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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN OSPRI RESEARCH FUNDING

In support of its primary objectives to achieve TB freedom in livestock by 2026 and TB freedom in possums by 2040, OSPRI is investing \$1.5m per annum in Research, Development and Extension and is now seeking Expressions of Interest for research funding for the following **Research Priorities**:

1. Livestock Testing

We require cost-effective TB diagnostics and testing in livestock, providing highly accurate results with a fast turnaround.

2. 1080 alternatives and species-specific control tools

We seek alternative control options to 1080 that can be used in large-scale aerial pest control operations in areas where the use of 1080 presents problems, such as kea territory.

3. Disease/possum monitoring and surveillance technologies and techniques

In order to declare large areas of forest TB-free, we require a level of certainty that few to no possums remain, or at least the population is too small to sustain TB incidence. We are seeking cost-effective surveillance and monitoring tools and techniques that will enable us to confirm the absence/very low population numbers of possums in remote areas that are difficult to get to.

4. Effective baseline population measures for pests (possums, ferrets, pigs, stoats)

A number of wildlife species carry and spread TB, and act as sentinels that can provide an alert to potential disease outbreaks. We seek proposals that ensure we have established best practice in determining spatial and temporal baseline populations of pests and disease throughout the areas we work in.

5. Epidemiology

We are interested in receiving any novel research proposals which support OSPRI in moving towards our stated goals of TB eradication in livestock and possums. These may relate to livestock movement modelling, disease transmission modelling, population modelling, wildlife disease control, disease diagnostics or new and emerging technologies directed at animal and wildlife health, monitoring, surveillance and disease control.

Submission Process:

Preliminary Research Proposals (PRP) should be submitted to Richard Curtis, OSPRI R&D Manager no later than: **8am Monday 30 April 2018**. Email to Richard.curtis@ospri.co.nz.

Successful respondents will be advised by Friday 18 May and requested to provide a Full Research Proposal (FRP).

FRPs will need to be submitted by **Friday 29 June 2018** and OSPRI will finalise contracts as soon as practicable thereafter.

PRPs should be submitted using the attached template.

They should be a maximum of 3 pages in length and include the following information:

1. Research Priority area being addressed
2. Research leader and contact details
3. Project title
4. Research objectives
5. Proposed research methodology including the level of operational support required
6. Anticipated benefits of the research
7. Pathway for extension of research findings
8. Likely timeframe to complete the research
9. Estimated cost (GST exclusive) of the research
10. Any Intellectual Property or contractual considerations

Please note that in order to carry out this research you will need to comply with OSPRI's H&S requirements including development of a site-specific risk management plan.

Please note that successful Expressions of Interest submitted in the required form will be assessed and evaluated for purposes of OSPRI's R&D investment in the coming financial year(s). Multi-year projects and PhD projects are invited. For those proposals that are deemed to address OSPRI's R&D priorities and needs, a full research proposal may be requested to detail costings, method and capability for purposes of final investment approval. Calls for Full Research Proposals will occur mid-year, following the initial evaluation and determination, and notification of successful R&D provider organisations.

Timeline:

Task	Deadline
Preliminary Research Proposal submission	8.00am Monday 30 April
Notification to successful PRP providers	Friday 18 May
Full Research Proposal submission	5.00pm Friday 29 June
Contracts finalised	31 July 2018

Yours sincerely



Richard Curtis
R&D Manager