**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**Title:** Provision of Research Project ADAPT TRIAL (ALSO KNOWN AS BLOOD FLOW RESTRICTION)

**Reference number:** BFR2 ADAPT

Dear Potential Provider,

We would like to notify you of a potential upcoming requirement, and by doing so we are keen to understand where the market stands in terms of the business needs.

This Request for Information (RFI) seeks information on whether potential providers can support PhD students in Neuromuscular Physiology and Imaging and Cellular Muscular Physiology to facilitate the ADAPT Trial. **Please note this requirement is only viable for universities or educational/ research organisations.**

The MoD is seeking an 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?

The Authority is inviting interested parties to provide details on their capacity and capability in this field along with a proposed delivery model and likely costings for such provision.

**REQUIREMENT**

**Background:**

This research study has military importance as the majority of injuries in military populations occur in the lower limb. Soldiers injured during basic training, field exercise, sport etc. may be unable to deploy on operations, whilst soldiers injured during deployment may not be fit to return to active duty. There is subsequently a considerable economic and operational cost to the UK Ministry of Defence associated with lower-limb MSK injury. Optimising the recovery of UK Military personnel suffering MSK injury is of critical importance and has been highlighted as a priority for research by the UK Defence Medical Services. This research is being co-ordinated and led by ADMR, under the leadership of Defence Professor of Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Medicine, for the Hd Research and Clinical and the Surgeon General as per the DMS research priorities.

**University/ Student Activities:**

The Authority requires two PhD students to be supervised through a research project which has been endorsed by the Defence Professors. Interested parties are encouraged to expand upon and offer alternative routes to achieving the Authority’s stated research aims whilst remaining within the parameters of the project’s design and at all times answering the primary research question.

The first of the Authority’s PhD studies is examining influence of BFR resistance training on the Neurological and Mechanical Adaptations to Rehabilitation from lower limb injury. The Second of the Authority’s PhD studies is an investigation of the use of BFR exercise to improve pain, functional exercise-based rehabilitation of UK military personnel.

Interested parties are able to express interest in either one, or both, of the PhD studies but must be prepared to match the Authority’s funding, currently anticipated at circa £85,000 for the study to move forwards. This funding will include, but not limited to:

Any interested party must outline their institution’s expertise in:

* Neurological Science
* Blood Flow Restriction
* Rehabilitation
* Pain Mechanisms
* Cellular Muscular Physiology

**Locations of work:**

Samples taken from volunteers will be conducted at DMRC Stanford Hall

# AUTHORITY QUESTIONS TO SUPPLIERS

Are you able to provide support for 1, or 2, PhD students for this project?

Are you able a recognised expert in the field of Neuromuscular Physiology and Imaging and Cellular Muscular Physiology? If so, please provide evidence or background/

Can you commit to match the Authority’s current funding at a minimum (an increase funding is a possibility)?

Do you have established connections or access to experts in this area including but not limited to versus Arthritis (formerly Arthritis Research UK) and Centre for Sport and Exercise Osteoarthritis (CSEOA)?

**RESPONSE GUIDANCE**

This Request for Information (RFI) has been issued in order to better understand the market. The Authority is inviting interested parties to provide details on their capacity and capability in this field along with a proposed delivery model.

If you wish to engage with the Authority regarding this RFI, please email Michael.woodard100@mod.gov.uk with the following information:

a. Company Name

b. Brief description of your Company

c. Details of capacity and capability in this field

d. Point of Contact details

Your response is required by 25/05/2022 and will be treated with confidentiality. Answers will not be shared with any of the other suppliers.

If deemed necessary, the Authority reserves the right to discuss responses on a 1-2-1 basis with suppliers in order to clarify any responses received.

# Potential Provider Questions and Clarifications

* Potential Providers may raise questions or seek clarification regarding any aspect of this RFI document at any time.
* To ensure that all Potential Providers have equal access to information regarding this Procurement, responses to questions raised by Potential Providers will be published.
* Responses to questions will not identify the originator of the question.
* If a Potential Provider wishes to ask a question or seek clarification without the question and answer being published in this way, then the Potential Provider must notify us and provide its justification for withholding the question and any response. If the Authority does not consider that there is sufficient justification for withholding the question and the corresponding response, the Potential Provider will be invited to decide whether:
	+ the question/clarification and the response should in fact be published; or
	+ It wishes to withdraw the question/clarification.

**General Conditions**

* This RFI has been issued to help us to refine the requirements.
* We reserve the right not to proceed with this procurement. Nothing shall constitute a commitment to instigating a formal procurement process.
* Any and all costs associated with the production of such a response either to an RFI or any resultant competition must be borne by the Supplier. The Authority will not contribute in any way to meeting production costs of any response.
* Information contained within this document is confidential and must not be revealed to any third party without prior written consent from us.
* We expect that all responses to this RFI will be provided by Potential Providers in good faith to the best of their ability in the light of information available at the time of their response.
* No information provided by a Potential Provider in response to this RFI will be carried forward, used, or acknowledged in any way for the purpose of evaluating the Potential Provider, in any subsequent formal procurement process that may take place.