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Dear Members of the Health Security Committee,

@ec.europa.eu

Verzonden: maandag 18 januari 2021 15:52

Aan:

Dear colleagues,

A joint procurement procedure for the supply of medical equipment for COVID-19 vaccination (launched on 28 September 2020) covers 27 types of equipment grouped under 6 categories: vaccine carriers, waste containers, injecting devices, disinfectants, personal protective equipment and anaesthetic consumables. 28 signatories of the Joint Procurement Agreement for medical countermeasures are participating, including 25 EU MS, 1 EEA countries, the UK and one potential candidate country.

The evaluation of 11 lots on syringes, needles and gloves has been concluded and 37 framework contracts covering over 1.2 billion syringes, 588 million needles and 760 million pairs of gloves have been signed. These contracts establish bilateral contractual relationships between the companies and contracting authorities and provide the framework under which MSs can purchase the goods from the companies if/when they have such need.

The contracts cover all the requested quantities by the participating countries (see details below). Moreover, thanks to the mechanism of contracts in cascade and if the production capacities allow, the actual orders might exceed the reserved quantities as much as several times for syringes and twice for needles. To prevent any shortages and to ensure smooth planning of deliveries, the participating countries need to provide to the contractors – in timely manner - their (indicative) schedules of firm orders for the contract duration (12 months).

Lots	Product	TOTAL DEMAND for the duration of the contract (12 months)
		(for lots 6-15: number of units; for lot 20: number of pairs)
6	Syringe, re-use prevention feature, 1ml, with fixed needle	386.193.304

7	Syringe, re-use prevention feature, 2ml, with fixed needle	76.457.983
8	Syringe, re-use prevention feature, 5ml, with fixed needle	10.012.201
9	Syringe, single use, 1ml, without needle	377.894.240
10	Syringe, single use, 2ml, without needle	169.961.629
11	Syringe, single use, 3ml, without needle	11.129.270
12	Syringe, single use, 5ml, without needle	133.149.922
13	Syringe, single use, 10 ml, without needle	34.765.692
14	Needles IM, 23-25 gauge	524.989.863
15	Needles ID, 18-21 gauge	63.312.818
20	Gloves, sterile and non-sterile, single use	760.020.040

For each product, there are 3-5 contractors in cascade to allow delivery of more goods in parallel in case of high demand. If a higher ranked company in cascade cannot deliver according to the needs, the contracting authorities can approach the next contractor in cascade. Some companies have committed to dispatch the goods as soon as within 1 or 2 weeks after the signature of a firm order, while some others – between 4 and 24 weeks. Yet, the exact delivery times are determined by the contracting parties once MS place fixed orders.

(NB: On 8 January 2021, the European Medicines Agency recommended that a 6th dose of Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine may be extracted from vials if using syringes and needles with Low Dead Space (LDS) of ≤35µl (https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/extradose-vials-comirnaty-covid-19-vaccine). Under this joint procurement, at least five types of injecting devices are indeed dose sparing and suitable for use in large scale vaccination campaigns. A number of contracts include several hundred millions of syringes and needles with the LDS lower than 35µl.)

So far, countries have not informed the Commission of any fixed orders under the afore-mentioned contracts in accordance with Article 27 of the Joint Procurement Agreement for medical countermeasures, nor of any issues they might be experiencing with the contract implementation.

The Commission stands ready to support MS by facilitating a smooth contract implementation and regularly informs MS of any important developments. To this end, we will hold the 4th meeting of the Specific Procurement Procedure Steering Committee on next week, on 21 January 2021.

Best regards,

**HSC Secretariat**