

16 March 2026

Dear Proficiency Testing Participant

**Re: Participation in SmartSpot Quality Proficiency Testing (PT) Programs in 2026**

To SmartSpot's returning customers, thank you for participating in one or more of SmartSpot Quality's PT programs in 2025. To SmartSpot's new customers, SmartSpot looks forward to welcoming you to its community.

SmartSpot Quality is an ISO/IEC 17043:2023 accredited Proficiency Testing Schemes Provider with our current scope of accredited programs tabulated below:

GROUP	PROGRAM
Bacteriology	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis (CT)</i>
	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae (NG)</i>
	<i>Clostridioides difficile (C. diff)</i>
	<i>Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)</i>
	<i>Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (MTB)</i>
	<i>TB LAM Antigen (Quantitative and Rapid Tests)</i>
	<i>Treponema pallidum (Syphilis)</i>
Virology	<i>Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)</i>
	<i>Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)</i>
	<i>Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) (Qualitative, Viral Load and Rapid Tests)</i>
	<i>CD4 – Advanced HIV Disease</i>
	<i>Human Papillomavirus</i>
	<i>SARS-CoV-2</i>
	<i>Influenza (Flu) Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)</i>
Parasitology	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis (TV)</i>

SmartSpot provides External Quality Assessment (EQA), Verification, Validation, Monthly Quality Control and External Run Controls across all its programs. Please refer to Appendix A for a list of compatible assays for each program. For compatibility on additional assays, please enquire at [Orders@SmartSpotQ.com](mailto:Orders@SmartSpotQ.com).

**Physical Address:**

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Building D, 32 Princess of Wales Terrace  
Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2193

**Directors:**

Andrew Hope-Jones  
Bavesh Kana  
Dean Sher

SmartSpot is continually expanding its scope of quality control offerings. SmartSpot invites participants to enroll in the following 2026 Pilot programs:

NEW PROFICIENCY TEST PROGRAM	EXPECTED ASSESSMENT DATE FOR ACCREDITATION
Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales	June 2026
mpox	June 2026
Mycoplasma genitalium (MG)	June 2026
NGS (MDR & XDR MTB)	June 2026

**Submission Schedule**

In order to create predictable EQA cycles that are easy to adhere to, SmartSpot has standardized all EQA cycles to have a duration of **three weeks (21 days)** which will consistently **start** on a **Thursday** at **00:00 GMT+2** and **end** on a **Wednesday at 23:59 GMT+2**. The submission schedule is divided into six (6) clusters staggered throughout the year with each of SmartSpot’s EQA programs falling within one of those clusters.

The **Submission Schedule for SmartSpot’s 2026 EQA Programs** are tabulated below (Page 2 & 3):

2026 EQA SUBMISSION SCHEDULE				
SUBMISSION CLUSTER	CYCLE	FIRST DAY OF SUBMISSION	LAST DAY OF SUBMISSION	APPLICABLE PROGRAMS
1	1	05 March 2026	25 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>C. diff</b></li> <li>• <b>MRSA</b></li> <li>• <b>MG</b></li> <li>• <b>TV</b></li> </ul>
	2	02 July 2026	22 July 2026	
	3	15 October 2026	04 November 2026	
2	1	02 April 2026	22 April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CT/NG</b></li> <li>• <b>MDR MTB</b> (excluding GenoType MTBDRplus)</li> </ul>
	2	02 July 2026	22 July 2026	
	3	15 October 2026	04 November 2026	
3	1	02 April 2026	22 April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>XDR MTB</b> (including GenoType MTBDRplus)</li> <li>• <b>NGS (MDR &amp; XDR MTB)</b></li> <li>• <b>mpox</b></li> </ul>
	2	16 July 2026	05 August 2026	
	3	29 October 2026	18 November 2026	

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2026 EQA SUBMISSION SCHEDULE				
SUBMISSION CLUSTER	CYCLE	FIRST DAY OF SUBMISSION	LAST DAY OF SUBMISSION	APPLICABLE PROGRAMS
4	1	16 April 2026	06 May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CD4</b></li> <li>• <b>TB LAM Antigen</b></li> <li>• <b>Syphilis</b></li> <li>• <b>Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales</b></li> </ul>
	2	16 July 2026	05 August 2026	
	3	29 October 2026	18 November 2026	
5	1	30 April 2026	20 May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HBV</b></li> <li>• <b>HCV</b></li> <li>• <b>HIV</b></li> </ul>
	2	06 August 2026	26 August 2026	
	3	12 November 2026	02 December 2026	
6	1	14 May 2026	03 June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HPV</b></li> <li>• <b>SARS-CoV2</b></li> <li>• <b>Flu</b></li> <li>• <b>RSV</b></li> </ul>
	2	20 August 2026	09 September 2026	
	3	03 December 2026	23 December 2026	

