Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From:	Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent:	October 22, 2020 10:42 AM
To:	Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc:	Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott; Jean-François Létourneau; Media; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Rachel Lagacé; Renee Harden; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie
Subject:	For MO Approval : Media response / Tier 1 - COVID-19 – Proc. & Supply chain issues for testing labs (Plastique Moore contract) / Global

Good morning Cecely and James,

For MO approval, please.

Many thanks,

Marc

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Media response
Global
Jarvis, Carolyne (Global)
Date call received: October-20-20 at 09:00
Deadline: October-22-20 at 17:00
Tier 1 - COVID-19 – Proc. & Supply chain issues for testing labs (Plastique Moore contract)

CONTEXT (for your information):

This request is for a follow-up story after the publication of a first piece today. Reference: https://globalnews.ca/video/7407005/coronavirus-a-look-inside-the-supply-chain-crisis-slowing-canadian-labs. The question came as a follow-up to a response provided by PHAC.

The reporter has reached out to PHAC, and after extensive consultation, we've established that both departments will provide a response to the reporter. PSPC is only responsible to provide a response to Q2-B and to Q4. PHAC has already responded to the reporter and their info is added below.

QUESTIONS / RESPONSES:

Q1. When was it handed out? (PHAC)
A1. Provided to the reporter by PHAC: The contract with Plastiques Moore was signed in June 2020.

Q2. A) What was it for? (PHAC)
A2. A) Provided to the reporter by PHAC: It is for Plastiques Moore to manufacture plastic vessels that are to be used by public health laboratories for automated extraction (purification and concentration) of nucleic acids (DNA or, in the case or coronavirus, RNA) from biological fluid samples. The extraction of RNA is one step in the process of testing a sample collected for the purpose of determining if an individual has an active infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Q2. B) What did you buy? How many? For how much? (For PSPC to respond)
A2. B) The contract with Plastiques Moore was for 4 different plastic wares that are required in test kits:

(1) EasyMag disposables (consisting of vessel strip and aspirator) (864 000 boxes of 48 kits);
(2) Deepwell-96-plates (1 444 560 units);
(3) 96-Elution microplates (288 912 units) and;
(4) 96-tip combs (288 912 units)

The contract value is $16,209,123.26.

Q3. Have supplies already been distributed? (PHAC)
A3. Provided to the reporter by PHAC: No, products have not been distributed yet as the manufacturing process is still being finalized.

Q4. Were there other contracts similar to this for plastics used in labs? (For PSPC to respond)
A4. For the first plastic ware mentioned, the easyMag disposables, the intellectual property belongs to bioMerieux and Plastique Moore is currently the only company, other than bioMérieux, authorized to manufacture these plastic components.

For the 3 other plastic wares (plates, microplates and tip combs), PSPC has awarded other contracts to various suppliers for plastic components compatible with the different platforms.

Q5. When will the Government of Canada receive the product from the manufacturer? (For PSPC to respond)
A5. A sample of the plastic wares is currently undergoing inspection and validation by PHAC. Once the product is authorized, Plastiques Moore will start sending the product directly to provinces and territories labs, as per PHAC's instructions.

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Here is the initial question and response from PHAC, provided to the reporter October 19, 2020:

Q3. Should the federal government be leading a domestic solution, to supply chain issues for Covid testing labs (manufacturing in Canada)?
Since the beginning of the global pandemic, the Government of Canada has been working closely with Canadian industry to secure the supply of personal protective equipment, medical devices, and other key elements in the fight against COVID-19. The supply chains necessary to support an aggressive testing strategy are no different, and Canada has worked with a variety of companies to secure domestic sources of the chemicals, enzymes, and plastic consumables necessary to support federal and provincial labs. For example, the Government has signed contracts with Bio Basic Inc., Rane Pharmaceutical Inc. and GL Chemtec to manufacture guanidine thiocyanate, a key chemical required for COVID testing while Plastiques Moore is producing plastic consumables used in the testing process. The Government continues to pursue sourcing opportunities from traditional suppliers and is working with domestic firms who have retooled to bolster domestic capacity for key inputs that were in global shortage, for example swabs and reagents.

In addition, the Government of Canada is supporting provinces and territories by providing $4.28 billion in funding to help them augment their testing, contact tracing and data management capacity so they can better detect and manage the spread of COVID-19. The goal is to ensure provinces and territories have the capacity to test up to 200,000 people per day, nationwide. As part of the Safe Restart Agreements, provinces and territories committed to ramping up their testing capacity according to their jurisdictional realities.