

SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme: NHS England and NHS Improvements competition for development contracts

INVITATION TO TENDER

This Invitation to Tender should be read in conjunction with other documents associated with this competition. These and all associated documents can be downloaded from the SBRI Healthcare [website](#).

Summary

Applicants are invited to tender for projects under a new SBRI Healthcare programme to implement medical devices, *in vitro* diagnostics, digital health, hardware, behaviour intervention, and new models of care to improve:

- Early detection and diagnosis of cancer
- Diagnostic efficiency for cancer services

Further details are outlined in the [Challenge Brief](#).

Application Process

Details of the background, challenges and expected outcomes of the projects can be found in the [Challenge Brief](#). We strongly advise applicants to read the Applicant and Portal Guidance before submitting an application.

The SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme is an initiative developed by NHS England and NHS Improvement's NHS Cancer Programme working together with SBRI Healthcare. The funding is provided by the NHS Cancer Programme. The call is open to innovations detailed above that meet the following requirements:

- CE mark or equivalent regulatory approval obtained, and /or
- product in use in at least 1 Trust (use in a large-scale research study would qualify for this criterion)

The aim of the funding is to generate evidence to support rapid local/regional/national spread (not classical Randomised Controlled Trial generated evidence).

The competition is open to single companies or organisations from the private, public and third sectors, including charities, based in Europe. However, due to the nature of the projects that will be supported and the intended outcomes, involvement of appropriate clinical partners in England is expected and engagement with Cancer Alliances is strongly encouraged.

In the first instance, projects will be funded for a maximum of **18 months** and **up to £5M** may be requested. Please ensure the proposed project deliverables could be reasonably achieved within the suggested contract duration, and all requested costs be justified. Projects are **100% funded inclusive of VAT** (contract value). According to the SBRI Healthcare Phased approach, promising innovations will have the opportunity to bid for follow on funding (for example scaling up implementation, supporting independent evaluations, etc.), subject to independent scrutiny. Suppliers for each project will be selected by an open competition process and retain the intellectual property rights generated from the project, with certain rights of use retained by the NHS.

Applicants should state their goals and outline plans, as an explicit part of the path to full implementation, in their proposal.

A briefing event for organisations interested in finding out more about the competition will be held on Thursday 4th March 2021 through a virtual event. Please check the website for confirmation and further details.

All applications must be made using the application portal, which can be accessed through the [Research Management System](#). The form must be completed and submitted electronically through the online application portal. Only applications received **by 1:00pm on 21 April 2021** will be accepted. We strongly advise that you read the accompanying Applicant and Portal Guidance prior to submission.

Applicants are invited to consult this Invitation to Tender alongside the Applicant and Portal Guidance and the [Challenge Brief](#); a template Application Form is also accessible on the website. Frequent Asked Questions will also be published in due course. All documents are available on the [SBRI Healthcare website](#) to help prepare your proposal.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS BY POST OR BY ANY OTHER MEANS THAN THROUGH THE PORTAL, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

Key dates

Competition launch	17 March 2021
Briefing event	Thursday 4 th March 2021, virtual event
Deadline for applications	21 April (1:00pm)
Assessment	May/June 2021
Interview Panel	20 and 21 July 2021
Contracts awarded	August 2021

Assessment process

A diagram of the process for application and assessment is shown below (Figure 1): all applications will be reviewed by a selected Panel of experts who will provide feedback on the applications according to the following criteria, which are weighted differently:

The assessment criteria will include:

- How well does the proposal address the challenge outlined in the brief? How convincing is the evidence accumulated to date? 20%
- Are the project plan, deliverables and risk mitigation strategy appropriate? 15%
- Does the project include patient and public involvement? 5%
- Does the project address Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and Net Zero Policy? 5%
- Will the solution have a competitive advantage over standard of care and existing alternative solutions? How innovative is the proposal and are the arrangements surrounding the use and development of Intellectual Property appropriate? 15%
- Does the proposed project have appropriate NHS/social care implementation, spread and adoption strategy and commercialisation plans? 20%
- Does the company and project team appear to have the right skills and experience to deliver the project? 15%
- Are the costs justified and appropriate? 5%

