**Request for Information**

*Instructions and Guidance*

**NHS England Quality Assurance of Breast Screening Medical Physics**

**Ref:** C340256

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## COVERING LETTER ......................................................................................................2

## THE RFI PROCESS .......................................................................................................4

## SCOPE OF THE SERVICE.............................................................................................4

## VISION AND STRATEGIC GOALS ...............................................................................4 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS ...................................................................................5

Dear Provider(s)

This Request for Information (RFI) process is being undertaken to engage with the market to inform the further development of draft proposals for an **NHS England Quality Assurance of Breast Screening Medical Physics**

The objective of the RFI is to:

* Understand market Capability and Capacity to deliver the service.
* Understand the preferred service model for delivering the service.
* Understand if the proposed service model is viable.
* Understand the pricing for the proposed service model.
* Understand if there are any financial risks with the delivery of the service.
* Understand the mobilisation requirements of the service.
* Understand any barriers to bidding and whole service risk

Whereas this RFI has been prepared in good faith by NHS England it should not be assumed that the information in this RFI has been verified for absolute accuracy and completeness by NHS England and/or any advisor(s) to NHS England.

Expressions of interest to meet with the contracting authority to further explore responses to the Request for Information is not required at this stage, however maybe required at a later stage. Please indicate on Question 7.2 if you would be happy to participate in the supplier meetings should the contracting authority wish to do so. Supplier meetings will be allocated on a first come first served basis via Atamis. All written responses will be considered regardless of whether interested parties wish to participate or are invited to participate in meetings.

NHS England and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, and affiliates do not make and will not make at any time, in connection with this service, any representation or warranty, express or implied as to the accuracy or completeness of this RFI or any such summaries.

In providing this RFI, the NHS England does not undertake any obligation to provide the recipient with access to any additional information or to update the RFI or correct any inaccuracies in the RFI, which become known to it. Nothing in the RFI or accompanying documentation should be relied upon as a promise or a representation as to the NHS England’s ultimate decisions in relation to the next stage, which will depend, at least in part, on the outcome of the discussions during this RFI process.

NHS England will not reimburse any expenses incurred by interested parties in preparing their responses to this RFI including attendance at any meetings. NHS England reserves the right to discontinue the process at any time and will not accept any liability towards interested parties should it be required to do so.

Completed RFI’s must be submitted by **15:00 hours on the 21 March 2025.**

Any submissions received after this specified deadline may not be considered in the market engagement process undertaken through the RFI process.

Yours faithfully

**Kaysha Maynard**

**Procurement Lead**

**Commercial Directorate**

**NHS England**

1 **THE RFI PROCESS**

1.1 The RFI process is being undertaken to allow the early market testing for an **NHS**  **England Quality Assurance of Breast Screening Medical Physics**

1.2 The documentation is available to all interested parties who have registered an interest in the service via the e-Tendering portal following the advertisement of a Prior Information Notice/RFI on Contracts Finder and Find a Tender (FTS).

1.3 Accompanying this document, the following attachments are available to interested parties to further inform the submission of the respective RFI: -

* Appendix A - RFI Response Document (Please note that this document needs to be completed and returned via the Atamis system).

1.4 These documents are provided to assist potential providers in the completion of the RFI submission, however, please note that this information is indicative only and may not reflect the data used in any forthcoming procurement process if applicable. Interested parties are required to complete Appendix A – RFI Response Document and return via Atamis.

1.5 Expressions of interest to meet with the contracting authority to further explore responses to the Request for Information is not required at this stage, however may be required at later stages. Please indicate on Question 7.2 of Appendix A if you would be happy to participate in the supplier meetings should the contracting authority wish to do so. Supplier meetings will be allocated on a first come first served basis via Atamis. All written responses will be considered regardless of whether interested parties wish to participate or are invited to participate in meetings.

**2 SCOPE OF THE SERVICE**

2.1 The service requirements are outlined in Appendix A. Please note that this is a summary of the current service model and proposed model and is subject to change based on feedback including that from the RFI process.

