically if there are extensive discussions around individual topics such as contract terms or otherwise.

All dates/times in the dialogue and tender phases are tentative. Relevant Tenderers will be kept updated.

Activity	Date/Week
Qualification phase	
Announcement of procurement	Week 17
Deadline for asking questions regarding qualification	May 13th
Deadline for submitting application	May 30th
Assessment of applications received	Weeks 22-23
Notification of the result of the qualification	Week 24
Dialogue phase	
Invitation to submit first solution proposal	Week 24
Deadline for submitting first solution proposal	August 15th
Evaluation, dialogue, and reference visit/demonstration	August - September
Tender phase	
Invitation to submit final offer	September 19th
Deadline for submitting final offer	October 3rd
Allocation decision and notification to the bidders	November 1st
Signing and entering into agreements	November 15th

2 Rules for the conducting the procurement

2.1 Procurement procedure

This procurement will be conducted as a competitive dialogue pursuant to Part I and III in accordance with the Public Procurement Act of 17 June 2016 no. 73 and regulations 2016 no. 12 August 2016 no. 974.

In a competitive dialogue, all interested Tenderers may submit a request to participate in the competition. Only qualified Tenderers who are invited by the Client will be able to participate in the dialogue and tender phases.

The Client plans to invite a limited selection of Tenderers to participate in the dialogue, albeit at least three (3) Tenderers. Any selection among qualified Tenderers will take place based on the qualification applications and the selection criteria that appear in section 6.

The dialogue can be carried out on all aspects of the procurement. The dialogue will be carried out in several phases, and both in writing and orally. Requirements and/or details concerning the award criteria may be added or removed along the way, and the classification of requirements may be changed until the invitation to submit the final offer is sent out.

The Client reserves the right to decide that one or more of the dialogue phases are used to reduce the number of solutions. Such reduction will be made according to the specified award criteria.

The Client will end the dialogue by setting a common deadline for receiving final offers from the remaining Tenderers. It is not allowed to negotiate the final offers.

Communication and dialogue during the competitive dialogue will take place in Norwegian or English.

2.2 Communication

All communication during the procurement process shall take place via the communication module in the Mercell portal (https://www.mercell.com). This is in order for all communications to be logged. Other communication with persons participating in the decision-making process is not permitted, and inquiries that occur in any other way cannot anticipate an answer. In the event of any questions concerning all providers, the Client will answer this anonymously to all Tenderers.

2.3 Tax certificate

The Contractor shall on request submit a tax certificate for VAT and tax certificate for tax. This applies only if the Contractor is Norwegian.

The tax certificate shall not be older than 6 months calculated from the deadline for submitting a request to participate in the competition or offer.

Tax certificate shall be submitted at the same time as the qualification application.

2.4 Pay and working conditions

Regulations concerning pay and working conditions in public contracts shall ensure that employees in companies that perform services and construction work for public contractors have no worse pay and working conditions than those resulting from applicable general regulations or nationwide collective agreements.

The contract terms relevant in this competition have regulations that contribute to the employees of the Contractor and any subcontractors who perform work on the contract receiving these minimum conditions.

In accordance with the regulations, we will require the necessary documentation from the Contractor and ensure that the provisions are complied with. In the event of Contractor's non-compliance with the regulations, we will impose sanctions under the contract.

3 Application for participation in competition

3.1 General

An application shall be made for participation in the competition.

All requests for participation shall be submitted electronically via the Mercell Portal, within the deadline.

3.2 Content and structure of the application

The application should be delivered with file names according to the following structure:

Document	Name
Appendix 1	Application letter
Appendix 2a	Documentation related to qualification requirements 5.1 Certificate of establishment
Appendix 2b	Documentation related to qualification requirements 5.2 Economic and financial capacity
Appendix 2c	Documentation related to qualification requirements 5.3 Technical and professional qualifications and 5.4 Quality assurance standards (please use template in Attachment 2 Answer form technical and professional qualifications)
Appendix 3	Tax certificate for paid VAT and tax
Appendix 4	Declaration of commitment for supportive businesses (if relevant)
Appendix 5	Parent company guarantee, bank guarantee etc. (if relevant)
Appendix 6	Declaration of solidarity responsibility (if relevant)
Appendix 7	Redacted version of the application (cf. Attachment 6 and 7) See also chapter 7.9.

