

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 29, 2020 8:56 AM  
**To:** Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Cc:** Bryan Blom; Media; Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott; Jean-François Létourneau; Lucie Brosseau; Martine Skelton; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Rachel Lagacé; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie  
**Subject:** RE: For MO approval - Media response - Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Follow-up on medical devices and vendors / CTV Television

Hi Cecely,

Here's the context we've received from Bryan.

GeneXpert is not a company, this is the name of Cepheid's (the manufacturer) diagnostic system. This is the same thing than the Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2. The contract to provide this testing system was awarded to Inter Medico (the distributor). Yes, we can name the Xpert Xpress device. We'll give the company a heads up that it will no longer be through a PM announcement.

Can you please confirm which version is approved?

Merci!

Marc  
873-354-7219

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**From:** Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) [<mailto:cecely.roy@canada.ca>]  
**Sent:** May 28, 2020 8:03 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** James Fitzmorris <[james.fitz-morris@canada.ca](mailto:james.fitz-morris@canada.ca)>; Bryan Blom <[Bryan.Blom@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Bryan.Blom@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Elizabeth Lindsay <[Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Jean-François Létourneau <[Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Lucie Brosseau <[Lucie.Brosseau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Lucie.Brosseau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: For MO approval - Media response - Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Follow-up on medical devices and vendors / CTV Television

I have adjusted slightly below. Of the two companies we have contracts with currently - Spartan & GeneExpert - we have named Spartan but are we not able to name GeneExpert?

If not - please proceed with response below.

Thank you,

Cecely Roy  
343-549-7293

On May 27, 2020, at 8:07 AM, Media <[media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi –

Inter Medico agrees to be part of the PM announcement for the system Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 manufactured by Cepheid.

We're in the process of awarding a contract to Biomérieux for reagents manufactured by BioFire. It's too early to announce this one.

Hope this helps.

Michèle

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**From:** Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) [<mailto:cecely.roy@canada.ca>]

**Sent:** May 26, 2020 9:51 PM

**To:** Media <[media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** James Fitzmorris <[james.fitz-morris@canada.ca](mailto:james.fitz-morris@canada.ca)>; Bryan Blom <[Bryan.Blom@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Bryan.Blom@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>;

Elizabeth Lindsay <[Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Jean-François Létourneau <[Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>;

Lucie Brosseau <[Lucie.Brosseau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Lucie.Brosseau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: For MO approval - Media response - Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Follow-up on medical devices and vendors / CTV Television

I've adjusted the response below, and if it's possible to check with program on naming the companies that would be appreciated. If it's a no it would just be helpful to have the context from program on why this is the case

Thanks so much,

Cecely Roy  
343-549-7293

On May 24, 2020, at 4:21 PM, Media <[media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Cecely,

We are not recommending naming the companies to be as consistent as possible with our ongoing approach/NSE.

Spartan is named because they were part of a PM announcement. If we were to mention these contracts, we would need to go through the program to get in touch with the companies to ensure they are OK with being included in our response.

Hope that helps.

Michèle

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**From:** Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) [<mailto:cecely.roy@canada.ca>]  
**Sent:** May 23, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** James Fitzmorris <[james.fitz-morris@canada.ca](mailto:james.fitz-morris@canada.ca)>; Bryan Blom <[Bryan.Blom@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Bryan.Blom@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Elizabeth Lindsay <[Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Jean-François Létourneau <[Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Lucie Brosseau <[Lucie.Brosseau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Lucie.Brosseau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Martine Skelton <[Martine.Skelton@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Martine.Skelton@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger <[MeShel.GulliverBelanger@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:MeShel.GulliverBelanger@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Rachel Lagacé <[Rachel.Lagace@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Rachel.Lagace@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Sara Lacasse <[Sara.Lacasse@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Sara.Lacasse@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Vivianne Soubhie <[Vivianne.Soubhie@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Vivianne.Soubhie@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: For MO approval - Media response - Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Follow-up on medical devices and vendors / CTV Television

Are there any concerns in naming the two other companies (Cephied & BioFire)? If not and we are able to proceed with this please advise.

Thank you!

Cecely Roy  
343-549-7293

On May 21, 2020, at 3:58 PM, Media  
<[media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)> wrote:

Afternoon Cecely, James,

For your approval.

Charles.

**Media response**  
**CTV Television**

**Calahan, Kathlene (CTV Television)**

**Date call received: May-13-20 at 12:30**

**Deadline: May-14-21 at 17:00**

**Tier 1 - Follow-up: COVID-19 - medical devices and vendors**

**CONTEXT** (for your information):

The reporter has a follow-up question. She would like to get more specific information in regards to the following: *"As has been previously announced, Public Services and Procurement Canada has placed orders Spartan Bioscience Inc. and other companies for supplies necessary for diagnostic testing, including from this list. "*

## VALUE STATEMENT:

The Government of Canada is collaborating with provinces and territories on an ongoing basis to identify their needs and purchase required equipment, supplies, and services to combat COVID-19.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is taking an aggressive approach to buying, especially when it comes to personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers.

This includes:

- Ordering ahead in bulk on behalf of provinces and territories
- Supplementing those orders by purchasing limited-availability supplies that are immediately available
- Ramping up the domestic manufacturing capacity, through the Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, being led by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

This is over and above the efforts provinces and territories are taking to secure their own supply.

## QUESTION AND ANSWER:

**Q1. What companies on this "list" has Public Services and Procurement Canada placed orders with, and for what? Was there a specific announcement/press release re Spartan?**

We can confirm Public Services and Procurement Canada has placed orders with 2 other companies for their specific device mentioned on the [List of authorized diagnostic devices for use against COVID-19](#).

~~It's important to note that the Government of Canada is engaged in an unprecedented effort to acquire supplies and equipment to ensure that our front-line healthcare workers and Canadians stay safe and healthy. We are aggressively procuring in the global marketplace, while facing the risks posed by fragile supply chains, the fluidity of the current situation a surge in demand. The global nature of this pandemic and demand for supplies has meant that we face severe competition for goods and a highly volatile supply chain.~~

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~~That's why we need to exercise caution at this time with information we are providing about suppliers, in order to protect the integrity of our procurement processes, as well as the integrity of global supply chains.~~

~~Furthermore, some of the procurements in response to COVID-19 are being done under a national security exception (NSE), meaning that many solicitation documents are not published on Buyandsell. This allows the response to move rapidly as we purchase goods and services to protect the health and safety of Canadians as we face this pandemic. Similar procurement flexibilities are being applied by other countries around the world, due to COVID-19. However, we have posted some solicitation documents for COVID-19 related procurements on Buyandsell and we have also publicly announced several contracts over the past few weeks. In particular,~~

~~This includes Spartan Bioscience which was announced in a Prime Minister's [news release](#) along with [agreements with other Canadian companies](#).~~

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**ANSWERED on May 12.**

In response to your query, all devices on the "[List of authorized diagnostic devices for use against COVID-19](#)" have been authorized for sale or import in Canada under Health Canada [interim order](#).

As has been previously announced, Public Services and Procurement Canada has placed orders Spartan Bioscience Inc. and other companies for supplies necessary for diagnostic testing, including from this list.

We are working hand in hand with Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada to align our procurement approach with Canada's testing strategy and to increase testing capacity.

We are also securing domestic sources of the essential products required for testing like reagent. We have a long term agreement with LuminUltra, a leading biotechnology company based in New Brunswick to produce reagent along with other chemicals necessary for testing, for 500,000 tests per week to help meet Canada's needs right through to March 2021. Deliveries are underway directly to provinces and territories.