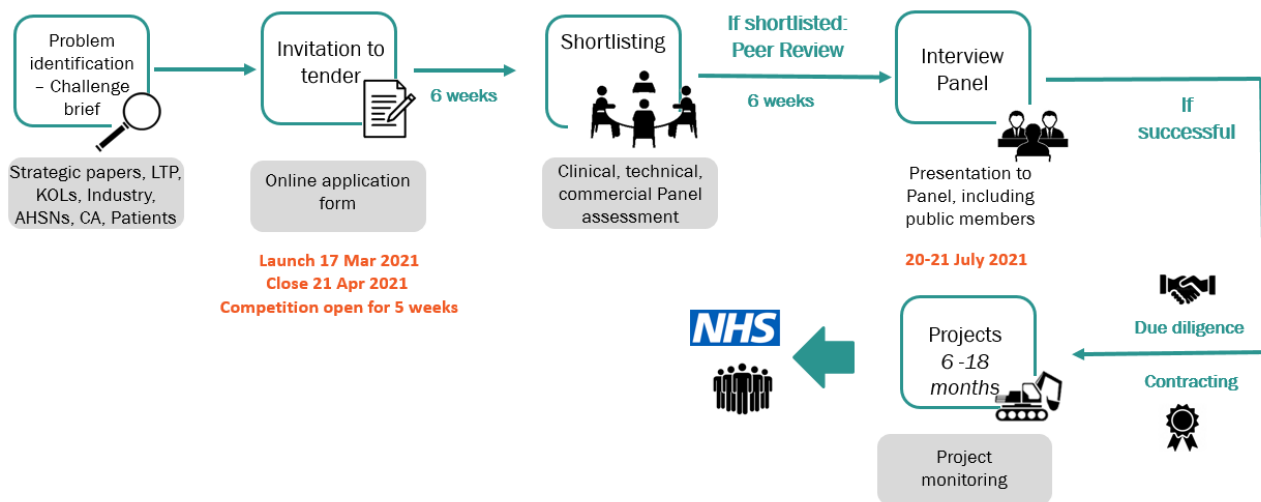


Figure 1: Diagram of the SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme

Applications will be shortlisted based on discussions and feedback from a Panel of experts. The shortlisted applications will be subjected to independent external peer reviews. Applicants will have access to the anonymised peer reviewers' comments and have the opportunity to rebut. Applicants will then be invited to an interview meeting to present their proposal to the Selection Panel. The interview takes the form of a short presentation (typically 15 minutes) followed by a question and answer session with the Panel members.

Successful applicants will be advised according to the published key dates, and organisations will be expected to mobilise rapidly to start the project. It is important that projects start soon after the contract has been issued so that all projects can be assessed fairly and move on concurrently and smoothly. Provision of feedback to rejected applicants will be subject to the volume of applications received.

The SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme is expecting that applicants actively engage in tackling healthcare inequality, and in supporting diversity and inclusion, while drafting their proposal, by including communities where the proposed innovation will make the biggest impact. NHS England and NHS Improvement are committed to give patients and the public a voice. The SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme has embraced this vision and has incorporated patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) in the scheme to ensure the proposed innovation addresses the needs of patients and carers, as well as clinicians and health system leaders and users. PPIE is an accepted and recommended working practice within Healthcare research ensuring that solutions are co-produced with patients, meet patient needs and to ensure there is an acceptability among end-users. Applicants are expected to discuss a PPIE strategy as part of their projects.

Conditions

By applying, companies are automatically consenting to the terms and conditions contained in the Contract.

The SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme is committed to actively and openly support and promote equality, diversity and inclusion both in terms of the people who administer the programme and the innovators involved in the project, leading, delivering and supporting the project. In accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, the personal information that you provide within the outline proposal will specifically be used for the purpose of administering the call. The information will be viewed by the SBRI Healthcare programme Management Office and the SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme assessors and will not be used for any other purpose without your specific consent. For further information on how your information is used, how we maintain the security of your information, and your rights to access information we hold on you, please contact the team by email: sbri@lgcgroup.com.

Documents associated with this competition

- Challenge Brief
- Invitation to Tender
- Applicant and Portal Guidance
- Sample Application Form

Contact Points

Questions and comments are very welcome while the competition is open. Questions **on the challenges and scope of this SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme competition** should be addressed to LGC Ltd via email sbri@lgcgroup.com; questions on the overall SBRI programme should be addressed to support@innovateuk.gov.uk. Questions will only be accepted when received through this route. **After 21 April 2021, no new questions will be answered.**

For further information on this SBRI Healthcare Cancer Programme competition, visit:

<https://sbrihealthcare.co.uk/competition/sbri-healthcare-cancer-programme/>

For more information on other initiatives of the SBRI Healthcare programme, visit:

<https://sbrihealthcare.co.uk/>

For more information about the SBRI programme, visit:

www.innovateuk.org/SBRI