

SBRI Healthcare: NHS England competition for contracts

INVITATION TO TENDER

This Invitation to Tender should be read in conjunction with other documents associated with this competition. These and all associated documents can be downloaded from the [SBRI Healthcare website](#).

Summary

Applicants are invited to tender for projects under the SBRI Healthcare programme to develop innovation-enabled solutions addressing the challenges outlined in the following categories:

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Women's Health

Further details can be accessed by viewing the Challenge Briefs on the SBRI Healthcare web pages for [AMR](#) and [Women's Health](#).

Application Process

The competition will have two phases (*subject to availability of budget in 2025/2026*):

- Phase 1 is intended to show the technical and commercial feasibility of the proposed concept. The development contracts awarded will be for a maximum of 6 months and £100,000 (**NET cost, excl. VAT**) per project.
- Phase 2 contracts are intended to develop and evaluate prototypes or demonstration units from the more promising technologies in Phase 1. Only those projects that have completed Phase 1 successfully will be eligible for Phase 2. The development contracts awarded in Phase 2 will be for a maximum of 12 months and up to £800,000 (**NET cost, excl. VAT**) per project.

Bids must be submitted via the online [Research Management System \(RMS\)](#), which can also be accessed by following the application link in the open competitions landing page on the [SBRI Healthcare website](#).

Details of the background, challenges and expected outcomes of the projects can be found in each respective Challenge Brief. We strongly advise applicants to read the [Guidance for](#)

[Applicants](#) (including [STEPS to Low Carbon Care Delivery](#) supporting material) and the [Portal Guidance](#) before applying.

SBRI Healthcare competitions are open to all organisations that can demonstrate a route to market for their solution. The SBRI Healthcare scheme is particularly suited to small and medium-sized businesses, as the contracts are of relatively small value and operate on short timescales. Projects are 100% funded and focused on specific identified needs, increasing the chance of exploitation. Suppliers for each project will be selected by an open tender process and retain the intellectual property generated from the project, with certain rights of use retained by the NHS. This is an excellent opportunity to establish an early customer for a new technology and to fund its development.

Applicants should state their goals and outline their plan for Phase 2, as an explicit part of the path to full commercial implementation, in their Phase 1 proposal.

Key dates

The competition opens on 17 July 2024. Applications must be submitted via the online [Research Management System \(RMS\)](#), which can also be accessed by following the application link via the open competitions landing page on the [SBRI Healthcare website](#). Only applications received **by 13:00 (BST) on 28 August 2024** will be accepted and we will not be able to accept applications after this deadline.

Please note that we will not accept applications submitted by post or by any means other than through the online portal as described above.

Competition launch	17 July 2024
Deadline for applications	28 August 2024 by 13:00 (BST)
Assessment	September/October 2024
Selection/Interview Panel	November 2024
Contracts start	January 2025

A briefing event for organisations interested in finding out more about the competition and a webinar to respond to potential applicants' questions will be held. Please check the [SBRI Healthcare website](#) and/or [SBRI Healthcare LinkedIn](#) page for confirmation of dates, information on how to register, and details of the competition, along with attending supporting webinars and Q&A sessions.

Assessment process

A diagram of the process for application and assessment is shown below (Figure 1):

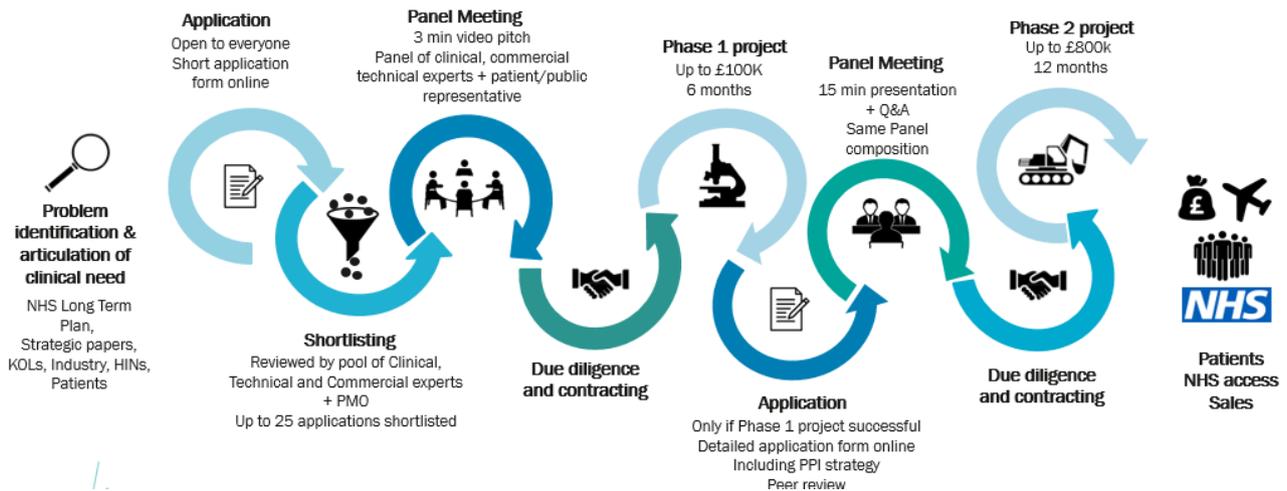


Figure 1: Diagram of the SBRI Healthcare Phase 1 and 2 Process Flow and Assessment

Phase 1 applications will be reviewed by a selected Panel of experts who will provide feedback on the applications according to the following assessment criteria:

