REQUEST FOR QUOTE (RFQ)
REQUEST FOR QUOTE TO SUPPORT THE FIND VALIDATION PLATFORM

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CONTENTS

1. ABOUT FIND:

The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) is dedicated to ensuring equitable access to reliable diagnosis worldwide. We connect countries and communities, funders, decision-makers, healthcare providers, and developers to promote diagnostic innovation and integrate testing into sustainable and resilient health systems. Established in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2003, we have regional hubs in Kenya, India, South Africa, Vietnam and Indonesia. In partnership with public and private sector organisations, we strive to ensure that everyone who needs a test has access to one. We achieve this by collaborating closely with governments, international organisations, the private sector, civil society, academia, and other key stakeholders. For more information, please visit https://www.finddx.org.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

2.1. Background

FIND has created a Validation Platform (VP) to generate evidence and increase the use of AI diagnostic tools in LMICS. The VP automates evaluation independently without exposing vendors to data, ensuring data is not used for training. Evaluations occur in a sandbox, keeping vendor access restricted. It hosts both Linux as well as Windows based applications.

Currently, the primary objective of this platform is to evaluate the performance of AI based chest X-ray tools for detection and screening of Tuberculosis, COVID and other pulmonary diseases. FIND envisages that in the future this platform could also be used for threshold setting, post-deployment evaluation, resource monitoring (such as infrastructure requirements, latency, etc.) and expanded to include other imaging modalities such as CT, ultrasound, MRI. In addition, this platform could be used for other AI based tools such as cough apps as well.

2.2. History

In 2021, FIND developed the first version of its Validation Platform, enabling the hosting of clinical data and vendor products in a sandbox environment for evaluation. This initial version was used by FIND to host datasets and evaluate products until March 2024. To improve maintenance and scalability, FIND developed version 2.0 of the Validation Platform, which is hosted on the AWS cloud. By April 2024, all vendors from the initial VP had been migrated to the new version, and by the end of 2024, new vendors have successfully been onboarded. The platform has now entered maintenance mode.

2.3. Operation

The platform enables the following main functions:

- Ingestion and transformation of image data for testing: FIND has curated a global archive of test images and gold standard reference data from different geographies that are used for evaluation. These images need to be securely hosted within the Validation Platform and transformed for use in evaluation

- Installation of Vendor Software: Vendor software is installed by vendors within EC2 instances. Once vendor software is installed, the instances are isolated and vendor access is removed. The instances are then exposed to proprietary test data for evaluation.

- Evaluation of Vendor Software and Report Generation: Once vendor software is installed and instances isolated, the software is executed against batches of secure test images and output is obtained in CSV format. Reports are generated by comparing output with gold standard results.

3. SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES:

FIND is looking to procure the services of an IT services and consulting company to support the maintenance and the utilization of its Validation Platform.

The selected company will take care of the maintenance and support of the platform including but not limited to the following activities:

- **Maintenance:**
    - Corrective, e.g. bugs.
    - Adaptive, e.g. format changes.
    - Preventive, e.g. patches.

- **Operational Monitoring & Execution**
    - Execute and monitor images submission to the vendor software to ensure smooth operation.
    - Onboard new vendors or integrate vendor software updates into the VP.
    - Assist vendors with onboarding issues, including software configuration and running sample test data.
    - Liaise with vendors when issues occurs or for licenses renewal.

- **Platform Development & Enhancements**
    - Develop new capabilities to improve the VP platform.
    - Enhance existing features to align with evolving requirements.
    - Develop SOPs for various AI based solutions to ensure reproducibility.

- **Project & Agile Management**
    - Participate in weekly standup meetings to track progress and address blockers.
    - Conduct bi-weekly sprint demos and planning sessions to align on priorities.

- **Documentation**
    - Update VP-related documentation.
    - Develop and maintain SOPs.

4. TIMELINES:

The project will commence on the 20th of June and conclude at the end of Q1 2026. The current project timeline is as follows:

Activity	Due date
Publication of RFQ	1st April
Closing for submission of proposals	27th April
Evaluation / Vendor selection	28th April – 15th May
Contract negotiation and signature	15th May – 10th June
Communication to unsuccessful applicants	13th June
Maintenance and support	20th June 2025 – 31st March 2026

It is possible to request a call for any clarifications before the response deadline.

5. APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

Candidates interested in responding to this RFQ should submit a proposal, in Microsoft WORD, PDF or POWERPOINT format, including the following information:

- Organizational profile.
- Areas of expertise.
- Experience, including a list of relevant projects you've worked on.
- Proposed workplan and relationship.
- Pricing Structure and Budget (including breakdown).
- Proposed team (including CVs of members).
- How data security, privacy, and regulatory compliance will be handled.

