**Atamis Project Ref: C40136**

**PMO support for the Cancer SBRI Healthcare and AI in Health and Care Programmes**

**ITT Document 2**

**STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS**

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# **Background**

* 1. Organisational Context

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) leads the National Health Service (NHS) in England. It sets the priorities and direction of the NHS and encourages and informs the national debate to improve health and care.

NHSEI allocates funding and holds organisations to account to ensure money is spent effectively for patients and efficiently for the taxpayer.

NHSEI sets out the strategic vision for the future of the NHS in the Long-Term Plan (LTP). The LTP has a strong focus on prevention, identifying and delivering improvements in healthcare, redesigning the NHS so it continues to meet the needs of patients, ensuring the NHS is financially sustainable, and engaging the public in this whole process.

Through its regional teams, NHSEI is also responsible for the direct commissioning of healthcare services in several specialist areas including specialised services, national public health programmes, and health services for people in the justice system.

NHSEI strongly believes in health and high-quality care for all, now and for future generations.

* 1. SBRI Healthcare Programme

The Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Healthcare Programme is part of the Government’s wider SBRI programme that aims to support the research and development of new innovations into the NHS that solve identified healthcare challenges and unmet needs. It has been part of NHSEI’s portfolio of innovation programmes since 2013. The programme has successfully delivered multiple competitions to identify, prioritise and implement a wide range of innovations into the NHS at pace.

* 1. Cancer SBRI Healthcare and AI in Health and Care Programmes

The Cancer SBRI Healthcare and AI in Health and Care Programmes are an extension to the existing SBRI Healthcare Programme. Both programmes aim to identify, test and evaluate cancer and AI innovations, to speed up adoption into the NHS. Innovations are prioritised that have proved clinical effectiveness. The programmes will focus on ‘real world’ testing and creating a pathway for implementation.

Cancer SBRI Healthcare

There is a compelling need to identify innovations that can support the LTP ambitions for cancer, in particular, the ambition to achieve 75% of cancers diagnosed at stage 1 and 2 by 2028. In order to do this, we will need to bring more people into the system significantly earlier than they would have presented through current care pathways. To enable this to happen, we need to ensure the NHS has the capacity and operational resource to respond to an increase in volumes. This is especially relevant post the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Cancer SBRI Healthcare programme intends to run two competitions for the next two financial years to enable the NHS Cancer Programme (NCP) innovation team to select, implement and evaluate late-stage innovations that will support the NHS LTP and accelerate these into front-line clinical settings.

AI in Health and Care

The AI in Health and Care award provides funding to projects ranging from testing initial concepts to real-world deployments of technologies with patients that could help solve both clinical and operational challenges across the NHS, including reducing waiting times, improving early diagnosis, and saving staff time.

The package also includes funding to support the research, development and testing of promising ideas which could be used in the NHS in future.

The award is designed to help accelerate the testing and evaluation of AI technologies in the NHS so patients can reap the benefits from faster and more personalised diagnosis to greater efficiency in screening services.

Four categories of AI products are being supported through the AI in Health and Care Programme:

* Phase 1 – to support the demonstration of the technical and clinical feasibility of the proposed concept, product, or service.
* Phase 2 – to support the development and evaluation of prototypes and generate early clinical safety/ efficacy data.
* Phase 3 – to support the first real-world tests in health and social care settings of AI products or tools to develop evidence of efficacy and preliminary proof of effectiveness, including evidence for routes to implementation to enable rapid adoption.
* Phase 4 – to support the spread of AI products or tools that have market authorisation but insufficient evidence to merit large-scale commissioning or deployment. Successful products will be adopted in a number of NHS sites to stress test and evaluate the AI technology within routine clinical or operational pathways to determine efficacy or accuracy, and clinical and economic impact.

NHSEI previously went out to tender for a delivery partner for the SBRI Healthcare programme. The successful supplier will be required to work closely with the SBRI Healthcare programme and delivery partner.

# **Scope of the Procurement**

* 1. Aims and Objectives

The procurement process is to identify a supplier to deliver the Programme Management Function of the Cancer SBRI Healthcare and AI in Health and Care programmes.

The Programme Management Function will provide the administrative support to enable the identification, assessment and selection of the most promising innovations. It will require IT infrastructure to manage an online application process and significant resource to complete the detailed independent and transparent assessment process for a high number of applications. The assessment process is expected to be carried out through convening expert panels and collating peer review scores.

The contract with the supplier is proposed to run for two-and-a-half years to administer three competitions outlined below.

