Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
for R3G Brokerage CFP

General and Eligibility FAQs

1. What is the primary purpose of this CFP?

To solicit proposals for developing and operating an advanced RNA brokerage platform connecting RNA designers with R3G global biofoundries.

2. Who is eligible to apply?

Individual organisations or consortia with demonstrated capability in digital marketplace development, biosecurity, RNA design tools integration, and commercial brokerage.

3. Can applicants apply if they specialize only in certain areas described in the CFP?

Yes, specialized applicants willing to collaborate with others to deliver the complete solution are encouraged to apply and the R3G program team will consider pairing you with other applicants.

Technical and Functional FAQs

1. What specific functionality must the brokerage platform include?

Submission of DNA sequences, RNA feature specification, real-time RNA manufacturer options, pricing, and timelines, integrated RNA design and biosecurity tools, and order allocation.

2. Are applicants required to build new design tools?

No, applicants will integrate third-party RNA design tools via a modular, microservices architecture and a secure API.

3. What level of RNA production scale must the brokerage support?

Scales ranging from 1 mg (Research Use only) and 10 mg (preclinical) up to 1,000 g (commercial or emergency response).

Phasing and Future Considerations FAQs

1. What is the difference between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of this project?

Phase 1 is the minimal viable product (MVP) stage focusing on initial orders and platform validation. Phase 2 will expand to full commercial-scale operations and add additional service layers.

2. Will the successful applicant for Phase 1 automatically progress to Phase 2?

No, there may be a separate CFP for Phase 2, though Phase 1 participants will be eligible to apply.

Operational and Commercial FAQs

1. Is there a preferred business model (e.g., commercial or not-for-profit)?

Applicants can propose either model, but all proposals must align with R3G principles and CEPI's Equity of Access policy.

2. Can applicants include commercial fees or margins within their proposed business model?

Yes, provided that: commercial interests align transparently with R3G equity and accessibility objectives; and that Biofoundries remain economically sustainable.

3. Are proposals required to address biosecurity and regulatory compliance?

Yes, the platform must integrate third-party biosecurity and compliance validation services via secure APIs.

Application Process FAQs

1. What is the maximum allowable length for the application?

The main application must not exceed 8 pages. Additional diagrams and images can be included as an appendix.

2. What details must be included in the funding and cost estimates?

Budgets, resource assumptions, phased costs aligned with deliverables, and preferred commercial terms.

3. What is the submission deadline and format?

Applications must be submitted as PDFs by end of day 30 April 2025 (PT) to the specified email address provided in the CFP.

4. Are applicants with competitive interests to the R3G ecosystem allowed?

No. Applicants with actual or perceived competitive conflicts—such as RNA product developers or lab equipment manufacturers—are not eligible to apply.

General CFP FAQs

1. Can an organisation submit multiple proposals?

Typically, yes, provided each proposal is distinct.

2. Are late submissions accepted?

No, late submissions cannot be considered unless explicitly approved.

3. Will proposals remain confidential?

Yes, all proposals are confidential and handled by authorized R3G personnel only. Given timeframes, Wellcome Leap will not be signing NDAs with applicants.

4. Who evaluates the proposals?

Expert assessors from Wellcome Leap and CEPI will evaluate the applications.

5. Are applicants allowed to request feedback if unsuccessful?

Yes, unsuccessful applicants may request written feedback

6. Can proposals request partial funding or propose co-funding arrangements?

Yes, these arrangements will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

7. Is overhead funding (indirect costs) permitted?

Yes, academic institution overheads are eligible.

8. Can successful applicants modify project scope or budget after award?

Minor adjustments may be permitted with approval.

9. What reporting and monitoring obligations will successful applicants have?

Successful applicants will be required to participate in frequent progress review meetings, provide regular detailed progress reports aligned to agreed milestones, and maintain transparent communication with R3G program management. Additionally, contractors must submit comprehensive performance data, financial reports, and undergo periodic technical audits to ensure alignment with contractual obligations and deliverables.

10. How soon after submission will applicants be notified about selection outcome?

Approximately 1 week.

Timelines and Selection Process FAQs

1. When will shortlisting of applicants occur?

Within 1 week after the submission deadline.

2. When can shortlisted applicants expect interviews or presentations?

Within 1-2 weeks post submission.

3. When will the final selection decision be announced?

Within 2-3 weeks after the deadline.

4. What criteria will be most important in selecting the winning proposal?

Alignment with objectives, technical capability, design quality, scalability, cost-effectiveness, and equity principles.

5. Will there be an opportunity to clarify or revise proposals after submission?

Yes, shortlisted applicants may be invited to clarify or adjust proposals.

6. Who makes the final selection decision?

The R3G executive council.

7. What happens after a winner is selected?

The winner will enter contractual discussions to finalize terms and begin project planning.