

The next step in the journey to a full Electronic Quality Management System (EQMS) in the Irish Blood Transfusion Service

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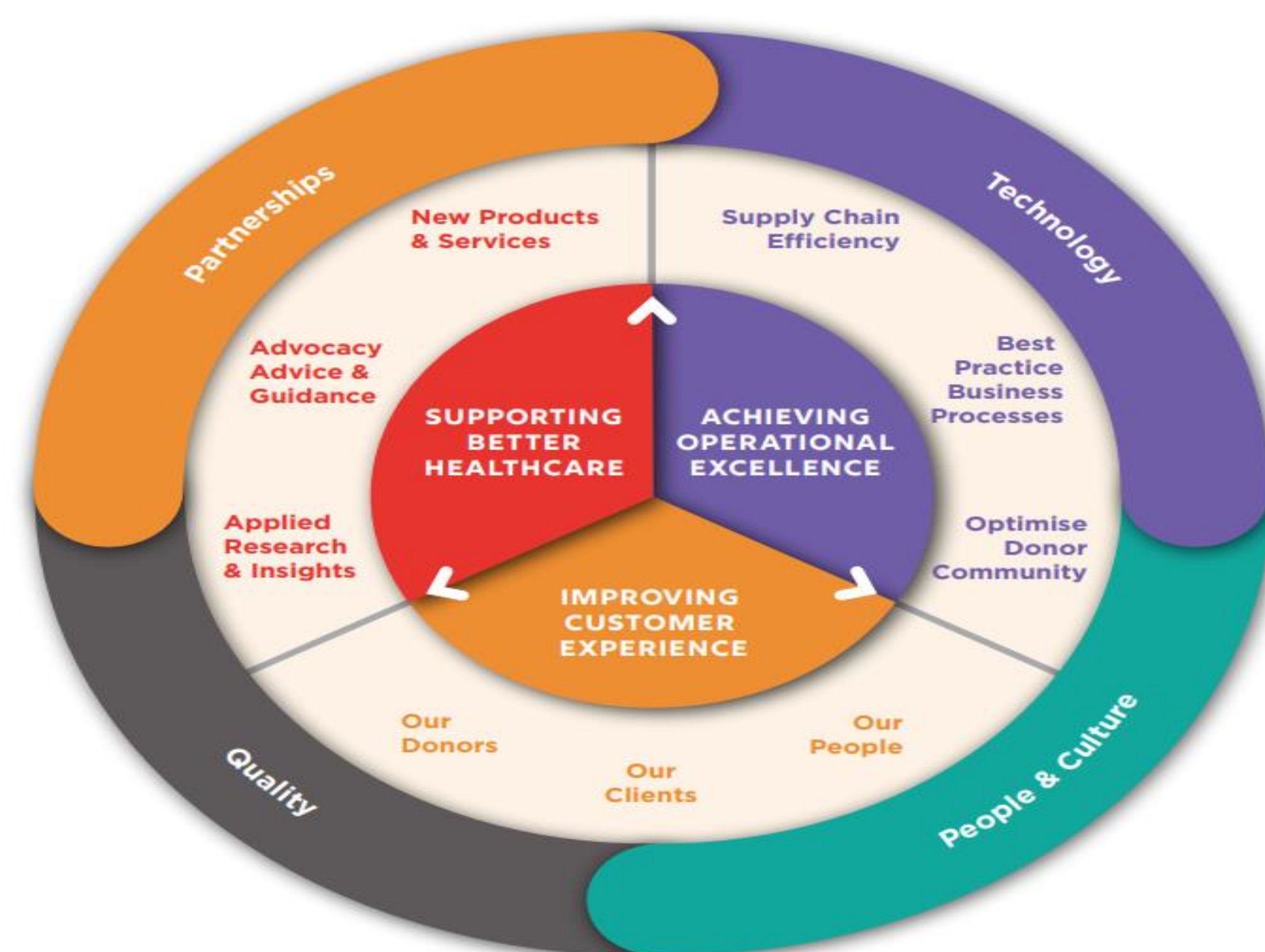
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Who are the IBTS¹

The Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) is a national non-commercial state entity responsible for collecting, processing, testing and distributing blood, and blood products in the Republic of Ireland. In addition, the IBTS processes and distributes tissue, and allogeneic serum eye drops. The IBTS operates as; a Blood Establishment, a Tissue Establishment, and operates as a Manufacturing Authorisation Holder.

Strategy

The IBTS developed the strategy 'Connections that Count'² in 2020 to run from 2021-2025. To enable this we are working towards implementing a full Electronic Quality Management System (EQMS) in the organisation.



Introduction

In 2024 we completed a review outlining the development of a bespoke User Requirement Specification (URS) for a full Electronic Quality Management System (EQMS) in the IBTS. Here we outline the next stage in the project where we evaluated nine tender responses to the URS and chose a vendor based on a number of criteria using a scoring methodology. We also discuss the planning of the next project stages to prepare for pre installation testing, phase planning and outlining validation requirements.

