Request For Information

Better Health – Food App Scanning procurement

Department of Health and Social Care

October 2023

1.0 Introduction

The Department of Health and Social Care ('The Authority') is seeking information regarding a procurement opportunity to find a **Content Licensing** solution and managed service for a verified nutritional and ingredient database of UK FMCG products with national coverage of UK wide retailers and suppliers.
to support existing and ongoing requirements of the NHS Food Scanner mobile application (App) for the Better Health programme

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute an Invitation to Tender (ITT) or a promise to issue an ITT in the future. This RFI does not commit the Authority to contract for any supply or service whatsoever.

Further, the Authority is not at this time seeking proposals and will not accept unsolicited proposals. The Authority will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense, by responding to the RFI the responder accepts these terms. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future ITT, if any is issued. Responding or not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any potential future ITT, if any is issued.

The information provided in the RFI is subject to change and is not binding on the Authority. The Authority has not made a commitment to procure and release of this RFI should not be construed as such a commitment or as authorisation, to incur cost for which reimbursement would be required or sought.

It is not intended that this RFI process will to be used to pre-qualify potential Respondents. The Authority simply wishes to gather general information about the services it wishes to obtain at this stage only. It is important, therefore, that Respondents should not prepare detailed proposals at this stage. Furthermore, a response or non-response will not guarantee inclusion or exclusion in any future procurement process.

2.0 Background to the Requirement

2.1 Background

The Department of Health and Social Care ('The Authority') requires access to food and drink Supermarket brand and other brand food products available from at least the largest retailers in the country, that will be used to deliver to the public nutritional information on foods that are scanned via the app.

The supplier UST provide:

- Dataset that is created in a standardised data model,
- Process in place to ensure data has undergone rigorous assurance and approval to ensure verification of its accuracy.
- Data models comply with regulatory requirements and governance of UK markets
- High-quality images captured and available through same or additional API

Could provide:

- Data derivation for additional and extended attributes for specific users' requirements for diet, health, and lifestyle e.g., vegan, vegetarian, intolerances etc.

2.2 The Requirement

The Healthier Families Mobile App is available to all UK based citizens on both Google Store and the Apple App Store:

➢ [NHS Food Scanner app - Healthier Families - NHS (www.nhs.uk)](www.nhs.uk)

The Food Scanner app is here to help family in particular make healthier food and drink choices, bringing to life the back of pack nutritional information, visualising the at a glance whether the product is high, medium, or low in sugar, salt and fat, suggesting in category healthier alternatives if and where available.

The app utilises an API to draw the nutritional values of foods from barcodes that are found in national and independent retailers, with the aim of providing coverage across many of the major UK retailers (Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Aldi, Lidl, Morrisons, Iceland, etc.).

Maintaining the accuracy of our product content database, is important, challenging, and continuous with 100's of thousands of products currently available in the UK market **against a backdrop of 25% - 30% churn of FMCG products on an annual, ongoing basis.**

Technical requirements are as follows:

- API documentation and technical support to connect to our applications backend

- Dataset must contain at least 1000k unique products and have coverage of multiple national Supermarket/retails

- ISO Certified 27001.

- Cyber Essentials & Cyber Essentials Plus

- API feed is updated regularly (at least weekly) with the latest new products and or updates to existing products with coverage of back of pack data sets, nutritional information and ingredients.

- Compatible with bar code scanning functionality i.e. Dataset is linked to a unique barcode attribute

- Provide a managed service with monitoring and account management check-ins

3.0 Requested Information

1. What is the code-based coverage for app-based API into your dataset

2. Can you confirm that in addition to ISO 27001 you have Cyber Essentials or Cyber Essentials Plus?

3. How many Individual products, National Retailers and Suppliers does the dataset have access to?

4. How is the product front/back of pack and nutritional information sourced, collected, and maintained?

5. Does the dataset include branded and own brand items?

6. What coverage does the dataset have in the UK?

7. What is the Suppliers support proposition for a managed service?

8. What is the Licensing structure?

9. What are basic licencing costs per year. Would there be a saving if we agree a 3-year licence agreement?

10. How often are new products updated and distributed through the API? Daily, weekly, monthly, yearly?

11. What is the process in place for assuring product nutritional information/front/back of pack information is correct and is maintained.

4.0 Responses

Please provide responses due no later than **5pm Friday 10th November** and shall be submitted via email to: luca.chard@dhsc.gov.uk

Section 1 of your response should be administrative information and include:

- Organisations' name
- Organisations' Head office address
- Contact name
- Telephone number for contact

- E-mail address for contact.

Section 2 of your response should include answers to the questions in Section 3 of this document

Please make clear any commercially sensitive information you are sharing with the Authority.