

Request for Information (RFI)

Procurement of Multiplex Cytokine Assay Kits for UKHSA (United Kingdom Health Security Agency) – Atamis Project C299234

Supplier Name	
Contact Name	
Contact Job Role	
Contact Email Address	
Contact Tel Number	

1. Introduction:

- 1.1. The United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Porton Laboratory is seeking information from potential suppliers regarding the provision of multiplex cytokine assay kits. This enquiry is aimed at understanding market availability, technological specifications, pricing, and support services.
- 1.2. Please review the scope outlined in this Request for Information (RFI) and provide responses to the questions and requirements mentioned. Your input will help shape UKHSA's sourcing strategy for this procurement.
- 1.3. Should you have any questions or queries relating to this RFI, please contact via Atamis Project C299234.

RFI PUBLISHED	29 th August 2024
RESPONSE DEADLINE	12pm, 11 th September 2024

2. Disclaimer

- 2.1. This RFI is for information-gathering purposes and does not constitute a commitment, implied or otherwise, that the UKHSA will take procurement action in this matter. Further, the UKHSA will not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the response.
- 2.2. If a response is not received by the RFI response deadline, it will have no impact on your ability to participate in the procurement process in the future. UKHSA will not enter contracts based on replies to this RFI.



- 2.3. The issuance of this RFI does not constitute a sourcing exercise but responses provided will help to shape UKHSA's sourcing strategy. UKHSA will not pay any costs incurred by respondents in the preparation of a response to this RFI.

3. Background:

- 3.1. UKHSA is delivering projects developing and using pathogen infection models on different human organ chip platforms. In order to evaluate responses to infection in these models, one of the commonly accepted readouts in the scientific literatures and by regulators are changes in the expression of cytokines and their comparison to those seen in natural human infection. To measure these cytokine responses, UKHSA has opted to use their existing Luminex Magpix machine. The ability to use multiplex kits is essential due to the low volume samples obtained from organ chip experiments.

4. Scope and Objective:

- 4.1. The objective of this procurement is the purchase of multiplex cytokine assay kits.
- 4.2. The multiplex cytokine assay kits must be compatible with Luminex Magpix.
- 4.3. The kit should be customisable to add/remove cytokines based on findings from ongoing experiments and the literature.
- 4.4. The kit must be able to detect all of the below cytokines as a minimum:
- IL-1 alpha
 - IL-6
 - IL-8
 - MCP-1
 - IP-10
 - TNF-alpha
 - IFN-1beta
 - MIP-1alpha
 - GM-CSF
 - TRAIL
 - IFN-gamma (type II)
 - IFN-lambda (type III)
 - IL-17
 - IL-10
 - RANTES

5. Expected Contract Duration:

- 5.1. The contract length will be three years, with an estimated requirement of 65 kits over the duration of the contract.



6. Information Sought:

6.1. We kindly request that you submit your responses to the below questions by the RFI response deadline mentioned.

UKHSA Question	Supplier Response	
Please confirm whether your organisation has an interest in bidding for this procurement and you have the capability to supply the United Kingdom (UK)	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If no, please explain why?	[Please answer in no more than 200 words]	
Product Specifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please provide a PDF of your product specification for multiplex cytokine assay kits 	[please attach a PDF product specification to your submission]	
Technology and Performance <p>Please provide information concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality control and accuracy of your product References to use of your product in current literature 	[Please answer in no more than 300 words]	
Pricing <p>Please provide information concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The base price of your product Any additional consumables required Availability of any bulk purchase discounts or incentives Price of delivery Price of delivering user training 	[Please answer in no more than 300 words]	
Support <p>Please provide information concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The availability and terms of any after-sales support services 	[Please answer in no more than 200 words]	
Compatibility and Integration <p>Please provide information concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compatibility with Luminex Magpix system Suitability for low volume (~300µl) primary cell culture media samples Ease of integration with current laboratory workflows (processing of frozen media effluent in class II and III cabinets followed by formaldehyde fumigation and reading on Luminex Magpix) 	[Please answer in no more than 200 words]	



Training and Documentation Please provide information concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Availability of user training programs• Provision of user manuals and operational guidance documentation	[Please answer in no more than 200 words]
Regulatory Compliance Please provide information concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information concerning regulatory approvals and certifications, such as CE marking.	[Please answer in no more than 100 words]
Sustainability Please provide information concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details on expected product shelf-life	[Please answer in no more than 100 words]
Delivery (Lead Times) Please provide information concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expected delivery timelines.	[Please answer in no more than 100 words]

7. **Next Steps**

7.1. Once the UKHSA has received and analysed the responses from this RFI it shall decide on available options and recommended action. One available option will be to pursue this requirement as an Open Procedure procurement under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. If so, this will be run through Atamis, an e-procurement portal.

7.2. Interested parties may register with Atamis here: [Welcome \(site.com\)](#)

7.3. The Atamis project code for this procurement will be C299234.