

**Healthcare Associated Infections Competition October 2008
Context Document: Links to the HCAI Technology Innovation
Programme**

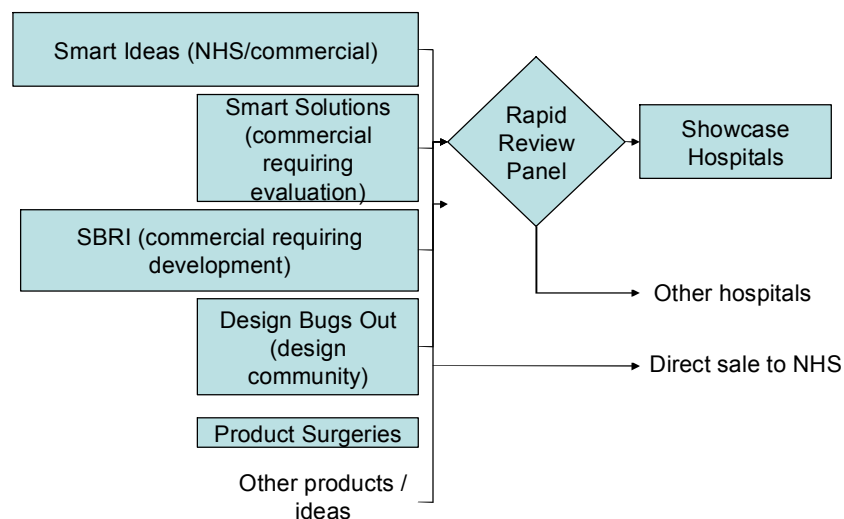
1. Since July 2007 DH and NHS PASA have been working jointly to develop a broad-ranging HCAI Technology Innovation Programme (see “Clean Safe Care” – chapter 6, January 2008¹). This programme is seeking to speed up the development and adoption of technologies to further help combat HCAIs, to identify which new technologies provide the best value and those which will have the most impact. The HCAI SBRI pilot projects will form another part of this overall Technology Innovation Programme.
2. Within this programme there are two complementary channels for identifying effective new technologies with potential to impact on reducing HCAIs - the Rapid Review Panel and the “Smart Ideas” programmes.
3. The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) was set up in 2004 and is currently hosted by the Health Protection Agency to “provide a prompt assessment of new and novel equipment, materials and other products that may be of value to the NHS in improving hospital infection control and reducing hospital acquired infection”. For more details see ref.2.
4. The NHS Smart Ideas programme consisted of workshops during the autumn of 2007 with about 500 NHS front line staff and other professionals associated with infection prevention and control to gather their ideas about how technology might be used to help combat HCAIs more effectively. From a long list of 157 ideas, ten have been prioritised by the original delegates as showing the most promise in terms of both practical effect and the current availability of the science.
5. Several of these priority Smart Ideas are now being taken forward under a commission with the National Innovation Centre (NIC).
6. Additionally, a related programme is seeking to identify SMEs with existing technologies that may require further evaluation of the potential to improve infection control. This ‘Smart Solutions’ programme aims to bring forward new technologies generated by businesses in healthcare or other commercial sectors that are not currently in use, or have not been widely adopted, within

the NHS. These may include new types of medical equipment but could equally be technologies currently used in non-healthcare applications, which have the potential to be transferred into the NHS to fight infection.

7. The 'Design Bugs Out' programme has also recently been launched. The Design Council have been awarded a contract to manage the "Design Bugs Out" project specifically to bring forward a number of new designs for hospital equipment/furniture designed with infection prevention and control in mind and made from materials that are easier to clean.
8. To assist in the adoption of promising new developments, seven Showcase Hospitals have been established in order to provide NHS practitioners with the opportunity to see HCAI technologies being used in real situations. The Showcase Hospitals will carry out detailed evaluations of the in-use value of a range of HCAI related products and will produce adoption business cases. Initially, those technologies awarded a RRP 1 will be placed in the hospitals but as the programme progresses other emerging technologies will also be evaluated, including those from the SBRI pilots. For further information about the hospitals, or the innovative products currently being showcased, see ref.3.
9. The SBRI programme is intended to support development of highly innovative technologies that are not presently commercially available but could become available to the NHS within 3-5 years. It therefore complements programmes such as Smart Solutions which focus on the evaluation of existing technologies.

The diagram below illustrates the relationship between these programmes.

DH / PASA programmes on Healthcare Associated Infections



Online references

1. http://www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk/ArticleFiles/Files/CleanSafeCare_ReducingInfectionsAndSavingLives_Strategy.pdf
2. <http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1158313434380?p=1158313434380>
3. <http://www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk/public/default.aspx?level=2&load=ArticleViewer&ArticleID=584>

This SBRI pilot is being managed for the Department of Health and the Technology Strategy Board under the NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme