

# Call for innovative health technologies: medical devices and eHealth solutions for low-resource settings 2013

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Medical devices and eHealth solutions have the potential to improve lives. However, too many people worldwide suffer because they don't have access to the appropriate health technologies. This call highlights the importance of these innovative technologies towards improved health outcomes and the quality of life.

WHO aims to raise awareness of the pressing need for appropriate design solutions. The Compendium series was initiated to encourage a dialogue between stakeholders and stimulate further development and technology dissemination. The annual publication serves as a neutral platform to introduce health technologies that have the potential to improve health outcomes or to offer a solution to an unmet medical need. The Compendium series specifically focuses on showcasing innovative medical devices and eHealth solutions that are not yet widely available in under-resourced regions. It is designed to help developing countries to become aware of appropriate health technologies in support of their environment.

The previously published compendium series can be viewed at:

[www.who.int/ehealth/resources/compendium2012](http://www.who.int/ehealth/resources/compendium2012)

[www.who.int/medical\\_devices/innovation/compendium2012](http://www.who.int/medical_devices/innovation/compendium2012)

## 1 Background and Aim of the Call

Medical devices are indispensable in health care delivery as tools for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Further, eHealth solutions - from simple SMS appointment reminders on a mobile phone, to more complex electronic medical record systems - are powerful approaches in the use of information and communication technologies to support health systems and services. However, despite the exponential growth of scientific and technological development, availability of and access to appropriate and affordable medical devices and eHealth solutions in low- and middle-income countries are still inadequate. The Medical Devices and eHealth units of WHO are striving to make available the benefits of core health technologies with the aim of addressing global health concerns. This is done – among other things - by developing a framework for technology assessment, management and regulation and by challenging the scientific and business communities to identify and develop innovative technologies.

This call aims to identify innovative health technologies that address global health concerns (section 4) and that are likely to be appropriate and affordable for low-resource settings. Selected technologies will be featured in the "Compendium of innovative health technologies: medical devices and eHealth solutions for low-resource settings 2013" and can be accessed from the Medical Devices ([www.who.int/medical\\_devices](http://www.who.int/medical_devices)) and eHealth ([www.who.int/ehealth](http://www.who.int/ehealth)) websites of WHO.

## 2 Characterization of Innovative Health Technologies

For the purpose of this call, the term 'health technologies' refers to medical devices and eHealth solutions. In this context, '**medical devices**' cover medical equipment and instruments, in vitro diagnostics and imaging devices as well as assistive devices

and related health technologies excluding clinical procedures, medicinal products, vaccines, biological therapeutic products, or tissue-engineered medical products. **'eHealth solutions'** refer to the use of information and communication technologies including electronic and communication devices and applications (such as telemedicine; mobile applications for surveillance, telehealth, diagnostics, appointment reminders; etc.) in support of health systems and services. All eHealth applications should conform to the existing standards.

*Innovative health technologies* in this context include:

- New products or applications;
- Products or applications which have been commercialized for less than 5 years in high-resource settings but have not yet been widely used in low- and middle-resource settings;
- Non-health products or applications that have recently been adapted for a health purpose;
- Products available in low-resource settings for less than 5 years but not yet widely used.

Contributors to the previous compendium series whose technology advanced from 'under development' status to launched product are encouraged to submit their updated entry.

### 3 Eligibility

The 'Call for innovative health technologies: medical devices and eHealth solutions for low-resource settings 2013' is open to manufacturers, institutions, academia, individuals and non-profit organizations that design, manufacture and/or supply any type of innovative health technologies that are suitable for use in low-resource settings and address the global health concerns as outlined in section 4 below.

### 4 Health problems to be addressed

The Call for innovative health technologies for low-resource settings 2013 puts a specific focus on the following technologies:

1. Medical device (including telemedicine solutions) that address one of the following key global health concerns:

- Birth asphyxia and birth trauma
- Cancer
- Cataracts
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Diabetes mellitus
- Diarrheal diseases
- Hearing loss
- Ischemic heart disease
- Lower respiratory infections
- Maternal health
- Neonatal infections
- Pneumonia
- Prematurity and low birth weight
- Refractive errors
- Vascular diseases

2. eHealth solutions may support one of the following areas:

- Decision support systems
- Diagnostic and treatment support
- Electronic health/electronic medical record

- Emergency/humanitarian relief
- Geographic information system
- Healthcare management
- Health workforce training
- Health information systems
- Health education
- Health surveys
- Management of patient information
- Management of hospital information
- Management of emergencies
- Patient monitoring
- Public health surveillance
- Telehealth/telemedicine
- Treatment compliance

## 5 Selection of technologies

All submissions undergo an evaluation process; technologies will be assessed by an expert panel based on the material and evidence provided by the applicant as well as publicly available information.

