

MOBILE EVIDENTIAL BREATH TESTING INSTRUMENT COMPETITION

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR ASSESSING STAGE 3 BIDS AND CONSIDERATION FOR A STAGE 3 AWARD

Background

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) was awarded a grant by the Secretary of State for Transport to run a competition to encourage the development of mobile breath testing instruments (MEBTI: sometimes referred to as roadside evidential breathalysers) which meet Home Office type approval requirements.

The competition aims to result in one or more type approved instruments which can be operated by police forces throughout the UK by October 2021. It involves three stages with up to £350,000 awarded in total to one or more manufacturers over the three stages.

This competition is entirely additional to the routine procedures for gaining type approval. It is intended to provide an additional incentive to companies to develop MEBTI instruments. It does not alter the routine procedures in any way and companies may proceed with the routine procedures quite independently of the PACTS MEBTI competition and timetable if they wish.

Competition stages

Stage 1 of the competition was designed to incentivise companies to develop instruments that would achieve type approval during the timescale of the competition. Two companies, Lion Laboratories and Intoximeters, were awarded grants of £70,000 each.

Stage 2 of the competition was divided into two parts. Part 1 invited companies to submit manufactured instruments for police user trial. Part 2 invited companies to submit innovative proposals which demonstrated significant wider applicability, portability, cost savings to the users, or other such advantages. Two companies, Lion Laboratories and Medacx, submitted bids for, respectively, Parts 1 and 2, and each was awarded a grant of £52,500.

Stage 3 of the competition is the submission of manufactured instruments for consideration for type approval.

PACTS and the DfT reserve the right to award any amount or amounts up to the total of £105,000, including no award at all.

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Companies wishing to be considered for a Stage 3 award should supply the following to Dstl, as below.

Instruments should be delivered to:

Breath Alcohol Type Approval Manager
Dstl Porton Down
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 0JQ

PACTS is not involved in this process.

Instruments should be submitted by 31st December 2020. Awards will be made by 28th February 2021.

Instruments may be submitted for type approval at any time outside the competition.

For a company to be considered for an award, the following must be submitted:

- Evidence of Annex A - Instrument Response to Chemical Interference testing as detailed in the Guide.
- Evidence of Annex B - Instrument Response to Physical Interference testing as detailed in the Guide.
- Evidence of Software Validation and Verification as detailed in Annex D sections D2 and D3 of the Guide.
- Instrument documentation as detailed in Section 2.8 of the Guide.

Full details for all evidence required can be found in “A Guide to Type Approval Procedures for Evidential Breath Alcohol Analysis Instruments used for Law Enforcement in Great Britain. June 2013. Version 2.0” referred to above as the Guide.

All documentation required above will be subject to a review by Dstl prior to instrument submission.

Full company and contact details should also be submitted.

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Further information

This competition is entirely additional to the police field trials and type approval procedures operated by Dstl for the Home Office. It is not a part of type approval and does not affect those normal procedures. Companies are welcome to submit bids for competition grants but there is no requirement to do so. They should proceed with type approval procedures as normal.

For information on Stage 1, see <https://www.pacts.org.uk/2018/06/mebti-competition/>

For information on Stage 2, see <https://www.pacts.org.uk/2019/03/another-step-towards-roadside-evidential-breathalysers-mebti-competition-stage-2/>

Questions regarding the competition should be directed to PACTS:

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