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Dear colleague

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### **Launch of NHS Test Beds competition**

Following Simon Stevens' announcement at NHS Expo last September, we are writing to let you know that **the competition for the second wave of the Test Beds programme will launch on February 26 2018.**

The Test Beds programme provides funding and support to NHS organisations and industry to test combinations of technology and pathway innovation to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing the NHS. In doing so we are looking to improve patient outcomes and experience at the same or less cost than current practice.

The first wave of the Test Beds programme was unprecedented in scale: it leveraged £15m from industry, included 40 innovators, 51 digital products, and five voluntary sector organisations. Over 4,000 patients have been recruited to test innovations to date. Patients and healthcare professionals have been 'active designers' giving businesses their insights as product users; allowing businesses to make their products a better fit for the market and the NHS to have digital tools that best fit its needs. Further information on the current Test Beds programme, and the kind of projects we have funded, is available in the [Story So Far](#), or on the NHS England [website](#).

This competition is open to digital innovators and NHS organisations who can bid for funding to implement and evaluate innovations until March 2020. Projects must tackle health and care challenges aligned with national and local priorities. There will also be a separate stream for projects that focus on learning and self-management support for people with Type 2 diabetes. We will be opening the call for expressions of interest on February 26 2018. Further detail is in the background sections below. The competition will be run by Innovate UK, who you can contact with any questions.

Many thanks,

The national Test Beds team

## **Annex 1: Details on the second wave of the Test Beds Programme**

### **What kind of projects are we looking for?**

Test Beds must tackle health and care challenges (system or clinical) aligned with national and local priorities, including:

- key priority areas outlined in the [Five Year Forward View](#) and its [Next Steps](#)
- priority areas being worked on by Integrated Care Systems across the country

### **Who can lead a Test Bed?**

Test Beds are partnerships between NHS organisations and businesses working together to solve a specific and focussed health and care challenge through a combination of digital products and pathway development which will be evaluated during the programme. Each Test Bed must be led by an NHS provider organisation.

### **How will the competition run?**

The first stage of this process is two-fold. Through an Expression of Interest process, NHS organisations will be asked to identify a health and care challenge they want to tackle which could be resolved through digital technology and innovators will be asked to set out the 'product(s)' they can supply to solve this.

The information collected during the expressions of interest phase will then be used to form partnerships between businesses and NHS organisations through collaboration workshops.

The competition will begin when these partnerships submit a joint application, which will then be shortlisted by a panel of subject matter experts and assessed by an interview process. We expect to announce successful Test Beds in September 2018.

### **Competition timescales:**

- February 26 – March 27 2018: Expressions of interest (EOIs)
  - Competition will be run by [Innovate UK](#), with an online portal open for EOIs from both [businesses](#) and [NHS organisations / partnerships](#)
- April: Collaboration workshops
  - Matching businesses and NHS organisations who have applied
- Mid-April: Competition opens for Test Bed application submission
- Mid-June 2018: Shortlisting and final interviews for prospective Test Beds
- September: Second wave of Test Beds announced

### **Our offer to Test Beds:**

- **Project funding**  
Up to £4.5 million will be available from the Office for Life Sciences to support successful Test Beds addressing health and care challenges

A separate stream of this programme will offer up to £1.5 million from NHS England to support Test Beds that tackle a challenge specifically on learning and self-management support for people with Type 2 diabetes

Small and medium enterprises participating in a second wave Test Bed partnership will be remunerated for some costs in line with [Innovate UK's grant funding rules](#)

- **Sharing of learning from the current wave of Test Beds**  
'How-to' guides on information governance, evaluation, and principles of collaboration between NHS and businesses are being published in summer 2018 and will inform the design of these projects
- **Support from the national team**  
The second wave of Test Beds will be supported by a national team consisting of members from across NHS England and Office for Life Sciences; as well as subject specific guidance on technical areas such as evaluation, information governance and partnership formation

### **Further information**

For any queries regarding the expressions of interest phase please contact Innovate UK.

Email: [support@innovateuk.gov.uk](mailto:support@innovateuk.gov.uk)

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