Please direct your submissions and any questions to the following email: procurement@finddx.org. The deadline for proposal submission is 21st April 2025 at 17:00 CET.

6. AWARD CONDITIONS:

Applicants/Bidders that are selected for final award are required to:
- Provide a proof of legal registration of the organization.
- Sign a declaration confirming no Conflict of Interest.
- Be legally permitted to perform work in the country where the contract will be performed.
- Commit to and sign the FIND Code of Conduct and Ethics.
- Sign the Due Diligence Self declaration form.

7. EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Relevant Experience & Qualifications	40%
Technical Approach	30%
Financial Proposal	20%
References & Past Performance	10%

- Relevant Experience & Qualifications (40%) – Strength of relevant expertise, certifications, and prior project experience.
- Technical Approach (30%) – Effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed methodology.
- Financial Proposal (20%) – Cost competitiveness and value for money.
- References & Past Performance (10%) – Feedback from previous clients and successful completion of similar assignments.

8. CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The contract will be awarded to the successful bidder following the completion of the evaluation and selection process.
- The agreement shall become legally binding only upon both parties signing the contract.
- The Vendor must execute the services in accordance with the scope of work outlined in this RFQ.
- The Vendor is responsible for ensuring high-quality performance, timely deliverables, and compliance with agreed methodologies.
- Payments will be linked to deliverables and will be made upon approval of completed milestones.
- FIND reserves the right to withhold payment if the Vendor fails to meet agreed-upon performance standards.
- All information received, created, or shared during the project will remain confidential and must not be disclosed to third parties without FIND's prior written consent.
- The Vendor must comply with applicable data protection laws and ensure the security of sensitive information.
- Any documents, reports, frameworks, tools, or methodologies developed as part of this contract will become the property of FIND.
- The vendor grants FIND unrestricted usage rights to all deliverables under this contract.

9. TERM OF CONTRACT:

The contract will be effective upon signature. Work begins 20 June 2025 and ends 31 March 2026. Extensions may be considered based on performance and evolving needs.

10.   CONFIDENTIALITY:

FIND considers any proposal received under the RFQ as confidential. If required, FIND can sign a Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement (CDA) with interested Applicants/Bidders prior to proposal submission. FIND will not disclose the proposal to third parties without the prior written agreement of the proposal submitter. Review of proposals will be carried out by an internal FIND team as well as a team of external experts (which may or may not include members of FIND's independent Scientific Advisory Committee), all of whom are under confidentiality and are recused if found to have a potential conflict of interest (which they are obliged to disclose). Any specific questions concerning confidentiality should be addressed to the FIND team.

11.   HOW TO APPLY:

All proposals must be submitted electronically in PDF format to procurement@finddx.org by April 21st, 2025. Late submissions will not be considered.
For any inquiries regarding this RFQ, please contact: procurement@finddx.org. It is recommended that the entire Proposal be consolidated into as few attachments as possible.
All files must be free of viruses and not be corrupted.
The proposer should receive an email acknowledging receipt of the proposal.

12. APPENDIX 1: TECHNICAL INFORMATION

1. Validation Platform technical information

The platform is hosted on AWS and utilize a range of AWS services for scalability, security and automation. Key components include:

- Infrastructure & Networking
  - AWS **CloudFormation** for infrastructure as code (IaC) deployment
  - **Route 53** for DNS management
  - **VPCs** with **NACLs** and **Security Groups** for network segmentation and security
  - **EC2 instances** with associated services for compute resources

- Compute & Serverless
  - **Lambda functions** for event-driven automation
  - **ECS (Elastic Container Service)** for containerized applications
  - **Step Functions** to orchestrate workflows

- Data & Storage
  - **DynamoDB** for NoSQL database storage
  - **EFS** for persistent file storage
  - **AWS Backup** for automated data protection
  - **S3 for archival and miscellaneous storage**

- Communication & Automation
  - **SES (Simple Email Service)** for email notifications
  - **AWS Service Catalog** for self-service provisioning

- Access and security
  - Data is securely stored to comply with GDPR and partner contractual obligations and user access to data and infrastructure is strictly managed using AWS and platform-supported access control mechanisms.

Additionally, vendor System Under Test (SUT) configurations and operational processes rely heavily on Bash scripts to manage deployments, automate workflows, and ensure consistency across environments.

13. APPENDIX 1: REFERENCES

1. https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-expression-of-interest-by-manufacturers-of-software-for-computer-aided-detection-of-tuberculosis-(cad)-to-submit-products-for-who-expert-assessment
2. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-consolidated-guidelines-on-tuberculosis-module-2-screening-systematic-screening-for-tuberculosis-disease
3. https://www.finddx.org/what-we-do/projects/computer-aided-detection-cad-for-tb/