

Solicitation Title:	Facilitator for Enhancing Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Capacity for Zoonotic Pathogen Characterization Through Oxford Nanopore and Bioinformatics Training
Solicitation Number:	STRIDES-005
Submit Questions and Proposal to:	Procurement.STRIDES.th@fhi360.org
Date of Issue of RFP:	7 October 2026
Date Questions from Supplier Due:	13 October 2026
Date Answers due from FHI 360:	14 October 2026
Date Proposal Due:	14 October 2026
Approximate Timeframe Consultant Agreement Issued to Successful Candidate(s):	Working Days: 8.5 days (Period: 21 October 2026 – 13 November 2026)
Method of Submittal:	
Respond via e-mail with attached document in pdf format. Pricing should be provided in Excel format unless otherwise specified.	
Quote Validity:	
The Consultant agrees to hold the prices in its offer firm for 10 days from the date specified for the receipt of offers unless another time is specified in the addendum of the RFP.	

Background

The Strengthening Infectious Disease Detection Systems (STRIDES) project, implemented by FHI 360, invites qualified individual/organizations to submit proposals to facilitate standardized proficiency testing and continuous quality improvement. This project has been focused on national, reference and high-performing laboratories within the human health sector across Asian countries. It seeks to enhance diagnostic accuracy, promote harmonization of laboratory practices, and support regional efforts in AMR surveillance and control.

In collaboration with the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Thailand, STRIDES Thailand is strengthening the NGS capacity of Thailand's animal health laboratories through a hands-on training course on Oxford nanopore sequencing and bioinformatics for rapid molecular characterization of zoonotic pathogens.

Scope of Work

Detailed Description of Tasks to be Performed

The Consultant will support the STRIDES Thailand Activity under Task 1.1.2c, which aims to strengthen Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) capacity across the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) and regional Department of Livestock Development (DLD) laboratories through enhanced laboratory and bioinformatics competencies. The assignment will contribute to strengthening practical capacity in Oxford Nanopore sequencing workflows, sequencing data processing, and amplicon sequence analysis for priority zoonotic pathogen detection and characterization.

The Consultant will work closely with FHI 360 - STRIDES Thailand, NIAH, and collaborating technical partners to develop the training curriculum and facilitate a hands-on training workshop focused on Oxford Nanopore sequencing workflows, EPI2ME-based bioinformatics analysis, sequencing data quality assessment, amplicon sequence analysis, species identification, and interpretation of sequencing results for zoonotic pathogen surveillance and outbreak detection.

Specific responsibilities include:

1. Review and provide technical input to the workshop agenda, training approach, practical exercises, and participant preparation requirements.
2. Prepare and adapt technical training materials, demonstrations, bioinformatics exercises, and supporting reference materials.
3. Facilitate Day 1 laboratory training sessions covering:
 - PCR amplicon-based workflows for bacterial, viral, and parasitic targets;
 - Nanopore library preparation using ligation-based workflows;
 - Sequencing preparation, flow cell setup, and sequencing operation;
 - Quality assurance and quality control considerations during sequencing procedures.
4. Facilitate Day 2 bioinformatics setup and data processing sessions covering:
 - Sequencing data transfer and preparation;
 - Installation and configuration of required software and EPI2ME workflows;
 - Sequencing data quality assessment;
 - Data preprocessing and workflow execution using amplicon sequencing datasets.
5. Facilitate Day 3 amplicon sequencing data analysis sessions covering:
 - Bacterial 16S rRNA sequence analysis;
 - Viral and parasite amplicon sequence analysis;
 - Species identification and sequence interpretation;
 - Discussion of sequencing results for surveillance and outbreak detection applications;

- Sharing of additional bioinformatics tools and approaches relevant to amplicon sequence analysis.
- 6. Lead technical discussions and hands-on exercises using NIAH-prepared sequencing datasets and reference sequences and provide recommendations for continued strengthening of NGS capacity within the DLD laboratory network.

Activity and Timeline

Activity	Timeline
Review workshop objectives, participant requirements, and existing technical materials. Participate in planning discussions with STRIDES Thailand, NIAH, and collaborating technical partners to refine workshop design and curriculum.	Before 28 October 2026 (1.5 days)
Develop and adapt training curriculum, presentations, laboratory exercises, bioinformatics exercises, participant guidance materials, datasets, and supporting reference materials.	Before 28 October 2026 (2 days)
Prepare software installation guidance, EPI2ME workflows, bioinformatics tools, and practical training resources prior to workshop implementation.	Before 28 October 2026 (1 day)
Facilitate Day 1 laboratory training sessions.	28 October 2026 (1 day)
Facilitate Day 2 bioinformatics setup and sequencing data processing sessions.	29 October 2026 (1 day)
Facilitate Day 3 amplicon sequence analysis and interpretation sessions.	30 October 2026 (1 day)
Participate in post-training debrief discussions and prepare technical recommendations and summary inputs.	By 13 November 2026 (1 day)

