

Request for Proposal (RFP) for AMR REGISTER- Making industry surveillance data open access

1. RFP Background & Objectives

1.1 Wellcome Overview

The Wellcome Trust ('Wellcome') is the world's second highest spending global charitable foundation, both politically and financially independent. Wellcome support scientists and researchers, take on big problems, fuel imaginations, and spark debate. Our funding supports over 14,000 people in more than 70 countries helping thousands of curious, passionate people all over the world explore ideas in science, population health, medical innovation, the humanities and social sciences and public engagement.

Further information on Wellcome can be found at www.wellcome.ac.uk and all prospective suppliers are encouraged to visit the website to gain an insight into the organization.

1.2 Drug Resistant Infections

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the major existential public health threats we currently face as AMR is driving the increasing wave of drug-resistant infections. AMR threatens to reverse enormous progress that has been made in modern medicine, as many medical treatments and procedures now depend on being able to prevent/treat infections. In 2017, the Drug Resistant Infections Priority Area was launched at Wellcome with the vision of a world that successfully addresses the threat of drug resistant infection through the application of science, policy, public engagement and behaviour change. We have been supporting activities aimed at understanding how emergence and transmission of AMR occurs by promoting the collection, analysis and sharing of surveillance data. Using this data, we are promoting the creation of strong evidence to inform the design of successful public health interventions that can curb AMR and protect people from drug-resistant infections.

1.3 The importance of data on drug resistant infections

Many infections are treated empirically without identification and susceptibility testing of the causative pathogens. This may be due to lack of diagnostic or laboratory facilities or sampling difficulties meaning that doctors prescribe antimicrobials based only on the immediate symptoms. Levels of antimicrobial resistance can change over time and can vary between hospitals in a city, between cities in a country and between countries in a region. Knowledge of recent "*local*" antimicrobial susceptibility of pathogens of interest is needed to guide the optimal selection of antibiotic treatments. This can be achieved solely if data are routinely collected, analysed and shared through surveillance programmes.

The pharmaceutical industry routinely collects surveillance data. These programmes monitor the susceptibility of clinical isolates to marketed products and pre-launch surveillance of new products to fulfil regulatory approval requirements. Sharing the data with the wider scientific community will help define new drug discoveries and development strategies; identify unmet medical need and strengthen modelling of future resistance trends. The global effort to reduce and control the spread of drug resistant infections depends on researchers and policymakers being able to access and use surveillance data generated on antibiotic susceptibility and, when available, patient outcome data following treatment. This data can guide appropriate antibiotic prescription, help set up breakpoints for antibiotics, develop local antibiotic prescribing guidelines, and encourage wider innovation in this arena.

In 2016, a number of pharmaceutical companies signed two declarations, committing to sharing surveillance data to make it accessible to public health bodies and healthcare professionals:

- The Davos Declaration (January 2016)
- The Industry Roadmap for Progress on Combatting Antimicrobial Resistance (September 2016).

There is a large amount of surveillance data being generated by the pharmaceutical industry, and if made openly available it would add significant amount of knowledge to our understanding of the AMR burden, particularly in low resource settings where data might be not routinely collected.

1.4 The AMR Register

The AMR Register was launched in March 2018 following a pilot project funded by Wellcome's Drug Resistant Infections programme and led by the Open Data Institute. The AMR Register provides information from AMR surveillance programmes generated by the pharmaceutical industry. Through this platform Pfizer has also made the ATLAS surveillance datasets (including raw MIC values) openly available. In November 2018, Wellcome launched a Data Re-use Prizes to promote the use of the ATLAS datasets in a bid to create new tools and insights which might help governments and healthcare professionals globally to understand the spread and impact on human health of drug resistant infections. The project served as a pilot that demonstrated the value and practicality of making additional surveillance datasets available creating a critical momentum to make open pharmaceutical AMR surveillance data a reality. We now need to transition the AMR Register to the second phase by securing additional industry datasets on the Register. The AMR Register should serve as a platform where researchers are able to openly access high-quality surveillance datasets from the pharmaceutical industry. In turn, the pharmaceutical industry will have a dedicated space to share datasets that they generate through their global surveillance programmes in fulfilment of their commitment to combat AMR. Further information can be found on the AMR Register website. Interested suppliers are encouraged to visit the website [here](#) and access the final AMR Register Project Report [here](#).

¹ AMR Industry Alliance. AMR Industry Declaration. amrindustryalliance.org/amr-industry-alliance-declaration/

² Industry Roadmap for Progress on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance ifpma.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Roadmap-for-Progress-on-AMR-FINAL.pdf



2. RFP Specification

2.1 Objectives

We are building an open access platform to guarantee industry surveillance data availability and access to the wider community working on antimicrobial resistance. The aim of this RFP is to solicit proposals from organisations with existing expertise in health data sharing and governance, particularly within the pharmaceutical industry so that the AMR Register can be embedded into their existing platforms. The platform should build on the supplier's existing capacity.

