

About technology review and partner selection

FIND seeks out innovative, new diagnostic solutions for poverty-related diseases that meet specific, priority needs linked to target product profiles (TPPs), as well as platform solutions that can be used across several diseases. FIND has adopted an objective, independent and transparent approach to technology scouting and partner selection to ensure that the most suitable technologies are supported, that potential conflicts of interest are avoided, and that the global community understands and has access to the selection process and its outputs.

Technology scouting process

FIND selects partners and technologies through a systematic process informed by TPPs, product requirement documentation and disease strategies. Solutions are either submitted to FIND through a form on the [FIND website](#), or are discovered through active scouting by tech scouting staff or disease teams in requests for proposals (RFPs) or when creating landscapes.

Upon discovering a new diagnostic solution, FIND conducts a two stage assessment process. The **initial analysis (1st pass)** determines whether a proposal has the potential to address the specific diagnostic and market needs within FIND's priority disease areas. The 1st pass may lead to basic FIND support and investment and/or an opportunity for **in-depth analysis (2nd pass)**. The 2nd pass may lead to further FIND investment and inclusion in FIND's portfolio. After the 2nd pass is completed and the technology is approved by the FIND management and Scientific Advisory Committee, both parties may initiate discussions on the development of the diagnostic solution and its introduction to market.

Landscapes

Technology and partner landscapes are performed as part of strategy-driven analyses to identify platforms with the greatest potential of meeting TPPs, and to identify partners with the highest probability of success. The products that were added to the FIND database through this process (31) were included in the 1st pass analysis.

Landscape	Screened	Added
TB multiplex host marker POC platform	84	17
HCV sensitive cAg detection	39	7
TB breath tests	7	7

Diagnostic Pipeline Tracker

FIND has developed the [Diagnostic Pipeline Tracker](#), which maps the status and estimated release dates of diverse diagnostic solutions, currently for tuberculosis (TB). This allows stakeholders to visualize the diagnostic landscape and predict when products may be available for implementation. The status view maps each technology along the stages of development for diagnostic products according to the [TB Diagnostics Pathway](#) developed by FIND and partners. The timeline view illustrates the approximate date of commercial availability in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) for each product, based on data that is publicly available or disseminated by developers.

Transparency & efficiency

In 2016, FIND made an effort to increase the transparency of the selection process and offer a timely response to submitters. Mandatory criteria for the 2nd pass was finalized and the [Technology and Partner Selection Guidelines](#) and [FAQ](#) were published on the FIND website. In 2016, the technology scouting team continued to standardize the evaluation and decision-making processes by incorporating the 2nd pass into FIND's information management system. This integration streamlines the overall process, ensures equity between proposals and favours rapid turnaround time. FIND's data-driven and fully traceable selection process leverages the value of our Scientific Advisory Committee and strengthens our capability to quickly turn a partnership opportunity into an approved project within FIND's portfolio.

Looking ahead

Building on the past achievements and lessons learned, FIND will continue to develop and further refine the support offered to diagnostic test developers. FIND hopes to identify and support the development of cross-disease technologies and solutions, as they are a critical for the future of diagnostic solutions in LMIC. The production of annual reports on the website and the streamlining the independent review process for RFPs will contribute to FIND's commitment to transparency and efficiency. The dynamic version of the Diagnostic Pipeline Tracker is currently in development and will include all of the diseases in FIND's portfolio, allowing stakeholders to visualize the diagnostic landscape for each disease.

Summary of activities

Scouting process

Active	Scouting staff	23
	Landscapes	31
Passive (via FIND website)		98
Total		152

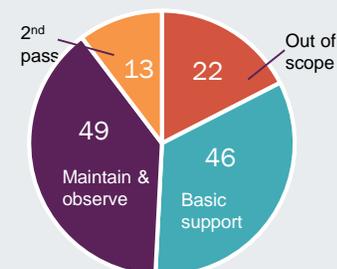
Type of partner

Industry	70%
Academic & research	24%
Other	6%

Basic support services

Specimens	38
Reagents	1
Feasibility studies	4
Strains	2
Connectivity guidance	1
Total	46

1st pass summary*



*18 under 1st pass review, 4 terminated

Incorporated as FIND projects:

Partner	Programme	Platform type	Application
SD Biosensor, Inc.	Hepatitis C virus (HCV)	Rapid diagnostic test (RDT)	HCV diagnosis in decentralized settings
Several partners	TB	Central lab platform	Centralized sequencing
Several partners	TB	Central lab platform	Centralized drug susceptibility testing (DST)
	TB	Central lab platform	Centralized DST
DNA Genotek Inc.	TB	Adjunct tool	Sample transport solution
Philips	Fever	Handheld device	Bacterial vs non-bacterial differentiation test for fever
Chembio	Fever	RDT	Pathogen-specific fever test
Specific Technologies	Fever	Central lab platform	Pathogen-specific fever test
Becton Dickinson (BD)	Fever	RDT	Bacterial vs non-bacterial differentiation test for fever
Total : 9*			

*3 under 2nd pass review, 1 terminated