**Procurement of ADAFT BFR - VTN**

Defence Medical Services intend to award the Blood Flow Restriction Contract, otherwise known as BFR, for two PhD students in Neuromuscular Physiology and Imaging and Cellular Muscular Physiology to facilitate the ADAPT Trial, to Bath University and the University of Northumbria. The requirement is seeking the answer to the research question: Does low-load resistance training (LL-RT) with or without blood flow restriction (BFR) provide an effective method of treatment for military personnel with lower-limb musculoskeletal injury (MSKI) who are unable to tolerate conventional heavy-load resistance training during in-patient rehabilitation? This opportunity was only open to universities and the contract duration will be for a maximum duration of three years. The value of the contract is estimated to be no more than £60,000.

It is considered that this contract can be placed using the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice as permitted by Regulation 14 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015, exempting Public sector Contracts for research and development services.

Defence Medical Services published an [RFI](https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/ba1758e2-bc4d-4ca5-83f3-407aeb4868c5) which asked for interested parties to contact the Authority with proposals. Both the University of Bath and the University of Northumbria have agreed to match the Authority’s funding target for this research project and both have submitted proposals to answer the Authority’s research question which have been received, and accepted as appropriate, by Defence Medical Services Research Steering Group. No other interest was submitted in response to the RFI.

The University of Northumbria and the University of Bath will therefore be awarded the separate research Contracts to support PhD students in their input to the ADAPT Trial. The Authority will proceed to enact the negotiated procedure and engage with the universities. Institutions are welcome to enquire by emailing Michael.woodard100@mod.gov.uk, this VTN will remain open for 10 calendar days.