We are looking for the supplier to achieve the following five key objectives over a period of 6 to 8 months:

1. Transition the AMR Register from its current host to the supplier platform including the design of a new interface
2. Develop a data governance protocol to ensure that data are openly accessible to researchers working on antimicrobial resistance. The AMR Register should be set up
 - a. As an open resource platform with built in data reporting to monitor data use and outputs such as publications, training, workshops etc...
 - b. The AMR community should be prompted to use surveillance datasets from industry for research purposes
3. Engage with industry partners to increase surveillance datasets availability on the AMR Register
4. Develop a plan to build resource-mobilisation capabilities within the AMR Register to ensure its long-term sustainability
5. Encourage uptake and use of these datasets by the scientific community



3. RFP Timetable

Below are indicated the timelines which this RFP exercise is planned to run against

#	Activity	Responsibility	Date
1	RFP issue to Suppliers	WT	20 November 2020
2	Submission of expression of interest	Supplier	5pm, 4 December 2020
3	Submission of Supplier Q&A to Wellcome Contact	Supplier	5pm, 4 December 2020
4	Supplier invitation to submit a full proposal and Return of Supplier Q&A to shortlisted Suppliers	WT	18 December 2020
5	Submission of Supplier Proposal	Supplier	5pm, 22 January 2021
6	Proposal Evaluation Period	WT	To 5 February 2021
7	Supplier Presentations	Supplier	Week 15 February 2021
9	Notification of Contract Award	WT	26 February 2021
10	Contract Negotiation	WT & Supplier	26 February to 15 March 2021
11	Contract Start Date	WT & Supplier	Expected to start around 1 April 2021
12	Project completed	Supplier	Expected by December 2021



4. Response Format

According to the above timetable the supplier should submit the following documents.

4.1 Expression of Interest

Suppliers are asked to submit a short expression of interest (max 600 words) by e-mail to the Wellcome Contact (Francesca Chiara at f.chiara@wellcome.org) in accordance with the RFP timetable. The expression of interest should clearly outline the following points:

- Outline how your previous experience is relevant to the delivery of the objectives of this RFP. Please include any relevant experience in managing an open data portal and/or health data (Max 300 words).
- Provide a high-level summary of how you would deliver each of the objectives of this RFP (Max 300 words).
- Indicate the intention of submitting the proposal as a stand-alone organisation or as part of a consortium/partnership. If the latter, please indicate names of potential partners and rationale for including them.
- Provide a non-binding cost estimate as a single-figure.

4.2 Supplier Q&A

Suppliers are provided the opportunity to submit any questions they have about the exercise (see document in 5.RFP Documents). All questions are to be submitted to the Wellcome Contact by e-mail in accordance with the RFP timetable. Please note we will only answer questions from suppliers invited to submit a full proposal.

4.3 Full Proposal

Suppliers are required to submit a written proposal to include the following sections

Primary documents

- 1) A brief overview of your organisation and proposed project team, including your track record and expertise in data collection and management (max 600 words). Please include as annexes:
 - PDFs or website links with examples of relevant projects previously delivered (where applicable)
 - Details of the team who will be working on this project, including CVs if applicable
 - Details of recruitment process, timeline and job specification if additional expertise will be required in the project team
- 2) Your proposed approach to this project (max 2500 words). The proposal should include 3 clear milestones with timelines and the relevant activities to be delivered to fulfil the objectives above.



Additional documents

Suppliers are also required to submit:

1. A cost proposal in Excel format which details and justifies the proposed costs as an annex. This should include details of the hourly rate and number of hours to be contributed by each team member.
2. Contract Feedback sheet. Suppliers should take this opportunity to provide feedback on the contract. The evaluation panel will then provide their responses to any supplier contract feedback submitted (found in 5. RFP Documents).
3. Information Governance (found in 5. RFP Documents).

Suppliers' responses will be assessed using a scale which includes the following criteria:

- Team experience;
- The strength of the proposed approach to this analysis, including an understanding of the central aims and purpose of the project, and selection of appropriate methodology;
- The justification and value for money for the proposed costs.

5. RFP Documents

Below list the documents provided to support suppliers with their response to this RFP exercise.

Document #1 – Supplier Q&A

This document is to be used in accordance with the Timetable and is an opportunity for suppliers to ask the evaluation panel questions about the RFP process and the project in general to support their response.

All responses received within the timescales set out within the Timetable will be anonymised and shared with all suppliers within the process.

This document is for completion by suppliers.



