

# Request for Proposals

## Compilation of Ebola Survivor Data and Literature

### Current Need

The 2014-15 Ebola outbreak in West Africa was a galvanizing event for the world which led to the formation of CEPI. At the time of the outbreak a handful of vaccine candidates were in the pipeline, and while data on safety and effectiveness of the Merck VSV vaccine was gained from several clinical trials conducted in 2015-16, no Ebola vaccine is yet licensed. Because the human response to vaccine is different than the response to natural infection, and the non-human primate model does not mirror the human response, CEPI is seeking to further support the scientific underpinning of Ebola vaccine development by helping animal model developers, vaccine developers, and regulators better understand and collate what is known about the human immune response.

Goals of this effort are: 1) a succinct, easily accessible summary, along with presentation of underlying data, regarding what is known about the human immune response to Ebola virus infection and vaccination with Ebola vaccine candidates 2) use of this data to develop additional animal models or correlates of protection that could be used by regulators in assessing the likely safety and immunogenicity of vaccine candidates.

### About CEPI

CEPI is an international coalition of governments, academic, philanthropic, private, public, and intergovernmental institutions whose mission is to prevent outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases from becoming humanitarian crises. CEPI does this by financing and coordinating vaccine development to combat future epidemics. CEPI was organized as a nonprofit organization under the laws of Norway as a non-profit international association.

CEPI's goal is to coordinate financing for and oversight of the development of vaccines to fight MERS, Lassa fever and the Nipah virus, as well as the development of platform technologies that enable rapid vaccine development against known and unknown pathogens.

CEPI currently has three office locations (Oslo, London and Washington, DC):

1. **Oslo (HQ):** Home to the Deputy CEO along with the Resource Mobilization, Vaccine Science, Finance and Operations teams.
2. **London:** Home to the CEO, along with the Communications, Legal and Business Development, and Vaccine Development teams.
3. **Washington, DC:** Educates the American public about the importance of developing vaccines to combat future global epidemics, coordinates the efforts of CEPI's partners that are located in the US, and establishes and maintains relationships with the U.S. government in support of CEPI's mission.

More details about CEPI and our mission can be found on our website: <http://cepi.net>

### Requirements/Technical Specifications

CEPI is seeking the following:

- 1) A thorough review of published and unpublished data on the immune responses (in humans and animals) to Ebola virus infection and to vaccination with Ebola virus vaccine candidates,

including both cellular and humoral immunity in individuals who did and did not survive. The goal of this review is to guide further development of non-human primate challenge models to enable them to better mimic human infection, and to identify other potential correlates of immunity or protection.

- 2) Identification of investigators or sites that may have stored samples of serum or blood products that could be further analyzed as part of a CEPI-funded research consortium if potential new correlates of immunity or protection were identified. Information regarding: number and volume of specimens, characteristics of patients they were derived from, date of diagnosis and specimen collection, specimen processing and storage conditions, underlying comorbid conditions (e.g. malaria, HIV), age, pregnancy status and location of specimens should be compiled to the extent possible. For specimens collected from vaccinated individuals, also include what vaccine was used, in what clinical trial it was administered, what subject population it was administered to, how the immune response was evaluated, and what assay was used.
- 3) Review the report from the Ebola vaccine regulatory science meeting held on March 22, 2017, linked here: [http://cepi.net/sites/default/files/Meeting%20report\\_Ebola%20regulatory%20scientific%20meeting\\_FINAL.pdf](http://cepi.net/sites/default/files/Meeting%20report_Ebola%20regulatory%20scientific%20meeting_FINAL.pdf) to identify which research gaps listed in the report have now been filled and by whom; and which research gaps still remain.

CEPI expects that the awardee will be able to identify most, if not all, of the investigators with relevant data and specimens, both published and unpublished. Applicants should indicate their methods for doing so. CEPI does NOT expect the awardee to perform any laboratory analyses of samples.

## Bidder Qualifications

To be considered for a contract award under this tender, all tenders must meet the following criteria:

- Experience in the relevant discipline with demonstrable technical capabilities and experience.
- Documented experience in at least two similar types of projects and settings.
- Documented capabilities in terms of resource and time management.
- Conduct efficient, productive and diplomatic communication with relevant internal and external stakeholders.
- Professional level of spoken and written English.

Please note that as part of our assessment we may ask tenderers to provide references from clients you have worked with to validate your experience in similar work.

## Tentative Timeline

The following is the expected timeline for the procurement process. However, CEPI reserves the right to change the timeline at any time.

Activity	End Date
Request for proposals advertised	10 Oct 18

Deadline for submission of written proposal	<b>2 Nov 18 (5:00pm EDT)</b>
Selection process completed	12 Nov 18
Contract initiation and agreement	19 Nov 18

### **Tender Instructions**

To be considered for a contract award under this request for proposals, please submit the written proposal (not exceeding 5 pages + applicable resumes and annexes) in English.

The proposal must include the following information:

- Brief background information on the individual, consortia, partnership or firm, including details of previous experience in relevant specialties.
- Documented ability and capacity to perform the work to a high standard, on time, and on budget.
- An indication of the availability of each proposed resource and associated budget, including fee rates for additional services.
- A general overview of the schedule and timing of invoices.
- Estimate and general description of the expenses you expect to incur and bill to CEPI. If CEPI will be billed for expenses other than direct out-of-pocket expenses incurred in performance of services, please describe the costs.
- Two examples of similar work undertaken with similar clients (we may ask for relevant contact details should we decide to take up references).
- Completed tendered declaration form (appendix A below).

Deadline for submission is **5:00pm EDT on Friday, November 2, 2018**. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. Costs for the preparation of proposals will not be refunded.

Electronic copies of your proposals should be sent to: [Shannon.Quinlan@cepi.net](mailto:Shannon.Quinlan@cepi.net) in PDF format.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Our evaluation criteria include the areas of information solicited under requirements/technical specifications and bidder's qualification. The contract will be awarded to the bidder who has supplied: (a) a proposal that meets the technical requirements and qualification; (b) the demonstration of capability and motivation to perform, and (c) the most cost competitive offer.

### **Confidentiality**

By agreeing to take part in this RFP process, your firm agrees to keep in confidence all information imparted to you by CEPI during the period of consultancy, not to disclose it to third parties, and not to use it for any other purpose than for participation in the RFP process.

### **Cancellation**

CEPI reserves the right to change the timeline or cancel the competition without any obligation to cover any cost associated with the tender process.

### **Duration**

This contract is not expected to exceed 6 months.

### **Response/Outcome**

The expected outcome of this tender is to have a compilation of all available published and unpublished literature related to the immune response in Ebola survivors and vaccinees.

**Additional Information**

If you have any questions, please contact [Shannon.Quinlan@cepi.net](mailto:Shannon.Quinlan@cepi.net).