

## **SBRI Healthcare: NHS England competition for development 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, **Competition 27: Work-related Digital Innovations for Individuals with Poor Mental Health**, and propose solutions at any stage of development from testing the technical and commercial feasibility to generating evidence in real world settings, addressing the challenges outlined in the following categories:

1. Digital interventions targeting work-related risk factors facing the working age population (aged 16-64) with mental health problems in employment, that provide rapid support to individuals to help them remain in work
2. Digital interventions that specifically tackle barriers to work facing unemployed working age individuals (aged 16-64) with mental health problems, to support individuals to return to work or gain employment
3. Digital interventions targeting workplace issues/barriers facing the working age population (aged 16-64) from disadvantaged communities with mental health problems, to support individuals attain, remain or return to work

The contracts awarded will be for a maximum of 12 months and £200,000 (NET cost, excluding VAT) per project. Awarded innovations may have the opportunity to bid for additional funding at the end of the contract duration subject to NHS England budget availability.

Further details can be accessed by viewing the [Challenge Brief](#).

### **Application Process**

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 the Challenge Brief. We strongly advise applicants to read the [Applicant Guidance](#) and the [Portal Guidance](#) before applying.

The competition is open to innovations at any stage of development from testing the technical and commercial feasibility to generating evidence in real world settings.

The competition is open to single organisations (contracts are executed with individual legal entities) based in the UK or EU from the private, public, and third sectors, including companies (large corporates and small and medium enterprises), charities, universities and NHS providers, as long as a strong commercial strategy is provided. Organisations based outside the UK or EU with innovations in remit for this call can apply as subcontractors of a lead UK/EU based organisation or via a UK or EU subsidiary.

Collaborations are encouraged in the form of subcontracted services as appropriate.

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 and/or evaluation.

## Key dates

The competition opens on 9 October 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 (GMT) on 13 November 2024** will be accepted.

Please note, we will not be able to accept applications after this deadline and/or submitted by post or by any other means than through the online portal as described above.

Competition launch	9 October 2024
Deadline for applications	13 November 2024 (13:00 GMT)
Assessment	November-December 2024
Contracts start	February 2025

A briefing event for organisations interested in finding out more about the competition will be held on **8 October 2024**.

A “Get ready to Apply” webinar will also be held after the competition opens on **29 October 2024**.

Please check the [SBRI Healthcare website](#) and/or [SBRI Healthcare LinkedIn](#) page for information on how to register, and details of the competition, along with attending supporting webinars.

## Assessment process

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

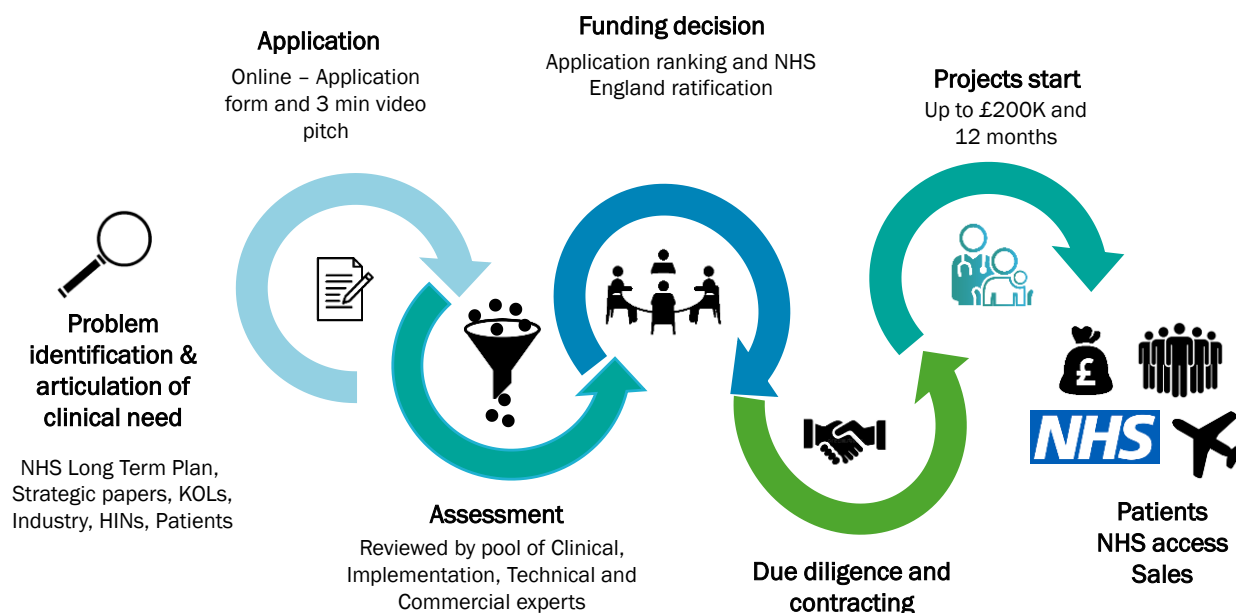


Figure 1: Diagram of the SBRI Healthcare Process Flow and Assessment

Applications will be reviewed by a selected pool 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 2045 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.

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](#).

Proposals under each category will be awarded based on quality against the assessment criteria listed above; those proposals that will receive highest score will be awarded funding. In case of equal score, proposals will be further assessed by the Digital Innovation Board which will recommend those that best align with the NHS England priorities.

The outcome of awards will be communicated to applicants in January 2025 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.

## Conditions

By applying, organisations are automatically consenting to the terms and conditions contained in the [Development Agreement](#).

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](mailto: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](mailto:sbri@lgcgroup.com).

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

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://www.ktn-uk.org/).