Method

- Created evaluation, scoring and award criteria
- Reviewed tender responses
- Final summary and ranking
- Awarded contract and created Service Level Agreement (SLA)

All responses were graded using the following scoring guidance.

Mark	Description
0	No response or not deemed adequate
1	Poor - limited response leading to significant cause for concern
2	Fair – some detail provided, high level response. Deficiencies in the response lead to some cause for concern
3	Average – not all requirements addressed though some detail provided
4	Good – Clearly demonstrates some requirements will be met
5	Excellent – Comprehensive, detailed and convincing response

URS Review

Functional

- Document
- NC & CAPA
- Change
- Audit
- Supplier
- Training
- QRM
- Reporting
- RIM

Non Functional - IT

- Solution Security
- Data Protection
- Data Security
- Data Migration & Retention
- On-going Security & Service
- Cost & Licensing models

Non Functional

- Quality & Regulatory
- Installation & Commissioning
- Service Delivery, Maintenance & Support
- Environmental / Waste Management
- Training
- Communication

- The URS review was worth 70% of the final score
- 3 from 9 vendors progressed to the cost evaluation after passing the URS review

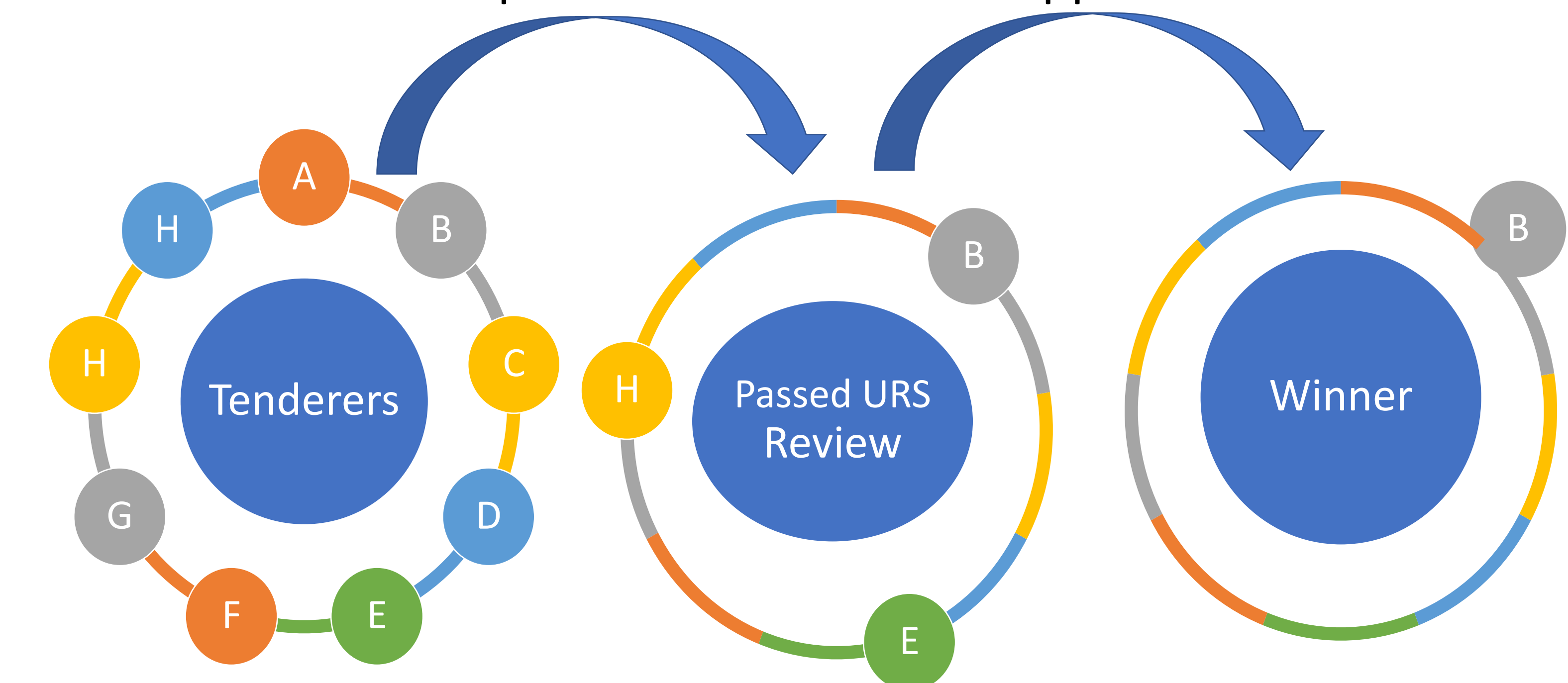
Cost Evaluation

- Cost includes implementation and recurring costs for years 1-6
- Whole life costs calculated from responses
- The cost evaluation was worth 30% of the final score