Wellcome RFP Q&A
Template.xlsx



Document #2a - Contractual Agreement

This document represents the draft contractual agreement which is to be used with the successful supplier from this RFP exercise.

This document is for information only.



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20and%20Conditi

Document #2b – Contract Feedback Sheet

This document allows suppliers to provide a response to the proposed contractual agreement (Document #2a) specifically referencing any clauses which they desire to amend.



Wellcome Contract
Feedback Sheet Tem

Information Governance

Wellcome's Processing Activity Register (PAR)

Under [GDPR/Data Protection law](#), Wellcome must keep a record of all personal information it is processing (i.e. collecting, using and sharing). This record will be made available to the Information Commissioner's Office upon request.

If you intend to start collecting personal or business confidential data, you will need to speak to Wellcome's Data Protection Officer and complete an entry in the Processing Activity Register ([PAR](#)) in MetaCompliance.

[This is Wellcome's record of data processing activities which meets GDPR article 30 requirements.](#)

Suppliers are asked to complete the [TPSRA2](#) assessment before the RFP submission deadline for Wellcome to assess how you handle data.

6. About Wellcome

Wellcome exists to improve health by helping great ideas to thrive. We support researchers, we take on big health challenges, we campaign for better science, and we help everyone get



involved with science and health research. We are a politically and financially independent foundation. Find out more about Wellcome and our work: [wellcome.org](https://www.wellcome.org).

7. Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality

Prospective Suppliers should be aware that inappropriate publicity could have a serious effect upon Wellcome's business. The information contained within this document or subsequently made available to prospective suppliers is deemed confidential and must not be disclosed without the prior written consent of Wellcome unless required by law.

8. Prospective Suppliers Personnel - IR35 and Off Payroll Working Rules

Before the RFP response deadline, Prospective Suppliers must make the Wellcome Contact aware if they are intending to submit a proposal where the services will be provided by any individuals who are engaged by the Prospective Supplier via an intermediary i.e.

- Where the Prospective Supplier is an individual contracting through their own personal services company; or
- The Prospective Supplier is providing individuals engaged through intermediaries, for the purposes of the IR35 off-payroll working rules.

9. Independent Proposal

By submission of a proposal, prospective Suppliers warrant that the prices in the proposal have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, agreement or understanding for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices, with any other potential supplier or with any competitor.

10. Funding

For the avoidance of doubt, the output of this RFP exercise will be funded as a **Contract** and not as a Grant.

11. Costs Incurred by Prospective Suppliers

It should be noted that this document relates to a Request for Proposal only and not a firm commitment from Wellcome to enter into a contractual agreement. In addition, Wellcome will not be held responsible for any costs associated with the production of a response to this Request for Proposal.

12. Sustainability

Wellcome is committed to procuring sustainable, ethical and responsibly sourced materials, goods and services. This means Wellcome seeks to purchase goods and services that minimise negative and enhance positive impacts on the environment and society locally, regionally and globally. To ensure Wellcome's business is conducted ethically and



sustainably, we expect our suppliers, and their supply chains, to adhere to these principles in a responsible manner.

13. Accessibility

Wellcome is committed to ensuring that our RFP exercises are accessible to everyone. If you have a disability or a chronic health condition, we can offer adjustments to the response format e.g. submitting your response in an alternate format. For support during the RFP exercise, contact the Wellcome Contact.

If, within the proposed outputs of this RFP exercise, specific adjustments are required by you or your team which incur additional cost then outline them clearly within your commercial response. Wellcome is committed to evaluating all proposals fairly and will ensure any proposed adjustment costs sit outside the commercial evaluation.

14. Diversity & Inclusion

Embracing [diversity and inclusion](#) is fundamental to delivering our mission to improve health, and we are committed to cultivating a fair and healthy environment for the people who work here and those we work with. As we learn more about barriers that disadvantage certain groups from progressing in our workplace, we will remove them.

Wellcome takes diversity and inclusion seriously, and we want to partner with suppliers who share our commitment. We may ask you questions related to D&I as part of our RFP processes.

15. Wellcome Contact Details

The single point of contact within this RFP exercise for all communications is as indicated below;

Name: Francesca Chiara
Role: Senior Advisor
Email: f.chiara@wellcome.org

16. Wellcome Evaluation Panel

The evaluation panel for this RFP exercise will consist of the following individuals:

Francesca Chiara, Senior Research Advisor, Drug Resistant Infections
Joanna Wiecek, Research Advisor, Drug Resistant Infections
Charlotte Chapman, Programme Manager, Drug Resistant Infections
Tariq Khokhar, Head, Data for Science and Health
Gemma Buckland Merrett, Science and Research Lead, Drug Resistant Infections