UK Health Security Agency

Request for Information – UK Containment Level 3 (CL3) Laboratory Capacity

Supplier Name	
Contact Name	
Contact Email Address	
Contact Tel Number	

| Instructions:

1. The purpose of this document is to enhance the Authority's understanding of the marketplace and its options for sourcing for a potential future requirement.

2. The issuance of this request for information (RFI) does not constitute a sourcing exercise nor will the Authority pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFI.

3. The UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) key objectives for this RFI are:
   a. understand the ability of the marketplace to fulfil its requirements;
   b. refine the scope of the requirements to best align to the marketplace; and
   c. inform the Authority's chosen route to market to best enable competition

4. The key dates for this RFI are as follows:

   1. **RFI Published: 19th January 2026**
   2. **RFI Response: 16th February 2026**

5. Should you have any questions or queries relating to this RFI, please use the Atamis portal's messaging centre to direct your questions to us for a response.

6. If a response is not received by the RFI response deadline this will have no impact on your ability to tender for the opportunity in the future. UKHSA will not enter into contracts on the basis of replies to this RFI.

| Description of Scope of Requirements:

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is responsible for protecting every member of every community from the impact of infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and other health threats. We provide intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level, as well as on the global stage, to make the nation's health secure.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is exploring opportunities to supplement its existing Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) testing capability through collaboration with organisations across the UK that provide operational QA/QC testing services. This Request for Information (RFI) seeks to understand the capabilities, capacity, readiness, and level of interest of organisations currently delivering such services, and may be able to support UKHSA's public health mission during surge periods or emergencies.

Objectives - Identify operational QA/QC testing facilities with spare capacity or surge readiness. - Assess technical, digital, and governance capabilities for collaboration. - Explore commercial models for potential engagement with UKHSA.

This RFI is intended for organisations that currently operate CL3 laboratories in the UK. Responses should focus on existing facilities and capabilities that could be mobilised to support UKHSA's laboratory operations, particularly during public health emergencies or periods of high demand.

Questions

1. Please describe your CL3 laboratory facility, including location, size (squared meters), and operational capacity.

2. What are the complexities involved in accepting deliveries bound for CL3 — particularly regarding the required security arrangements — and what is the recommended approach for managing these effectively?

3. Is your facility accredited or certified under relevant biosafety standards (e.g., ISO 15189, ISO 17025, BS EN 12128)? Please provide details.

4. What is your current utilisation rate, and what spare capacity (if any) could be made available to UKHSA during surge periods?

5. Are you able to scale up operations rapidly in response to public health emergencies? If so, please provide details, including your total available free capacity per week and the ramp-up schedule.

6. What contingency plans do you have in place for staffing, supply chain, and equipment during high-demand scenarios?

7. Have you previously collaborated with public sector bodies (e.g., UKHSA, NHS, academic institutions) on supplementing CL3 capacity? Please provide details.

8. What diagnostic, analytical, or research capabilities do your CL3 labs offer (e.g., PCR, sequencing, culture, serology)?

9. Please confirm which types of Hazard Group 3 biological agents your facility currently handles.

10. What commercial models would you propose for providing CL3 lab support to UKHSA (e.g., managed service, time-based access, per-test pricing)?

11. Please confirm which regulatory framework your facility currently adheres to (e.g., Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002, Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2014, Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO)).

12. Does your facility support secure digital data transfer and integration with external systems (e.g., LIMS, surveillance platforms)? Please provide details.

13. Does your organisation currently hold or is planning to undertake Cyber Essentials certificate? Please provide details.

14. Please provide any other information you believe the Authority may wish to consider as a part of its analysis.