- How well does the application address the challenge brief and does the proposed solution benefit patients, the NHS and/or Social Care Sector and the wider market? 20%
- Are the project plan, deliverables and risk mitigation strategy appropriate? 15%
- Is the product innovative, will it have a competitive advantage over existing and alternative solutions and are the arrangements surrounding the use and development of Intellectual Property appropriate? 15%
- Does the proposed project have appropriate commercialisation and implementation plans? 15%
- Does the proposed innovation have potential to enhance equity of access and does the project include consideration towards patient and public involvement? 10%
- Have the applicants considered the carbon footprint associated with the proposed innovation in line with the net zero NHS targets by 20245 and does the proposed innovation support the NHS to reach its net zero ambition by considering and contributing to a reduction of carbon emissions? 5%
- Do the host organisation and project team appear to have the right skills and experience to deliver the project? 15%
- Are the costs justified and appropriate? 5%

The SBRI Healthcare programme expects applicants to actively engage in tackling healthcare inequality and in supporting diversity and inclusion while drafting their proposal by including communities where the proposed innovation will make the biggest impact.

NHS England are committed to give patients and the public a voice. The SBRI Healthcare programme has embraced this vision and has incorporated patient and public involvement

and engagement (PPIE) in the scheme to ensure the proposed innovation addresses the needs of patients and carers, as well as clinicians and health system leaders and users.

PPIE is an accepted and recommended working practice within healthcare research ensuring that solutions are co-produced with patients, meet patient needs and to ensure there is an acceptability among end-users. Applicants are expected to develop a thorough PPIE strategy as part of their Phase 1 projects and implement it, if awarded, in Phase 2.

Finally, applicants are also invited to consider the environmental impact of their innovations in order to support the net-zero commitment that the NHS has set in the [Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service report](#).

The **Phase 1** applications will be shortlisted based on discussions and feedback from a Panel of experts.

The shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a **3-minute video pitch** of their proposal that will be reviewed and discussed by a Panel of experts during the Selection Panel meeting. The Panel will provide funding recommendations to NHS England by scoring shortlisted applications according to the following assessment criteria:

- a) How well does the proposed innovation meet the competition brief and to what extent does it offer potential clinical benefit to the NHS and/or social care settings?
- b) How strong is the project plan and have the relevant milestones been identified?
- c) How strong is the team (including partners and sub-contractors) with particular reference to the delivery of milestones relevant to this project?
- d) How strong is the commercial viability and its route to the NHS, and does the solution offer value for money?

The outcome of awards will be communicated to applicants after the Panel meeting and contracts for successful applicants will be awarded shortly thereafter.

Please note that there is no appeal process; funding recommendations ratified by NHS England will not be reconsidered.

Successful applicants will be advised according to the published key dates, and organisations will be expected to mobilise rapidly to start the project. It is important that Phase 1 Projects start soon after the contract has been issued so that all projects can be assessed fairly and move on to Phase 2 concurrently and smoothly.

Subject to budget availability, successfully completed Phase 1 projects will be eligible for Phase 2.

Phase 2 applications will be submitted via the online [Research Management System](#) (RMS) which will be accessible towards the end of Phase 1 projects. The application links will be shared with the project teams.

Phase 2 applications will be subject to independent external peer reviews and applicants will have access to the anonymised peer reviewers' comments. Applicants will then be invited to present their Phase 2 proposal to the Panel at the Interview Panel meeting. The interview

takes the form of a short presentation (typically 10-15 minutes) followed by a question-and-answer session with the Panel members.

The Panel will score shortlisted applications according to the following assessment criteria:

- e) How well does the proposed innovation meet the competition brief and to what extent does it offer potential clinical benefit to the NHS and/or social care settings?
- f) How strong is the project plan and have the relevant milestones been identified?
- g) How strong is the team (including partners and sub-contractors) with particular reference to the delivery of milestones relevant to this project?
- h) How strong is the commercial viability and its route to the NHS, and does the solution offer value for money?

The outcome of awards will be communicated to applicants after the Panel meeting and contracts for successful applicants will be awarded shortly thereafter.

Please note that there is no appeal process; funding recommendations ratified by NHS England will not be reconsidered.

Conditions

By applying, organisations are automatically consenting to the terms and conditions contained in the Development Agreement which can be found on the SBRI Healthcare web pages for [AMR](#) and [Women's Health](#).

The SBRI Healthcare programme is committed to actively and openly supporting and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion both in terms of the people who administer the programme and the innovators involved in the project, leading, delivering and supporting the project.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, the personal information that you provide within the outline proposal will specifically be used for the purpose of administering the call. The information will be viewed by the SBRI Healthcare Programme Management Office and the SBRI Healthcare programme assessors and will not be used for any other purpose without your specific consent. For further information on how your information is used, how we maintain the security of your information, and your rights to access information we hold on you, please contact the team by email: sbri@lgcgroup.com.

Documents associated with this competition

- Challenge Brief
- Applicant Guidance and STEPS to Low Carbon Care Delivery
- Portal Guidance
- Sample Application Form
- Sample Contract
- FAQs

Contact Points

Questions and comments are very welcome while the competition is open. Questions **on the challenge and scope of this SBRI Healthcare competition** should be addressed to LGC Ltd via email sbri@lgcgroup.com.

Questions will only be accepted when received through this route or during the Q&A session within the launch webinar.

For further information on this SBRI Healthcare competition, visit:

<https://sbrihealthcare.co.uk/competitions/overview?cat=open-competitions>

SBRI Healthcare is part of the Innovate UK Contracts for Innovation, formerly known as Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) programme, For more information about Contracts for Innovation, visit: [Contracts for Innovation - Innovate UK Business Connect \(ktn-uk.org\)](https://ktn-uk.org).