REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

Date of Request: 01/09/2026

Request: The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) invites interested Respondents, manufacturers, distributors and solution providers to submit information regarding Electrochemiluminescence (ECL) Immunoassay Analytical Systems suitable for research applications.

RFI Reference: SAMRC RFI 26/01

Please provide the information requested in this RFI, including completion of the response schedule in section 4.8 together with relevant product brochures, technical datasheets and supporting documentation.

For submission of information
Contact: Supply Chain Management
tenders@mrc.ac.za
kfwprocurement@mrc.ac.za
www.samrc.ac.za

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

ELECTROCHEMILUMINESCENCE (ECL) IMMUNOASSAY ANALYTICAL SYSTEM

1 BACKGROUND

The SAMRC is inviting interested respondents, manufacturers, distributors and solution providers to submit information on high sensitivity electrochemiluminescence (ECL) immunoassay platforms and any functionally equivalent alternatives capable of quantifying biomarkers, including HIV broadly neutralising antibodies (bNAbs), in clinical research samples. The intended research workflow requires access to validated assays and support for custom assay development.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this RFI is to engage the market regarding commercially available ECL immunoassay platforms and any functionally equivalent alternatives; understand capabilities relevant to HIV immunology, pharmacokinetic, immunogenicity and translational research; obtain indicative technical, operational, training, support, delivery and lifecycle-cost information; assess the structure and competitiveness of the relevant market; and inform SAMRC's subsequent procurement approach, the appropriate level of competition and any future procurement documentation.

3 DISCLAIMER

This RFI is issued for information and planning purposes only and does not constitute a commitment by SAMRC to procure any goods or services. Responses will not be evaluated as bids or proposals and will not form the basis of a contract or confer an advantage in any future procurement process. SAMRC may use the information gathered to refine its requirements, assess market capacity and competition, and determine the most appropriate procurement method. Participation is voluntary, and all response costs shall be borne by the respondent.

4 REQUIRED INFORMATION

4.1 Service Provider Information Requirements

Please provide:

- Company name, company registration number, and physical address.
- Company profile, core business and years in operation.
- Local South African presence and/or support capability, including arrangements available to an internationally based respondent.
- References for similar supply and delivery installations.
- Details of manufacturer authorisation, distribution rights or other authority to supply and support the proposed platform, where applicable.
- Completed **RESPONDENT INFORMATION SCHEDULE** (Part A and Part B)

RESPONDENT INFORMATION SCHEDULE

Part A: Respondent details

This schedule is intended solely to collect administrative and contact information for this Request for Information (RFI). Completion of this schedule does not constitute the submission of a bid or proposal and will not result in the award of a contract.

1. Organisation details

Legal name of respondent:

_____

Trading name, if different: _____

Company registration number:

_____

VAT registration number, if applicable: _____

Central Supplier Database number, if registered: _____

Country of registration:

_____

Physical address:

_____

_____

Postal address:

_____

_____

Website:

_____

2. Nature of the respondent

Please indicate the capacity in which the organisation is responding:

☐ Equipment manufacturer

☐ Authorised distributor

☐ Local representative

☐ Service and support provider

☐ Other:

_____

Name of the equipment manufacturer, if different from the respondent:

_____

Proposed product or platform:

_____

Where applicable, please attach evidence of manufacturer authorisation, distribution rights or authority to supply and support the proposed product in South Africa.

3. Primary contact person

Name and surname:

_____

Position or designation:

_____

Telephone number:

_____

Email address:

_____

4. South African presence and support arrangements

Does the respondent have an established presence in South Africa?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide the location and a brief description of the local operation:

If the respondent is based outside South Africa, describe the proposed arrangements for local supply, installation, training, maintenance and technical support:

5. Relevant experience

Provide details of comparable systems supplied or supported during the past five years. Supporting reference information may be attached.

Reference organisation:

_____

Contact person:

_____

Product or platform supplied:

_____

Country and year of installation:

_____

Brief description:

Additional references may be attached.

Part B: Respondent confirmation

The respondent confirms that:

1. The information submitted in response to this RFI is accurate to the best of its knowledge.
2. The person signing this schedule is authorised to submit the information on behalf of the respondent.
3. The respondent understands that this RFI is issued for market-information and planning purposes only.
4. The response does not constitute a bid or proposal and will not result in the award of a contract.
5. Participation in this RFI does not confer an advantage in any future procurement process.
6. SAMRC may contact the respondent to request clarification or further information.
7. All costs associated with preparing and submitting the response are borne by the respondent.
8. Any information considered confidential has been clearly identified and the reasons for confidentiality have been stated.

Name of authorised representative:

_____

Position or designation:

_____

Signature:

_____

Date:

_____

4.2 FUNCTIONAL AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Respondents are requested to provide technical and market information under the headings below. The values stated are workflow benchmarks under consideration and are not aware of specifications. Where a benchmark is not met, respondents should state the actual capability and describe any functionally equivalent alternative.

4.2.1 Detection sensitivity, including performance below 1 pg/mL where applicable

Respondents should state the lower limit of detection and lower limit of quantification for relevant assays, identify the matrices and analytes tested, and provide assay-specific evidence. Please confirm whether performance below 1 pg/mL can be achieved where relevant to the intended workflow and state any conditions or limitations.

4.2.2 Single-plex and multiplex assay capability

Provide information on single-plex and multiplex capability, including the maximum number of analytes measured per well, available assay configurations, throughput and limitations. Please state the minimum sample volume required per well and whether the platform can support the workflow benchmarks of at least 10 analytes using no more than 25 µL of sample.

4.2.3 Dynamic range specifications

Describe the assay-specific dynamic range and provide supporting evidence for the range over which accurate and reproducible measurements can be obtained. Please state whether a dynamic range of at least four orders of magnitude can be achieved for relevant assays and identify any conditions or limitations.

