



NASS Invitation to Tender

What is the full economic cost of delayed diagnosis of axial spondyloarthritis in the UK?

Deadline for receipt of tender proposals: 12 noon, 31 May 2021

Section 1: Specification

Introduction

NASS is seeking a suitably qualified research supplier to undertake a modelling study to determine the full economic costs to the UK of each year of delayed diagnosis of axial Spondyloarthritis.

NASS wishes to gather these data in order to enable our policy and media teams to integrate powerful health economic messages into its public and professional campaigns for reducing the delay to diagnosis.

You can read more about our historical activity on Gold Standard delay to diagnosis [here](#).

Requirements

Our requirements for the research are:

- (a) Assess the feasibility of the study as expressed in the Specification of the Requirement which can be found [here](#) - including the proposed modelling approach and the data to populate it.

- (b) Make any recommendations for modification of approach for consideration by NASS in an interim report advising if the study can move to the second phase and in what form.
- (c) If the study moves forward the provider will then complete the study.

Our requirements for the outputs are:

- (d) Report detailing the derived model, its application and key data arising that fulfil the research requirements.
- (e) PowerPoint presentation that details the full research undertaken and its findings.
- (f) Attend and present at a launch event (date/location to be agreed 3 months in advance) the results of this work in partnership with NASS. The event will be to an audience of NASS's choosing.

Research Data utilisation

NASS will be utilising the data in unlimited NASS digital and print documents and presentations for a time period of not less than 4 years from the completion of the research.

The provider will always be cited as the producer of the work, commissioned by NASS, with UCB as sponsor. The provider is entitled to publish its work with the above citation requirements. These will be fully documented in the award contract.

Copyright

Copyright of the model and the research findings therein is to be assigned to NASS.

Duration of Contract

Ideally the work will be completed within 6 months, however NASS is open to the bidder expressing and explaining the required timeline. Known timeline milestones are given below.

Procurement and Project Timetable

| Date/Time | Milestone |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>9 March 2021</i> | ITT published and issued to known suppliers |
| <i>9 March – 30 April 2021</i> | All answers to queries* published on NASS website |
| <i>10 March – 30 April 2021</i> | Informal conversations with Dr Dale Webb, CEO NASS (by arrangement) dalewebb@nass.co.uk |
| <i>12 noon, 31 May 2021</i> | Deadline of receipt of application |
| <i>1 June</i> <i>By 7 June</i> | Selection process for interview; due diligence begins, Applicants selected for interview notified |
| <i>14 June 2021</i> | Interviews |
| <i>16 June 2021</i> | Anticipated contract award |
| <i>By 30 June 2021</i> | Pre-phase 1 contracts work begins |

* We will publish all questions raised (without disclosing the source of the enquiry) and all responses via our website unless we consider the information commercially sensitive. Our view on the issue of commercial sensitivity shall be final, the bidder raising the question will be asked to withdraw it if it does not agree with this assessment.

Service Levels & Reporting

Please propose Service Levels in your tender application for agreement with NASS. This includes project management, reporting during the project, staff roles, risk reports and reporting against milestones and key deliverables. Please specify in your proposal the named individual who will be responsible for the account management of this contract on behalf of your organisation.

Contract Value

The estimated value for this contract is **£50,000 inclusive of VAT and all expenses**. Bids in excess of this will be excluded for being unaffordable.

Payment Structure and billing requirements

Billing and payment will be according to the agreed contract.

Payment terms

As per NASS standard terms.

Tender response requirements

Providers are requested to complete a tender Declaration and Information form located [here](#) and submit this along with their bid documents and any other documents they wish to include to lisaswinger@nass.co.uk, cc goldstandard@nass.co.uk.

Assessment and selection criteria

We intend to interview shortlisted tenders on 14th June to explore proposals in more depth. Please ensure you are available for interview on this date.

Proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

- Experience, expertise and connection to the fields of patient quality research
- Demonstration of ability to provide the study to a high quality within the specified budget
- Willingness to work in a responsive and flexible way
- Appropriate project management, risk management and quality assurance
- Value for money.

Please address the questions below in your response.

| | Criteria |
|-------------|---|
| Question 1. | <p>Outline your approach to service delivery and detail how you will meet all our requirements. As part of your response, you must specifically address the following:</p> <p>any innovation your solution offers and how it benefits the research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- appendix showing range/scope of data sources you can and must access- clarification as to whether you propose to use any third parties to deliver any aspects of the services and detailed information on their experience and role. You should also explain how you will work with these organisations to ensure the services are delivered in accordance with the contract which you will ultimately be responsible for. |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Question 2. | <p>Project management and delivery specifically:</p> <p>Explain your methodology for contract implementation and why this approach is feasible and effective based on your previous relevant experience.</p> <p>Your response must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a detailed project plan demonstrating your ability to meet our phased timescale. - your proposals for maintaining quality and providing management and reporting information. |
| Question 3. | <p>Demonstrate the quality and technical skills of the team members who you propose to undertake this contract if successful and explain how those members will have the skills and availability to provide the service to a high standard.</p> |

Section 2: Instructions to tenderers

Please submit your tender offer in accordance with all of the instructions, requirements and specifications set out in this documentation.

You must treat these documents and any further information provided by NASS as confidential at all times and only disclose them if necessary, to prepare a compliant response to the tender.

Nothing in the enclosed documentation or appendixes, or any other communication made between NASS and any other party, can be considered a contract or agreement at this stage.

Compliance

NASS reserves the right to disqualify tenderers who do not fully comply with the requirements in the tender documentation, in particular the closing time and date.

NASS reserves the right to evaluate proposals on a variety of criteria. The tender with the lowest price will not automatically be accepted.

Please note that NASS is required to publish online the final awarded contract and any associated documentation. If you have any concerns about the future publication of sensitive information you should raise these within your tender proposal, highlighting which areas within your proposal you consider may be subject to exemption, and subsequent redaction, in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). More information about FOIA can be found at www.ico.gov.uk.

Validity of offer

Please note that by submitting a tender response for consideration you are confirming that, as an officer for the company/organisation that you represent, you have read and understood the tender documents and that your offer to NASS is open for acceptance for 30 days from the tender closing date.

Tendering

If we need to amend any tender documents before the closing date, we will write to you with any changes. If we extend the deadline for tender responses, we will advise you.

NASS reserves the right, in its absolute discretion, to cancel or suspend this tender process at any time and for any reason. If we need to do this, we will notify you in writing as soon as reasonably practicably.

NASS is not responsible, and will not pay for any expenses or losses you incur during, but not limited to, the tender preparation, site visits, post-tender negotiations or interviews.

Return of Tender

You must complete and submit your tender response/proposal via email; to lisaswinger@nass.co.uk and cc goldstandard@nass.co.uk by the tender response deadline of **12 noon on 31 May 2021.**

If you are experiencing any problems submitting your document, please contact lisaswinger@nass.co.uk for further assistance.

Any tender delivered after the closing date and time for any reason will be discounted.