## 3 VISION

NHS England is an Arm's Length Body of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The Vaccination and Screening directorate (V&S) in NHS England exists to deliver vaccination and screening programmes that provide responsive, accessible, convenient and high-quality services to local communities, to deliver maximum levels of uptake and coverage across the whole population and within and between communities, to improve health outcomes, avoid harm, enable earlier diagnosis, intervention and help people to stay well, leaving no-one behind.

What we deliver:

· Commissioning and operational delivery of s.7a NHS public health services as delegated by the Secretary of State for Immunisation and Screening Programmes and Child Health information Services.

· Clear strategy for vaccination and screening that includes standards, guidance, and outcomes to support effective and efficient commissioning and delivery, with maximum uptake.

· National design and development of clinical standards, supporting architecture and infrastructure to support safe delivery of all national screening programmes.

· National strategies (Immunisations, Screening, CHIS), priorities and standards deployment following decisions from government and JCVI and in collaboration with regions and ICBs.

· Data (including for service delivery) and technology architecture and infrastructure.

· Coordinated supply modelling and logistical expertise and execution.

Screening is a way of identifying healthy people who may have an increased risk of a particular condition. The NHS offers a range of screening tests to different sections of the population. The aim is to offer screening to the people who are most likely to benefit from it. People can then be offered information, further tests, and appropriate treatment to reduce their risk and/or any complications arising from the disease or condition.

This document is related to the NHS Breast Screening Programme (NHSBSP) quality assurance of breast screening medical physics service.

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**Overview of Requirements:** NHS Breast Screening Programme (NHSBSP) quality assurance of breast screening medical physics service.

NHS England currently contracts an external organisation to provide scientific and technical advice to the NHSBSP. This contract is currently held by the National Co-ordinating Centre for the Physics of Mammography (NCCPM). NCCPM is contracted to test new mammographic equipment to ensure that it meets the requirements of the programme and is acceptable for use from a technical perspective. NCCPM also co-ordinates, hosts and analyses the online reporting tool in which breast screening services log equipment faults.

The service has a critical role in patient safety and is essential for assuring the NHS Breast Screening Programme that new mammography screening equipment complies with the strict medical physics requirements outlined by NHS England, ensuring the equipment meets the necessary sensitivity and specificity standards.

Please see Appendix A for further details.

# 4 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 This document is **not** an Invitation to Tender (ITT), nor does it form any part of a procurement process. It is a Request for Information (RFI) based on the draft service requirements provided with this document.

4.2 The RFI Response Document should be submitted no later than 15:00 hours on the 21 March 2025.

4.3 Interested parties’ responses do not constitute firm offers capable of acceptance. Instead, their responses will be construed as indicative only.

4.4 Unless otherwise agreed, NHS England shall not be obliged to return any materials submitted by interested parties before, during or after any procurement process.

4.5 Any information provided as part of this RFI may be used by the NHS England to inform future market analysis activity.

4.6 NHS England recognises that with a new service model there is a clear need to test with interested parties that outline requirements are not deficient to any material degree and that the content as to outcomes, as designated, are deliverable and affordable. To understand and appreciate these issues, it is essential that NHS England seek a fuller understanding from interested parties to enable requirements to be fully reflective of issues and concerns, which are relevant, and to adopt these, where appropriate in the final service model.

4.7 In addition, there is an option to allow interested parties to submit their individual caveats in relation to any section of the proposed service model where they may identify outcomes that they may not be able to provide and/or offer alternative suggestions. It should be noted by interested parties that in making these suggestions, the areas where this information may arise should be substantive in the context of delivering service model outcomes.

4.8 To register an interest in responding to this market engagement exercise, express an interest to meet the contracting authority and obtain a copy of the Request for Information documentation please go to the [http://health.atamis.co.uk](http://health.atamis.co.uk/) NHS England is utilising an electronic tendering tool (e-Tendering system) to manage this market engagement exercise and communicate with potential bidders in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended). It is free to register on [http://health.atamis.co.uk](http://health.atamis.co.uk/), which can be accessed at any time of day providing you have a working internet connection. Should you have any queries, or you are having problems registering please contact the helpdesk:

Phone: 0800 9956035

E-mail: support-health@atamis.co.uk