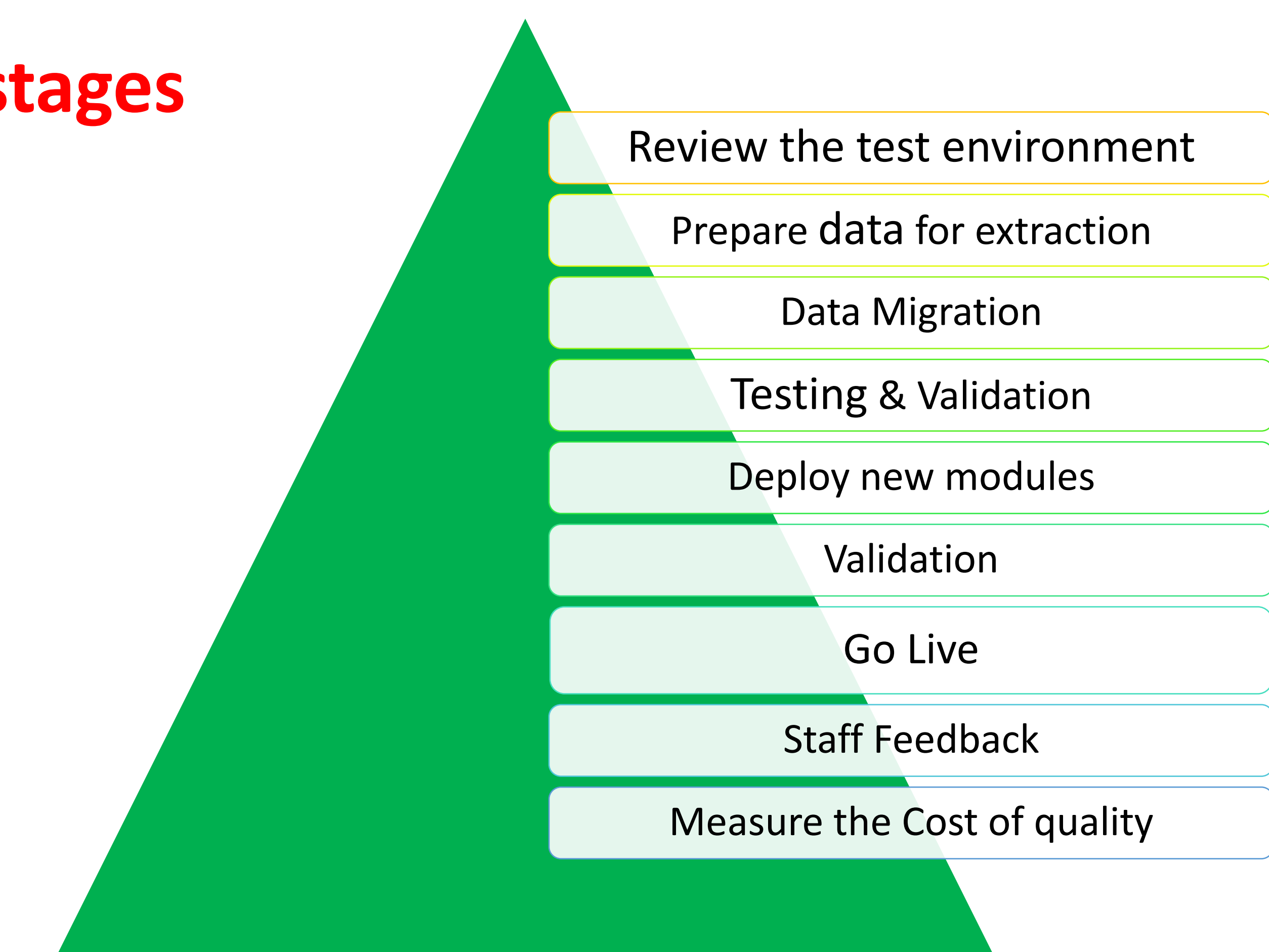
Lowest Tendered cost
Cost Score = Tendered cost under evaluation

Results

- ✓ Winner ranked number one based on overall score
- ✓ Tender awarded
- ✓ Contract developed and submitted for approval



Next stages



References

1. <https://www.giveblood.ie/> [accessed 07 March 2025]
2. Connections that Count Statement of Strategy Developing the IBTS 2021 to 2025 <https://www.giveblood.ie/media/publications/current-strategic-plan/strategic-plans/connections-that-count.pdf> [accessed 07 March 2025]
3. Commission Directive 2016/1214 of 25 July 2016 amending Directive 2005/62/EC as regards quality system standards and specifications for blood establishments.

Acknowledgements

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