3.3 Language

The request should be written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, or English.

3.4 Deadline for requesting a temporary injunction

Deadline for requesting a temporary injunction against the Client's decision to reject a request to participate in the competition or not to select a Tenderer, is 15 days counted from the day after the information was sent, cf. Section 20-7 of the Procurement Regulations.

4 The European Single Procurement Document (ESPD)

4.1 General information about the ESPD-form

The Tenderer shall fill out the ESPD-form as stated in Mercell.

At any time in the competition, the Client may request all or parts of the documentation evidence necessary to ensure that the competition is conducted correctly. In this competition, the Tenderer must submit all documentation relating to the qualification requirements as part of the application.

4.2 National reasons for rejection

In accordance with ESPD Part III: Exclusion grounds Section D: "Other exclusion grounds that may be foreseen in the national legislation of the contracting authority's or contracting entity's Member State" states that in this competition all the reasons for rejection apply to section 24-2 of the Procurement Regulations, including the purely national reasons for rejection:

- Paragraph 24-2 (2). The Client shall reject a Tenderer if he is aware that the Tenderer has been legally convicted or has accepted a fine for the specified conditions. The requirement to reject a Tenderer who has adopted fines is a special Norwegian requirement.

- Paragraph §24-2 (3) letter i). The reason for rejection in the ESPD form relates only to serious errors in professional practice, while the Norwegian reason for rejection also includes other serious mistakes that may cause doubt regarding the professional integrity of the Tenderer.

5 Qualification requirements

To be invited to dialogue, interested Tenderers must fill out the ESPD form which states that he meets the qualification requirements. The documentation related to the requirements shall be attached to the application, either directly in the ESPD form or as an attachment to the application cf. section 3.2.

The tenderer must have an organization that is suitable for ensuring that the contractual obligations are fulfilled throughout the contract period. For this reason, requirements are set for economic and financial capacity and for technical and professional qualifications (Qualification requirements). The Tenderer must meet all qualification requirements to have his application for participation in the competition assessed.

5.1 Registrations, authorizations, etc.

Eligibility requirements	Documentation requirements
The Tenderer shall be registered in an enterprise register or a trade register	Norwegian companies: Certificate of establishment

in the state where the bidder is established.	Foreign companies: Documentation that the company is registered in the register of enterprises, professional register, or a trade register in the state where the Tenderer is established.

5.2 Economic and financial capacity

Requirements	Documentation requirements
The Tenderer shall have sufficient economic and financial solvency to be able to carry out the contractual obligations.	The Client will assess the Tenderer's fulfilment of the eligibility requirement based on the following information from the Tenderer: • Last two years of financial statements with notes including auditor's statement. • Income statement and balance sheet from the last six months if it is more than 6 months since the last financial statements If the Tenderer has a factual reason not to disclose the documentation claimed by the Client, the Tenderer may determine his financial and financial capacity by any other document, including, for example, by a parent company guarantee, bank guarantee, etc. When using the parent company's guarantee, it is requested that the Tenderer provides documentation that the parent company is able to take over the subsidiary's financial and financial contractual obligations. The Client will, where appropriate, order a rating report from a renowned firm to verify that the Tenderer has sufficient economic and financial capability.

5.3 Technical and professional qualifications

Requirements	Documentation requirements
The Tenderer shall have sufficient ability to carry out the contractual obligations. In the assessment, the Client will emphasize the relevance, size, and complexity of previous deliveries.	The Client will assess the Tenderers fulfilment of the quality requirement based on the following information from the Tenderer: An overview of the most important and relevant deliveries of similar solutions in the last three (3) years, including information on scope/value, time of delivery, as well as the name of the customer. References from large medical genetic departments, being in front in Next generation sequencing, and ideally, also have a genetic policlinic, will be particularly positively emphasized.

