As part of the national diagnostics effort for COVID-19, we’re looking for solutions to 4 challenges:

**Dry swabs for use in virus detection**
A key element of speeding up the end to end testing process is the availability of swabs that can be used easily and reliably to detect the virus in a range of different swabbing applications and age groups including for use in home testing and which can be used with multiple extraction platforms.

**Transport media that inactivates the virus**
In order to increase laboratory throughput we are looking at ways to minimise processes including the need to handle test samples in Category 2+/3 facilities. We are looking for transport media solutions that inactivate the virus reliably or do not add significant steps to the laboratory process or impact on viral detection.

**Desktop PCR equipment for point of care testing**
Taking samples and transporting them to testing labs takes time and may not always represent the best approach within clinical pathways. We are looking for the potential to add testing capacity through reliable and standards based testing at the point of care with desktop PCR machines that allow for fast, accurate and safe results for the operator.

**RNA extraction: new methods**
RNA extraction capacities are currently challenged even with automated platforms. We seek new methods of extracting viral RNA or enabling viral detection without an extraction step would help remove this bottleneck, as long as they are “ready to go” and can be integrated into existing or optimised PCR testing chains.

We’ve launched a testing methods sourcing platform to collect ideas on these four specific challenges: testingmethods.crowdicity.com

Please add your solutions, offers, ideas, comments and any other responses to these challenges.

This platform is a partnership between the UK Bioindustry Association, British In-vitro Diagnostics Association, the Royal College of Pathologists and the Department of Health and Social Care.

Have you got solutions or offers that could help? #TestingMethods2020