4.2.4 96-well plate compatibility

Provide details of compatibility with 96-well workflows, including supported plate types, any proprietary plate requirements, plate preparation steps and limitations.

4.2.5 Read times for a full plate

State the read time required for a full 96-well plate under typical operating conditions, explain how it was determined and identify any workflow steps excluded from that time. Please confirm whether a full-plate read time of less than three minutes can be achieved.

4.2.6 Software and data analysis functionality

Respondents are further requested to provide details of the software platform, including data acquisition, analysis, visualization, reporting capabilities, and any available data management functionalities.

4.2.7 Instrument diagnostics and performance monitoring

A description of the instrument's diagnostic features and performance monitoring capabilities should be provided, including automated system checks, error reporting, and preventative maintenance alerts.

4.2.8 Assay development and validation support

Outline the support available for assay development, optimisation, transfer and validation. Identify relevant validated or verification-supported assay kits, including assays applicable to HIV bNAbs, pharmacokinetic and immunogenicity research, and describe the support available for custom assay development.

4.2.9 System architecture and components

Describe the overall system architecture and all mandatory and optional hardware, software, accessories and consumables.

4.2.10 Footprint and weight

Respondents should specify the physical dimensions, footprint, and weight of the equipment to facilitate laboratory planning and installation assessments.

4.2.11 Power requirements and UPS compatibility

Information should be provided on the electrical power requirements of the system, including compatibility with uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems.

4.2.12 Environmental operating conditions

Respondents should also specify the recommended environmental operating conditions, including temperature, humidity, ventilation, and any other facility requirements necessary for optimal performance.

4.2.13 Network and cybersecurity capabilities

Details of the system's networking capabilities should be provided, including connectivity options, cybersecurity features, user authentication mechanisms, and compliance with industry-standard information security practices.

4.2.14 Data export formats

Respondents should also indicate the available data export formats and interoperability capabilities with external software systems.

4.2.15 Audit trail and user access controls

The proposed solution should support appropriate audit trail functionality and user access controls. Respondents are requested to describe how user activities, system changes, and data modifications are recorded, monitored, and managed to ensure data integrity and traceability.

4.3 QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Respondents are requested to provide quality and compliance information under the following headings:

4.3.1 User and service manuals

Respondents are requested to provide copies of all relevant user manuals, operator guides, service manuals, and supporting technical documentation available for the proposed system. Documentation should be sufficient to demonstrate the operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting requirements of the equipment.

4.3.2 Calibration/performance verification documentation

Details and supporting documentation relating to calibration procedures and performance verification processes should be provided.

4.3.3 IQ/OQ documentation

Respondents should also include information regarding Installation Qualification (IQ) and Operational Qualification (OQ) documentation, including any standard qualification protocols or templates available for implementation.

4.3.4 Research-use certifications and quality standards followed by the manufacturer

Information should be provided regarding the quality standards, certifications, and regulatory frameworks applicable to the proposed solution. Respondents should identify any research-use certifications, quality management systems, manufacturing standards, or industry accreditations maintained by the manufacturer.

4.4 TRAINING AND SUPPORT INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Respondents are requested to provide training and support information under the following headings:

4.4.1 Initial and refresher training offerings

Respondents are requested to provide details of all training services available to end users, including initial installation training, advanced user training, refresher training programmes, and any online or remote learning resources that may be available.

4.4.2 Local technical support arrangements

Information regarding local technical support arrangements should be provided, including the location of support personnel, response times, escalation procedures, and available service channels.

4.4.3 Warranty terms

Respondents should also specify the warranty terms applicable to the proposed solution, including the duration of coverage and any exclusions or limitations.

4.4.4 Preventive maintenance options

Provide details of preventive maintenance programmes, service contract options, response times and indicative annual costs.

4.4.5 Spare parts availability and lead times

Respondents are further requested to provide information on the availability of spare parts, expected lead times for replacement of components, and measures in place to ensure continuity of support throughout the equipment lifecycle.

4.5 **Acceptance and Commissioning Information**

Please provide:

- Factory Acceptance Test capability.
- Site Acceptance Test capability.
- Installation requirements.
- Commissioning process.

4.6 **Information to be Submitted:**

Please indicate which documents are included in the response:

- Completed Service Provider response.
- Technical brochures and datasheets.
- Indicative lead times.
- Indicative budgetary pricing
- Details of local support resources.

- Relevant reference projects.

4.7 Pricing

Respondents are requested to provide non-binding indicative pricing, clearly separating capital costs from all recurring and optional costs and stating the currency, validity period, assumptions and applicable taxes.

- Electrochemiluminescence (ECL) immunoassay analytical system
- Ongoing support and maintenance costs.
- Training costs.
- Any additional costs.
- Product Catalogue if applicable

4.8 Service Provider Response Schedule (Complete in full)

Requirement	Information provided (Y/N)	Service Provider Response	Evidence Document Attached
Service Provider Information Requirements			
Functional and Technical Information Requirements			
Quality and Compliance Information Requirements			
Acceptance and Commissioning Information			
Indicative budgetary pricing			

Requirement	Information provided (Y/N)	Service Provider Response	Evidence Document Attached
Relevant reference projects			

This RFI is not a tender, and no contract will be awarded from this process. SAMRC reserves the right to use the information received for planning purposes only. Participation is voluntary and at the Service Provider's own cost. SAMRC may engage respondents for clarification where necessary.

Queries in relation to this RFI may be sent to

Respondents may contact Supply Chain Management at KfWProcurement@mrc.ac.za for any additional information required to prepare a response to this RFI.

The closing date and time for submission are: 18/09/2026 at 11:00AM (SAST)