

1.0 PROJECT WORK OVERVIEW

1.1 PROJECT NAME

Provisioning a FHIR Ecosystem Environment to Support Implementers

1.2 BACKGROUND

HL7 International (HL7) has been engaged in a process of re-envisioning our organization through 2020 and 2021. This initiative has reemphasized our commitment to the development of superlative, implementable health information technology standards, while expanding HL7's support for implementers to accelerate the secure, scalable adoption and use of implementations based on HL7® FHIR®.

Further information around HL7 Re-envisioning can be found at:
<https://confluence.hl7.org/display/RH/Re-Envisioning+HL7+Home>.

To support [HL7's mission and vision](#), we are looking to extend our use of “sandbox” technology capabilities to be made available to the HL7 FHIR community through industry partnership as an initial step toward this expanded support for implementers.

The use of “sandboxes” is a well-established approach across industries to promote the deployment and testing of technologies that rely upon standardized capabilities. These capabilities are deployed in a uniform and consistent manner and represent the “best practice” deployment for the standards in question. HL7 has utilized sandbox technology in one form or another for some time. The well-known “HL7 FHIR Connectathons” are a pre-requisite to publication of HL7 FHIR Implementation Guides and have been a stalwart element of the FHIR community for nearly a decade and has provided a superlative proving ground for many established technologies and capabilities using HL7 FHIR. However, the current use of individually managed sandboxes, while important, is insufficient in representing the complex and interdependent components of a health IT ecosystem and infrastructure. So, HL7 seeks to develop and deploy a more robust ecosystem to further advance the testing of HL7 FHIR standards and implementations and facilitate the prudent adoption of these standards throughout the Health IT industry.

HL7 has recently entered into an agreement with Logica Inc. to acquire the Logica Sandbox, which is based on the HAPI technology stack. We are now looking for an industry partner to help us absorb the Logica Sandbox within the HL7 infrastructure and work with HL7 to support and extend these capabilities to serve as a resource to the global HL7 community of standards developers, stakeholders, and adopters of HL7 FHIR. While the Logica Sandbox provides a significant first step, HL7 recognizes that there are number of additional sandbox technology



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platforms and capabilities available around the world, many of which have strong merits and differentiators, and these may help further advance the HL7 mission and further serve the needs of our global community. HL7 also believes that the sandbox is an initial step toward provisioning a more extensive ecosystem which is necessary to advance the use of the HL7 FHIR standard as a global platform for enabling health data interoperability.

The ecosystem will require additional technologies including, but are not limited to:

- Systems administration management tools
- FHIR server deployment, configuration, and data management tools
- Endpoint directory services
- Authorization, authentication, and security services
- Terminology services
- Testing services
- User management tools
- Application showcase

This RFIP has deliberately been crafted to facilitate innovation and creativity from the Health IT community. We hope that many different organizational types might respond and provide insights and suggestions for how to achieve our goals.

1.3 KEY DATES

This RFIP is released for public review on October 28, 2021. Applicants are encouraged to reply as early as possible, and all responses must be received no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on November 30, 2021

Timeline

28 October 2021	RFIP released
10 November 2021	Information Webinar held discussing HL7's vision for our sandboxes
30 November 2021	
15 December 2021	Deadline for responses to be received
40 December 2021	
30 December 2021	Participants notified of next steps (if any)

1.4 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

HL7 envisions a long-term collaboration, expected to continue for a minimum of three years, commencing with initial planning activities by Jan. 1, 2022, with the expectation of renewals for subsequent periods after 2024.

2.0 QUESTIONS FOR RESPONDENTS

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Respondents are expected to include answers to these questions within their response.

1. What is your company's experience in healthcare and related domains such as public health, life sciences?
2. Do you have available products or services that might serve as a basis for the HL7 FHIR ecosystem and potential expansions of the sandbox to support testing and qualification of implementations based on HL7 FHIR and associated standards and technologies?
3. What are your capabilities in supporting API technologies, applications (including SMART-on-FHIR), managing authorization and security and other system management services?
4. What specific suggestions would you recommend to HL7 for developing and enhancing the sandbox capabilities and ecosystem to promote the secure adoption and ongoing use of FHIR?
5. Provide the broad outlines of a 2-3 year roadmap based on your proposed approach and solution.

3.0 INTENDED OUTCOME

HL7 wishes to develop a sandbox capability that will continue making available a HAPI platform as well as supporting other widely used technology platforms for supporting the development of new Implementation Guides and to support the effective testing and evaluation of HL7 standards-based technologies, products, and services by ourselves and by our members and partners, including supporting Connectathons and reference servers. We will not, and do not wish to be perceived as, favor any specific sandbox technology. However, we recognize that different sandboxes may have different strengths and weaknesses.

4.0 RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

Please provide your responses as a Microsoft Word document with the following structure:

1. Company name and business details
2. Name, phone, and email address of principal and secondary points of contact
3. Primary company location and geographic scope of activities
4. Approach. Your suggestions to HL7 for how to create, maintain, and govern the HL7 FHIR ecosystem environment as outlined in this RFIP.
5. Capabilities. Your past experience and proposed capabilities for implementing and managing the sandbox environment.

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6. Financial. Your proposed financial model for the operation and use of the proposed sandbox environment. Please specify the proposed funding model whether a business arrangement, philanthropic endeavor, or some other engagement approach. As a non-profit organization, HL7 is especially interested in proposals which will minimize the direct costs to the HL7 organization while making the sandbox available at minimal or no cost to the HL7 FHIR community.
7. Commercial. Please indicate those components of your sandbox capabilities that are
 - a. open source from third parties,
 - b. open source provided by yourselves, or
 - c. proprietary technologies that you are licensing for use.

Please limit your responses to no more than 10 pages of 11pt Calibri font (including diagrams).

5.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the overall best value for HL7 based on fit with requirements and the qualifications, creativity, quality, service, and other criteria set forth in this document including, but not limited to:

1. Preference for products or work conducted by organizations who have been actively engaged in current HL7 FHIR community with involvement or expertise in HL7 services and tools and with HL7 member organizations
2. Relevant capabilities, skills, and experience of proposed solutions
3. Creativity of proposed approach and roadmap
4. Reasonable and sustainable financial proposal

6.0 SELECTION PROCESS

Each on-time response will be examined to determine compliance with the format and information requirements specified in the RFI. HL7 reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

- A selection panel appointed by the HL7 Executive Committee will review each response that meets the stated requirements.
- Following independent evaluation of the response, the top candidates may be requested to participate in an interview or provide additional information or a demonstration.
- All respondent(s) will be notified of the results once the evaluations are completed.

All submissions and information supplied to HL7 will be held in confidence by the evaluation committee and become the property of Health Level Seven International, Inc.

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Any updates to this RFI, additional announcements or information will be posted to the contractwork@lists.hl7.org list service and will reference the project name.

7.0 HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE

Responses should be submitted via email to PMO@HL7.org (do NOT provide submissions to the contract work listserv). At a minimum, you should supply:

- Resume
- Brief statement of qualifications and approach
- Answers to the questions in Section 2.0

All submissions and information supplied to HL7 will become the property of HL7 International, Inc.

Direct any questions to:

David Hamill, HL7's Director of Project Management Office at PMO@HL7.org.

The contractwork@lists.hl7.org list service informs potential contactors of work to be contracted out by HL7 International. If you have received this announcement by a means other than this list, you should sign up for the free HL7 List Service at:

<http://www.hl7.org/myhl7/managelistservs.cfm?ref=nav>

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