1. Cancer SBRI Healthcare competition to fund innovations in FY22/ 23, we aim to launch the call in January 2022 and complete contracting with successful applications by June 2022.
2. AI in Health and Care competition to fund innovations in FY 22/ 23, we aim to launch the call in March 2022 and complete contracting with successful applications by November 2022.
3. Second Cancer SBRI Health competition to fund innovations in FY 23/ 24, we aim to launch the call in November 2022 and complete contracting with successful applications by April 2023.

# **Requirements**

* 1. Core requirements

The core requirements are detailed in the table below and are expected to be carried out with input and agreement from NHSEI.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Steps** | **Requirements** |
| 1. Prepare the competitions | * Define timelines for the competition. * Coordinate the development of the scope, call specification and supporting documentation for the competitions. * Define the shortlisting criteria and moderation process. * Host a secure online platform to manage the application process. * Provide a mechanism for innovators to match with Cancer Alliances to identify clinical sites. (cancer competitions only) |
| 1. Launch the competitions | * Publicise the competitions via various media and communication channels, including launch events, to obtain sufficient coverage to ensure high quality applications while making best use of public funds. * Answer queries from applicants and provide any bespoke support required for the application process. |
| 1. Process the applications | * Manage the shortlisting and assessment process including sourcing peer reviewers and panel members, incorporating any feedback/ comments from NHSEI, collating scores and feedback and managing the shortlisting and interview panels. * Manage all the communications with the applicants and provide timely written feedback. |
| 1. Select the winners | * Complete equality and health inequality analysis on each of the innovations to ensure the funded innovations help advance equality of opportunity. * Carry out due diligence on the successful applications before contracts are awarded. * Issue award letters to successful applicants subject to the due diligence. * Draft and issue contracts ensuring intellectual property rights arising out of the projects is licensed to the NHS in relation to the provision of clinical patient care. |
| 1. Manage and support the funded innovations (cancer awards only, however bullet points 1,2, 4 & 5 may be required for a small number of late stage AI awardees) | * Manage the associated contracts including issuing payments to awardees in line with contractual milestones and ensuring any identified issues are escalated for action (e.g. lack of progress or substantial underspend). * Ensure awardees report quarterly on agreed metrics. * Manage the evaluations for each of the funded innovations, including supporting them to identify an evaluation partner, commissioning the NICE META tool, coordinating input from NICE scientific team and providing health economics support. * Facilitate peer-to-peer support and collaboration of funded innovations. * Provide relevant training and support to funded innovations |
| 1. Reporting and evaluation | * Report regularly to NHSEI on any aspect of the programme of work where appropriate during the period of the contract. * Provide a summary report to NHSEI after each competition including, but not limited to, the number and type of applications, amount requested and geographical spread. * Work collaboratively with NHSEI, Cancer Alliances, competition winners and other stakeholders to support and accelerate adoption and spread of funded innovations into the NHS. * Embed continuous improvement into the management of each competition. * Evaluate the overall impact of the programme (cancer competitions only). * Provide a final report on the programme of work within 60 calendar days of the end of the contract. * Develop case studies to disseminate the impact of the innovations and the programme to key stakeholders. |

* 1. The key deliverables/ outputs are:

To administer three innovation competitions:

1. Cancer SBRI Healthcare competition to fund innovations in FY22/ 23
2. Cancer SBRI Health competition to fund innovations in FY 23/ 24
3. AI in Health and Care competition to fund innovations in FY 22/ 23

3.3 Requirements of NHSEI

NHSEI will support the suppler to run the competitions by:

* Supporting to scope the challenges and develop the call specification
* Supporting the assessment process by reviewing the proposed clinical/ policy expertise and providing recommendations to fill any gaps in personnel
* Promoting the competitions through NHSEI communication channels
* Participating in any briefings or events
* Participating in shortlisting or interview panels
* Providing evaluation guidance to awardees
* Supporting the awardees to overcome implementation barriers when working with the NHS.

# **Contract Management and Reporting**

4.1 Contract Management

Annual performance objectives, deliverables and metrics will be agreed and signed by NHSEI and the supplier.

A committee board will be established to oversee the whole programme. This will be chaired by a senior leader at NHSEI and held quarterly. It will include representation from NHSEI, patients and other stakeholders. A senior representative from the supplier will be expected to attend the board. The purpose of the board will be to provide strategic direction of the programme, promote the programme’s values and maximise the programmes impact. The board will also be responsible for discussing any change control requests in relation to the contract for NHSEI to agree with the supplier.