<table>
<tr>
<td>The Tenderer shall have good capacity related to the implementation of the contract. (Development, testing, support/maintenance, project management,
implementation and training)

In the assessment, the Client will emphasize capacity in relation to the scope and size of this competition.</td>
<td>Enter the number of resources as specified in the following table:

<table>
<tr><td>Average number of man-years last 2 years – whole business</td></tr>
<tr><td>Number of man-years relevant to this delivery:</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Number of resources - product development</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Number of resources - testing</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Number of resources - support and maintenance</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Number of resources – project management</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Number of resources – implementation</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Number of resources – training</td></tr>
<tr><td>Any further plans for staffing adjustment if the Tenderer is awarded a contract.</td></tr>
<tr><td>A description of technical personnel or technical devices, especially those responsible for quality control, which the Tenderer advises to perform the contract</td></tr>
</table>

In addition, the Tenderer is asked to describe how much of the contract, and which parts, are planned to be set aside to sub-contractor(s).

Please use the template in Attachment 2 Answer form technical and professional qualifications.</td>
</tr>
</table>

5.4 Quality assurance standards

Requirement	Documentation requirements
The Tenderer shall have a well-functioning quality assurance system for mission-critical systems.	The Tenderer shall describe its quality assurance measures, methods and tools for development, test, handover, and deviation management. Please use the template in Attachment 2 Answer form technical and professional qualifications.

5.5 Support from other businesses

If a Tenderer is not able to fulfil the qualification requirements in sections 5.2 and 5.3 on its own, the Tenderer can rely on other businesses to meet the qualification requirements. This applies regardless of the legal association between the Tenderer and the business(es). If a Tenderer wishes to rely on other businesses to satisfy the qualification requirements, the ESPD declaration must be

delivered electronically for both the supplier and the business(es) he will rely on. In addition, the Tenderer must deliver a declaration of commitment for each of the businesses, cf. template in Attachment 8. The declaration must specify how and in which areas the company will support the Tenderer.

If the Tenderer relies on the capacity of other businesses to meet the requirements for economic and financial capacity, the business(s) must be solidarity responsible for the performance of the contract. This must be documented by adding a declaration of solidarity responsibility. In the event of support from a parent company, a parent company guarantee must be attached.

This information will not affect the Contractor's contractual responsibility.

6 Selection criteria

Tenderers who meet the qualification requirements set out in chapter 5 and who are not rejected, will be deemed qualified. To the extent that there are sufficient numbers of qualified Tenderers, the Client will select a limited number of suppliers to participate in the competition, albeit at least three (3) suppliers.

Any selection among qualified Tenderers to participate in the competition will take place based on an overall evaluation of which qualification applications best meet the following qualification requirements for participation in the competition:

- **Relevant deliveries and references**
- **Tenderers capacity**

The Client will give the Tenderers who are rejected or not selected a written notification as soon as possible. The notice will contain a brief justification.

7 Solution proposal and offer requirements

The following chapters are primarily applicable to the Tenderers who are qualified and selected to participate in the dialogue and to submit solution proposals and possible tenders. All Tenderers must first apply for participation and then await any invitation to the dialogue. Tenderers who submit an application for participation but are not invited to the dialogue or to submit a final tender, will be notified.

Further information on how the dialogue will take place, including deadlines for the delivery of solution proposals and the submission of final offers, will sent to selected Tenderers after the qualification phase.

7.1 Submission of application and offer

Applications for participation in the competition and final offer shall be submitted electronically via the Mercell portal, www.mercell.no. The system does not allow the delivery of offers after the deadline set in Mercell.

Contact Mercell Support, tel. 21 01 88 60 or e-mail support@mercell.com for questions related to access to and functionality in the Mercell portal.

It is recommended that the application and offer is submitted well before the deadline. Submitted applications and offers may be changed until the end of the deadline. The most recently submitted application/offer is considered the final one.

7.2 Design and content of the solution proposals and final offer

The design and content of the solution proposals and final offer will be informed in updated Invitation to Tender-document sent to the selected Tenderers during the process.

7.3 Alternative offers

Alternative offers are not accepted.

7.4 Parallel offers

Only one offer per bidder is allowed in the competition. Parallel offers are not accepted.

7.5 Language

Solution proposals and offers should be written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, or English.

