



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Issued by: National Turkey Federation Foundation (NTFF)

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Proposal Due Date: October 8, 2026

Contact: research@turkeyfed.org

Systematic Review to Develop Strategic Roadmap for Vaccine Development Against *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* (ORT) in Turkey

1. Background and Rationale

Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale (ORT) is an economically significant respiratory pathogen affecting commercial poultry, particularly turkeys. Since its emergence in the 1980s, ORT has been associated with increased mortality, reduced weight gain, decreased egg production and substantial economic losses across the poultry industry.

Despite its global distribution and impact, there remain significant gaps in knowledge related to diagnostics, epidemiology, immunology and prevention strategies, including vaccine development. While prior studies have demonstrated that both live and inactivated vaccines can provide protection under experimental conditions, no widely adopted, field-optimized vaccination strategy currently exists for turkeys.

Additionally, recent genomic research highlights limited understanding of ORT strain diversity, virulence factors and antimicrobial resistance, further complicating vaccine development efforts.

To address these gaps, the industry seeks a comprehensive, systematic synthesis of existing research to guide evidence-based prioritization of vaccine development pathways.

2. Purpose of the RFP

The purpose of this RFP is to solicit proposals from qualified research organizations, academic institutions, or consortia to:

1. Conduct a **systematic review of all available global research on ORT in turkeys**
 2. Identify **knowledge gaps and research priorities so a strategic roadmap for vaccine development and implementation can be created**
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3. Scope of Work

The selected contractor will complete the following tasks:

3.1 Systematic Literature Review

- Conduct a comprehensive review following recognized methodologies, evaluating study quality and bias
 - Include:
 - Peer-reviewed publications
 - Conference proceedings
 - Government and industry reports
 - Unpublished/grey literature (where accessible)
 - Focus areas:
 - Epidemiology and transmission (horizontal and vertical spread)
 - Pathogenesis and clinical presentation
 - Diagnostics (culture, PCR, serology, emerging tools)
 - Strain diversity and genomics
 - Antimicrobial resistance trends
 - Host immune response
 - Experimental and field vaccine studies (live, inactivated, subunit, novel platforms)
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3.2 Vaccine Landscape Assessment

- Summarize:
 - Historical and current prevention approaches
 - Efficacy outcomes and limitations to vaccine development
 - Strain specificity and cross-protection

- Identify barriers to development, commercialization and adoption
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3.3 Gap Analysis

- Identify critical gaps that should be addressed for vaccine development:
 - Scientific knowledge
 - Technical feasibility
 - Field implementation
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4. Deliverables

The selected contractor will provide:

1. Systematic Review Report

- Comprehensive synthesis of ORT research
- Annotated bibliography/database

2. Gap Analysis Report

- Clearly defined research and knowledge gaps

3. Executive Summary

- Industry-focused, decision-ready summary

4. Presentation

- Preliminary findings delivered to Turkey Health Task Force (virtual or in-person)
 - Findings delivered to Turkey Health and Production Committee (virtual or in-person)
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5. Who Can Apply

- Research institutions, academia and private sector entities with demonstrated experience conducting systematic research reviews. Experience and familiarity with the poultry industry, ORT and vaccine development requirements is preferred.
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6. Proposal Requirements

NTFF requires that the following be submitted as part of the proposal:

- Cover Letter (with name/title and contact information)

- Technical Proposal including:
 - Understanding of the project
 - Proposed methodology
 - Work plan and timeline
 - Qualifications and Experience of the research team
 - Budget and Justification
 - Direct Cost Factors- Please itemize all areas of need. Funds can be used for graduate students, technicians, research supplies, work travel and meeting travel. Funds can also support professional postdoc salaries. Funds cannot be used for faculty salaries or major equipment purchases.
 - Indirect Costs-The industry- generated funds that support National Turkey Federation Foundation research projects are not intended to provide the general overhead costs of research institutions. Indirect costs must be held to a minimum but never exceed 15 percent.
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7. Evaluation Criteria

NTF will consider the following criteria when evaluating proposals:

- Scientific merit and feasibility of the proposed approach;
 - Experience and qualifications of the research team;
 - Relevance to industry needs;
 - Cost-effectiveness; and
 - Timeline and deliverability.
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8. Submission Instructions

Please direct any questions and submit proposals *electronically in PDF format* to:

research@turkeyfed.org.

NTFF may follow up with additional questions or inquiries after reviewing submitted proposals.

9. Award Notification

Award winner will be notified via email.