	<b>safefood Research</b>
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 1 of 5
Process: To be completed by <b>safefood</b> Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

## **RESEARCH TENDER CALL**



## **TENDER INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**Project Reference No.: 04-2015**

**Project Title:**

**“Foodborne viruses – current trends, including prevalence of norovirus and hepatitis A in fresh produce on the island of Ireland”**

### **1. *Objective/Knowledge Gap***


This project is aimed at assessing the current trends in relation to the contribution of foodborne viruses to the burden of infectious intestinal disease, with a particular focus on norovirus and hepatitis A in fresh produce.

The specific objectives are:

- To review the literature on recent trends in foodborne viruses, to include prevalence in foods, epidemiology and developments in detection;
- To review outbreaks of disease associated with norovirus and hepatitis A from fresh produce on the island of Ireland (IoI), and internationally;
- To examine approaches to the monitoring and surveillance of these pathogens on the IoI and elsewhere, and to identify any gaps.

### **2. *Background***

Viruses have increasingly been recognised as a significant cause of foodborne disease and are the second biggest cause of outbreaks of foodborne illness in the EU<sup>1</sup>. It is estimated that

	<b>safefood Research</b>
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 2 of 5
Process: To be completed by <b>safefood</b> Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

around 200,000 cases of foodborne illness are caused by norovirus in England and Wales each year. Outbreaks of hepatitis A have been linked to imported frozen berries and since 2013 consumers have been advised to boil all such berries before consuming. The 2013 Irish outbreak turned out to be part of a multi-State outbreak, with over 1,000 cases reported in 12 EU countries. While the source of the outbreak was never confirmed, batches of frozen berries from twelve food operators were linked to cases of illness in five of the countries affected.

### **3. Approach**

This will be a desk-based study, involving a review of the literature on foodborne viruses, focussing on recent trends in relation to norovirus and hepatitis A in fresh produce. Information on current methodologies for detection, as well as surveillance strategies will be collated and assessed and the relevance to the IoI context will be examined.

### **4. Technical Specification**


- (a) Scope of research
- (b) Literature review
- (c) Qualitative and quantitative work
- (d) Analysis
- (e) Data handling and Reporting
- (f) Quality assurance

#### **(a) Scope of the research**

The project will focus on currently available data from the IoI, as well as other regions, such as the wider UK, EU and U.S.

#### **(b) Literature review**

The contractor must carry out a robust literature review which will include peer-reviewed publications and also a full search of the grey literature including government and other organisation reports.

	<b>safefood Research</b>
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 3 of 5
Process: To be completed by <b>safefood</b> Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

### (c) Quantitative research

The contractor will gather data on viruses in foods, with a particular focus on norovirus and hepatitis A in fresh produce.

The researcher will assess the data for current trends and analyse the relevance of the data to the island of Ireland.

The researcher will also gather the most up-to-date data on methodologies available for the detection of these viruses and on strategies for monitoring and control.

### (d) Analysis

The contractor will provide explicit details of the methods for all of the analysis.

### (e) Data Handling and Reporting


- The contractor is responsible for collating all results and a final report will be submitted to **safefood**.
- All forms, documentation and electronic files must be retained by the contractor until further notice from **safefood** in case of issues arising after the completion of the research.

### (f) Quality Assurance

- The contractor will use validated methods where applicable and provide explicit details of the analytical methods.
- **safefood** will visit the contractors during the course of the research to assess how the work is being carried out.

## 5. **Proposed Activities/Deliverables**

- Literature review examining recent trends in foodborne viruses, to include prevalence in foods, epidemiology and developments in detection.

	<b>safefood Research</b>
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 4 of 5
Process: To be completed by <b>safefood</b> Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

- A review of outbreaks of disease associated with norovirus and hepatitis A from fresh produce on the island of Ireland (IoI), and internationally.
- An assessment of approaches to the monitoring and surveillance of these pathogens on the IoI and elsewhere.

## 6. ***Evaluation of Tenders***

Tender bids will be evaluated according to the quality of proposals and applicants using the following criteria:

### **Quality of the proposal:**


- ✓ Anticipated deliverables;
- ✓ Research method and facilities;
- ✓ Value for money;
- ✓ Potential for application;
- ✓ Work plan, including the overall timeframe.

### **Quality of Applicants:**

- ✓ Experience in subject area; both qualitative and quantitative research;
- ✓ Quality Assurance and Quality Control measures in place.

## 7. ***Duration of Project***

It is anticipated that the duration of the project will be 9 months. A detailed timescale of research should be submitted by each applicant.

	<b>safefood Research</b>
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 5 of 5
Process: To be completed by <b>safefood</b> Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

## 8. ***Tender Application Forms and Guidelines***

The Tender Application Form and associated Guidelines can be downloaded from [www.safefood.eu](http://www.safefood.eu). They can also be obtained by emailing [research@safefood.eu](mailto:research@safefood.eu), quoting the project reference number **04-2015**. Alternatively please contact **safefood** as per the details below.

Clodagh Flavin  
Research Coordinator  
**safefood**  
7 Eastgate Avenue  
Eastgate  
Little Island  
Co. Cork  
T45 RX01

Tel: +353 21-2304117  
Fax: +353 21-2304111

## **References**

1. EFSA. The European Union summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2013. 2015 EFSA Journal, 13(1):3991