Following a request, UK Biobank is willing to make a small number of samples available to support Bidders who wish to run ‘proof of concept’ sequencing on the technology platforms they will be including in their bids (note, UK Biobank’s preference is that samples will not be released to multiple service providers of the same technology platform).

This will not form part of the evaluation process, the purpose would solely be to allow bidders to gain confidence that any proposed technology platform can meet the quality requirements in the specification.

The data generated will be made available to all bidders.

Up to 48 samples will be supplied to the following criteria;

•             100 µL total sample volume normalised to 20 ng/µL (2 µg total yield)

•             Samples will be normalised using 10 mM Tris/1 mM EDTA buffer.

•             All DNA concentrations quantified via UV/VIS spectroscopy using Trinean DropSense™ 96 platform1.

A sample manifest will be provided electronically outlining as a minimum:

-              Plate ID

-              well location

-              Sample id

-              Sample concentration

Samples will be supplied using the following labware;

•             Samples will be provided on 96 well, SBS format semi-skirted PCR plates (V wells).

•             The plate barcode will be code 128 format and will be 13 digits, with the initial three digits being 049 (labware identifier), followed by 10 unique numbers.

•             Plates will be sealed with a dual combination on foil and plastic adhesive films.

•             Samples will be shipped in accordance to UN3373 guidelines.

[1]  UK Biobank DNA samples have been quantified by UV/VIS measured on the Trinean DropSense™ 96. This method has been shown to correlate well (R = 0.85) with concentrations obtained by Affymetrix using the Picogreen method on these samples - Welsh, S., et al., Comparison of DNA quantification methodology used in the DNA extraction protocol for the UK Biobank cohort. BMC Genomics, 2017. 18(1): p. 26.

Bidders requiring alternative sample concentrations for their technology should contact UK Biobank immediately.

Bidders will be expected to return read-level and quality control data (as outlined within the Specification) to UK Biobank.

Bidders will be responsible for organising and costs for shipment of samples

A short agreement with the relevant Bidders will be required, which will include in its terms that:

•             the samples and data can only be used for this purpose and

•             the data produced will be returned to UK Biobank

Please contact UK Biobank **by 16.00 (UK time) on 06/02/18** at tenders@ukbiobank.ac.uk if you wish to take advantage of this offer.