The contract (standard terms) will be in Norwegian or English.

7.6 Reservations

Any reservations to the tender and/or contract documents must be listed in the Tender letter. The reservations must be clear and understandable in order to make the Client able to assess these without contacting the Tenderer. Reservations that are considered substantial will lead to rejection. An offer that includes several minor reservations may be rejected if the reservations in total are substantial. In any case, the Client has the right to refuse offers with deviations that are not insignificant.

During the dialogue phase, the Client expects the Tenderers to specify their reservations as early as possible to achieve an effective process and avoid unnecessary rejections and/or delays late in the process.

Tenderers are encouraged to ask questions prior to submitting an offer.

7.7 Validity of the final tender

The final tender is valid and binding for six (6) months following the deadline of the final offer.

7.8 Costs

Tenderers are expected to prepare and submit the tender at their own expense and risk. Costs and expenses incurred by the Tenderer related to the procurement shall be borne by the Tenderer. The Client undertakes no economic liability for work performed in connection with the Tenderer's participation in the competition.

7.9 Public access to tenders and procurement protocol

Tenders and procurement records can be exempted from public disclosure until the choice of Tenderer is finalized; see § 23, third paragraph, of the Norwegian Freedom of Information Act of 19 May 2006. From this point in time and onwards, access can be requested to these documents, although exceptions may be made for information that is subject to a statutory duty of confidentiality. Typical confidential information is information regarding personal matters and trade secrets (technical devices and procedures, as well as operational or business matters that for competition reasons it is important to keep secret in the interests of the person whom the information concerns).

The Tenderer must submit a redacted version of the application and offer where information regarded as confidential must be black-boxed. See Attachment 6 for guidance regarding redacting documents.

The Tenderer must also submit a separate document according to the template in Attachment 7 to justify the reasons for redacting.

If the application or tender does not contain any information considered as confidential, this must be confirmed in the Application/Tender letter.

7.10 Demonstration/reference visit

It may be appropriate to conduct a demonstration of solution and/or reference visits (digital or physical) during the competition. This can also become part of the evaluation of the offered solution. A demonstration can be in the form of a test of the solution to the customer's surveys. Only Tenderers who have a realistic possibility to win the competition, based on a preliminary evaluation, will be eligible for reference visit(s) and/or demonstration. A demonstration will take place in accordance with the principle of verifiability and equal treatment.

8 Award criteria and evaluation

The award of the contract will be made based on which offer has the best ratio between price/cost and quality. Final award criteria, sub-criteria and weighting will be decided during the dialogue and no later than in the invitation to submit final offer.

Allocation criterion	Ranking
Quality	1
Price/cost	2

8.1 Elaboration of the award criteria

8.1.1 Quality

Through the competitive dialogue, the components of the quality award criterion will be discussed with the Tenderers. Through the dialogue, other and more detailed quality criteria can be introduced before invitation to submit final offer. For the quality award criterion, the following are assumed to be components:

- Functionality described in the document "Functional requirements", and technical aspects described in the "Specification of requirements ICT services and information security"
- To what extent the LIMS covers the entire needs and support the workflows in the department
- Flexibility and possibility of customization
- The timeframe of development and implementation
- Support (expected uptime, support availability, response time)

8.1.2 Price/cost

In the dialogue, detailed price appendices will be finalized before the invitation to submit final offers and subsequent evaluation. For the price/cost criterion, the following are assumed to be components:

- Purchase price Customization to support the needs/workflows in the department in the implementation phase and later
- Pricing of integrations in the implementation phase and later
- Version updates
- General support
- Price for support converting of historical data from other digital systems

8.2 Award of contract

A decision on the award of the agreement will be notified in writing to all Tenderers at the same time in a reasonable time before the agreement is signed. The decision will include a justification for the choice of Contractor and provide information about the period before the contract is signed (stand-still period).

The Client reserves the right at any time to end the competition if there is a factual reason, including if the Customer considers that the answers do not hold sufficient quality, if the solutions and conditions offered are not considered to satisfy the Customer's requirements and needs and/or if the Client considers that there is insufficient competition between the participating Tenderers within each of the different parts of the acquisition.