Deliverable and Required Outputs:

Deliverables/Milestones	Due Date
Deliverable 1: Deliverable 1: Training Curriculum and Materials Package Develop, adapt, and finalize: • Training curriculum and workshop agenda • Technical presentations • Laboratory practical exercises • Bioinformatics exercises and datasets • Software installation guidance • EPI2ME workflow resources	Prior to workshop implementation (Before 28 October 2026)

Participant reference materials and supporting documentation for the Oxford Nanopore sequencing and bioinformatics training workshop	
Deliverable 2: Delivery of Hands-on NGS Training Workshop Facilitate and deliver technical training sessions and hands-on practical exercises covering: - PCR amplicon-based laboratory workflows - Nanopore library preparation and sequencing operation - Sequencing data transfer and preparation - EPI2ME workflow setup and execution - Sequencing data quality assessment and preprocessing - Bacterial, viral, and parasite amplicon sequence analysis - Species identification and interpretation of sequencing results for surveillance and outbreak detection applications	Upon completion of workshop implementation (28-30 October 2026)
Deliverable 3: Post-Training Summary Report Submit a brief report summarizing: - Training activities conducted - Number of sessions facilitated - Key technical topics covered - Participant engagement and observations - Technical recommendations and potential follow-up actions for strengthening NGS capacity within NIAH and regional DLD laboratories	Within 10 business days following completion of the workshop (by 13 November 2026)

Location of Work: National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Bangkok Thailand

Travel: No travel required

Timetable and Address for Submission

Proposals are due no later than 4:00 PM (Thailand time) on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. Required documentation listed below must be e-mailed to Procurement.STRIDES.th@fhi360.org

Qualifications:

- Advanced university degree (master's degree or higher) in Molecular Biology, Genomics, Bioinformatics, Microbiology, Veterinary Medicine, Biotechnology, or a related field.

- Experience in next-generation sequencing (NGS), including hands-on experience with Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT) platforms and amplicon sequencing workflows.
 - Demonstrated experience in molecular laboratory techniques, including PCR, library preparation, sequencing operations, and quality assurance/quality control procedures.
 - Proven expertise in bioinformatics analysis of sequencing data, including the use of EPI2ME and other relevant sequencing data analysis tools.
 - Experience in designing and delivering technical training, workshops, or capacity-building activities related to NGS, genomics, molecular diagnostics, or bioinformatics.
 - Demonstrated experience in the analysis and interpretation of bacterial, viral, and/or parasitic sequencing data for diagnostic, surveillance, or research purposes.
 - Strong communication, presentation, and facilitation skills, with the ability to deliver practical laboratory and bioinformatics training to diverse audiences.
 - Experience working with government laboratories, academic institutions, research organizations, or international development partners is desirable.
- Ability to provide technical consultation and troubleshooting support for NGS laboratory workflows, sequencing operations, and bioinformatics analysis.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

- Relevant academic qualifications.
- Demonstrated technical expertise in NGS, Oxford Nanopore sequencing, and bioinformatics.
- Relevant experience in delivering laboratory and bioinformatics training programs.
- Experience supporting laboratory capacity strengthening and genomic surveillance initiatives.
- Quality and relevance of previous assignments and professional references.
- Ability to coordinate multiple laboratories, manage timelines, documentation, communication, and deliverables.

Required Documentation: Proposals must include the following components:

- Technical Proposal responding to the Statement of Work (SOW), including proposed methodology and work plan.
- Financial Proposal, including the completed and signed Quotation Submission Excel Sheet.
- CV or portfolio in English demonstrating the skills and knowledge to provide this service or similar past experiences.
- Company profile and business registration documents (for firms, if applicable)

All documents must be submitted in English and signed by an authorized representative, where applicable.

FHI 360 Disclaimers

- FHI 360 may perform a background check on any selected Consultant candidates.
- FHI 360 may cancel the solicitation and not award
- FHI 360 may reject any or all responses received
- Issuance of the solicitation does not constitute an award commitment by FHI 360
- FHI 360 reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on failure of the offeror to follow solicitation instructions
- FHI 360 will not compensate any offeror for responding to solicitation
- FHI 360 reserves the right to issue award based on initial evaluation of offers without further discussion
- FHI 360 may choose to award only part of the activities in the solicitation, or issue multiple awards based on the solicitation activities
- FHI 360 reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition
- FHI 360's supplier terms and conditions can be found [here](#) while our consultant terms and conditions can be found [here](#)

Annex 1
Quotation Submission Form

Name – Surname or Company Name
Address:
(Contact details: email and mobile number)

Quotation

Family Health International

130-132 Sindhorn Building, 19th Floor, Tower3, Wireless Road, Lumpini,
Pathumwan, Bangkok, 10330, THAILAND

Date:

Item	Description	Qty/Day	Unit Price	Amount (THB)
	GRAND TOTAL			

Signed: _____

Name - Surname

Remark: The expert will be solely responsible for 3% withholding tax.