*Note: Shipments are dispatched in the week prior to the opening submission date for each cycle. For programs where controls are stable long term, all 3 panels may be shipped together ahead of the first EQA Cycle.*

**Enrolment** - Please follow the steps below to confirm participation in SmartSpot's 2026 PT Programs:

- Complete the online request form at <https://SSQmonitor.com/ProductInfo>.
- SmartSpot Quality will send a quotation for your review and approval.
- Confirm participation by returning a signed copy of the quotation or a purchase order.
- For support related to obtaining a quotation, please email [Orders@SmartSpotQ.com](mailto:Orders@SmartSpotQ.com).
- For technical queries, please email [info@SSQmonitor.com](mailto:info@SSQmonitor.com).

**Enrolment Cutt-off dates**

- **6 February 2026** - EQA Enrolments.  
*After this date, please feel free to enquire and SmartSpot will do its best to accommodate late enrolment.*
- **Open all year round** - Verification, Validation, Monthly Quality Control and External Controls.

All the best for 2026!

Yours Sincerely,

**Arie Oelofse**  
 Scheme Manager  
[Arie@SmartSpotQ.com](mailto:Arie@SmartSpotQ.com)

**Anest Reyneke**  
 Scheme Coordinator  
[Anest@SmartSpotQ.com](mailto:Anest@SmartSpotQ.com)

## Appendix A: Compatible Assays, Instruments and Kits by Program

GROUP	PROGRAM	COMPATIBLE ASSAYS/INSTRUMENTS/KITS*
Bacteriology	CT / NG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alinity m STI</li> <li>Xpert® HPV</li> <li>TaqPath Menu GeneProof</li> </ul>
	C. diff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xpert® C. difficile BT</li> </ul>
	MRSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xpert® assays</li> </ul>
	MTB	<p>Molecular MTB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MTBC LAMP</li> </ul> <p>Molecular MDR MTB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BD MAX™ MDR-TB</li> <li>FluoroType® MTBDR</li> <li>Truenat MTB &amp; MTB-RIF Dx</li> <li>cobas® MTB &amp; MTB-RIF/INH</li> <li>GenoType MTBDRplus</li> <li>Xpert® MTB/RIF Ultra</li> </ul> <p>Molecular XDR MTB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allplex™ MTB/MDR/XDR</li> <li>LiquidArray® MTB-XDR</li> <li>GenoType MTBDRsl</li> <li>Xpert® MTB/XDR</li> </ul>
	TB LAM Antigen (Quantitative and Rapid Tests)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine™ TB LAM</li> <li>PATHFAST™ TB LAM</li> </ul>
	Syphilis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARCHITECT Syphilis TP</li> <li>Pulse Scientific RPR Test</li> <li>Bioline™ HIV/Syphilis Duo</li> <li>Atlas Medical TPHA Test</li> </ul>
Virology	HBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alinity m HBV</li> <li>Xpert® HBV Viral Load</li> <li>cobas® HBV</li> </ul>
	HCV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alinity m HCV</li> <li>Xpert® HCV Viral Load</li> <li>cobas® HCV</li> <li>Xpert® HCV VL Fingerstick</li> </ul>
	HIV (Qualitative, Viral Load and Rapid Tests)	<p>Molecular Assays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alinity m HIV-1</li> <li>cobas® HIV-1</li> <li>m-PIMA HIV-1/2 Viral Load</li> <li>Xpert® HIV-1 Viral Load XC</li> <li>Aptima® HIV-1 Quant Dx</li> <li>m-PIMA HIV-1/2 Detect</li> <li>Xpert® HIV-1 Qual XC</li> </ul> <p>Rapid Tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bioline™ HIV/Syphilis Duo</li> <li>Determine™ HIV Early Detect</li> </ul>
	CD4 – Advanced HIV Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VISITECT® CD4 Advanced Disease</li> </ul>
	Human Papillomavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alinity m HR HPV</li> <li>Seegene Allplex™ HPV</li> <li>Atila BioSystems Assays</li> <li>Xpert® HPV</li> </ul>
	SARS-CoV-2 Flu RSV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accula Dock, Bioer, Biorad,</li> <li>Molbio, Roche</li> <li>ThermoFisher</li> <li>CDC Multiplex</li> <li>Alinity m Resp-4-Plex</li> <li>Respi+</li> <li>RealStar® RSV</li> <li>Xpert® Assays</li> </ul>
	Parasitology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xpert® TV</li> <li>cobas® TV/MG</li> <li>Alinity m STI</li> </ul>

\* For compatibility on additional assays, please enquire at [Orders@SmartSpotQ.com](mailto:Orders@SmartSpotQ.com).

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