The successful supplier will be expected to report into the board on objectives, deliverables and metrics and will also update the risk register where appropriate. A template report will be provided. Papers to the board will be required 2 weeks before the board date.

NHSEI cancer and AI teams will have informal meetings with the supplier separately which are expected to take place fortnightly to discuss updates, progress, plans and operational issues. These meeting will be checkpoints to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the competitions.

The Supplier will ensure that formal records are kept of assessment and interview panels which include detail of any panel members who have declared any conflicts and the actions taken to manage any conflicts before the applications are discussed.

4.2 Contract term

The contract with the successful supplier will run from October 2021 until March 2024 with the option to be extended. There will be a break clause in the contract for NHSEI at the end of each financial year to allow for ceasing of the recurring funding allocation or a change in policy.

4.3 Budget

The budget for the PMO cost is £2,000,000 (two million GBP) (inc. VAT) to deliver the three competitions.

A higher proportion of the budget (up to double) is expected to manage each cancer competition compared to the AI competition given the additional contract management requirements. For example, the budget could be split between the competitions as follows:

* Cancer competition 1 – £700,000 (seven hundred thousand GBP)
* Cancer competition 2 – £700,000 (seven hundred thousand GBP)
* AI competition - £350,000 (three hundred and fifty thousand GBP)
* TOTAL budget - £1,750,000 (one million, seven hundred and fifty thousand GBP)

NHSEI will pay the successful supplier quarterly in arrears using payment milestones linked to the KPIs (see section 5). The supplier will be expected to invoice NHSEI separately for the Cancer and AI competitions.

The supplier will be responsible for allocating in the region of £15-£20M (fifteen million to twenty million GBP) to awardees for each competition. This budget is variable and will be set at the start of each financial year. The number of funded innovations in each competition will be dependent on the quality of the applications.

# **Appendices**

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| ***KPI Ref. Number*** | ***Description of KPI*** | ***Measurement*** | ***KPI Tolerances (Percentage tolerance)*** |
| KPI1 | Administer three competitions and associated contracts (for cancer innovations) ensuring the competitions are well run and reflect positively on NHSEI | Scope, call specification and supporting documentation complete  Competitions run to agreed timelines and budgets  Total number of eligible applications per competition  Signed contracts in place for each awardee.  Applicants experience survey administered by winning supplier  Summary report submitted to NHS England after each competition and at end of the programme | Greater than 65% of applicants indicate a positive experience (both applicants and funded teams)  Manage 100% of queries and complaints  Manage 100% freedom of information (FOI) Requests |
| KPI2 | Complete Equality Heath Impact Assessments for funded innovations | Equality Health Impact Assessment competed using template provided by NHSEI | 100% assessments completed for cancer and AI innovations |
| KPI3 | Monitor and report on the individual cancer projects and AI Phase 2 technologies, competitions and overall programme | Monthly meetings with awardees, attended by NHSEI, to support with implementation  Quarterly reports collated from awardees against agreed metrics to measure impact and shared with NHSEI | 100% attendance at meetings and production of reports |
| KPI4 | Support cancer awardees to accelerate implementation into the NHS | NICE META tool commissioned to identify evidence gaps for each competition winner  Input gained from NICE scientific team into evaluations of individual projects  High quality evaluations produced that build evidence to support longer term implementation of innovations | NICE META tool for 100% of winners  Evaluation in place for 100% of winners, independent evaluations for regional/ national projects. |
| KPI5 | Meeting good governance requirements following current SBRI Healthcare governance arrangements | Quarterly reports submitted in advance of committee meetings covering finance, risks, progress and outcomes  Quarterly committee meetings attended  Fortnightly meetings attended with NHSEI cancer and AI teams | Manage 100% reports  Attend 100% of committee meetings |
| KPI 6 | Supplier will currently be paying, or working towards paying, the real living wage as specified by the Living Wage Foundation (£9.50 throughout the UK, £10.85 within London - 2021) | 100% of staff employed within the bounds of this contract receiving Real Living Wage  OR  Supplier Accredited Living Wage Employer (as per Living Wage Foundation) | N/A |
| KPI 7 | Supplier will comply with the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and have in place a modern slavery and human trafficking statement | Annual submission of Modern Slavery and human trafficking statement shared with the Authority | N/A |
| KPI8 | Supplier will have in place a policy or approach to reducing environmental impacts as well as an approach to achieving net zero carbon status | Annual submission of environmental impact policy or net zero carbon policy shared with the Authority | N/A |