Note that inclusion in the Compendium does not constitute a warranty for fitness of the technology for a particular purpose nor endorsement of the product by WHO.

Entries must demonstrate the technology's suitability for use in low-resource settings. Technologies are then selected for inclusion in the Compendium if they fulfill at least one of the criteria below:

- The technology or the practice is better suited to address a health problem than existing solutions available or improves current health systems and services. Examples of improvements over existing technologies may include superior effectiveness; enhanced ease of use and maintenance; reduced training requirements; labor saving; improved safety level for user, patient, and/or environment; increased social and cultural acceptability; technical superiority; improved accessibility, better cost-effectiveness and affordability; reduced energy requirements.
- The technology provides an appropriate solution to a health problem not yet addressed by any other technology.

## 6 Submission of Application and Deadline

Interested applicants can download the appropriate submission form:

- **for medical devices:** [www.who.int/medical\\_devices](http://www.who.int/medical_devices)
- **for eHealth solutions:** [www.who.int/ehealth](http://www.who.int/ehealth)

The applications should be completed in English and e-mailed to:

- **for medical devices:** [medicaldevices@who.int](mailto:medicaldevices@who.int)
- **for eHealth solutions:** [ehealth@who.int](mailto:ehealth@who.int)

Please provide a completed MS word version as well as a signed scanned pdf copy of your application. Please send image files and all documentation supporting your entry in the same email. Please make sure that the file size does not exceed 5MB. (In case you need to send larger files, please contact us beforehand so a ftp link may be provided.)

Please respect the **15 March 2013** deadline.

Receipt of applications will be confirmed by e-mail.

For questions related to the Call and Compendium please contact us at [medicaldevices@who.int](mailto:medicaldevices@who.int) or [ehealth@who.int](mailto:ehealth@who.int).

## 7 Terms, Conditions, and Disclaimers

WHO reserves the right not to select any application or to annul the solicitation process at any time, without thereby incurring any liability or any obligation to inform the applicants of the grounds for the WHO's action. WHO reserves the right, at any time during the solicitation process, to modify the scope of the Call. At any step in the evaluation process, WHO reserves the right to issue an amendment to the Call detailing the change to only those applicants who have not been officially eliminated at that point in time. Applications will be evaluated by WHO, in collaboration with external partner experts and institutions, in its sole discretion, taking into account the criteria outlined above. There is no obligation by WHO to reveal, or discuss with any applicant, how a submission was assessed, or to provide any other information relative to the selection process.

Incomplete applications and applications submitted after the deadline will, in principle, be disregarded unless WHO, in its sole discretion, decides otherwise in respect of such incomplete or late application. WHO may request applicants to submit complementary or additional information as a condition for consideration. Any possible requests to submit complementary information and/or to submit a more detailed application, as well as any discussions ensuing therefrom, will be exploratory only, and do not mean that the applicant concerned will be selected.

WHO will not be held to offer applicants any explanation or justification as to why their proposal has been rejected and/or why they have not been selected. The list of selected applications will not necessarily be made public as such. The submission of applications, the subsequent selection process and outcome of the selection process will not be subject to any claim of any kind whatsoever, or appeal. Each applicant will be notified in writing by WHO (by e-mail) whether or not the submission has been selected.

Any and all costs and expenses incurred in relation to, or ensuing from, the submission of an application (including the possible complementary information and/or a more detailed proposal, if so requested by WHO) will not be subject to claims for financial compensation of any kind whatsoever.

WHO does not warrant that any medical devices, innovations, concepts or products that may be used, identified or otherwise developed from selected proposals will be successfully commercialized in target countries, or that WHO will finance or otherwise support the development or commercialization of any product. By selecting applications, WHO will not be held to endorse any product but will solely aim at drawing stakeholders' attention to innovative technologies with a view to furthering development and availability of, and access to such innovative health technologies.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products at any stage of the selection process or subsequently will not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by WHO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned, nor that they have been found to be safe and efficacious.

Without WHO's prior written approval, selected applicants shall not, in any statement of an advertising or promotional nature, refer to their selection under this Call for innovative health technologies. In no case shall selected applicants use the name or the emblem of the World Health Organization, or any abbreviation thereof, in relation to their business or otherwise. The same applies to all applicants during the selection process and thereafter.

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