FFOODS Spectrum
perspectives on food technologies & business
ASIA

Saudi Arabia Invites Private Sector Participation in Food Safety Lab PPP Project

03 April 2026 | News

The launch of the EOI phase marks a significant step toward modernising Saudi Arabiaâ??s municipal food safety ecosystem



The launch of the EOI phase marks a significant step toward modernising Saudi Arabiaâ??s municipal food safety ecosystem

Ministry of Municipalities and Housing, Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with the National Centre for Privatisation & PPP (NCP), has launched the Expression of Interest (EOI) phase for a new public-private partnership (PPP) project aimed at upgrading municipal food safety laboratories across the Kingdom.

The initiative invites qualified companies to submit proposals for a five-year contract to equip, operate, and maintain laboratories in five municipalities: Hafr Al-Batin, Northern Borders, Tabuk, Qassim, and Al-Ahsa. The project forms part of broader efforts to strengthen food safety infrastructure while enhancing private sector participation in public services.

Under the PPP model, selected partners will be responsible for modernising laboratory equipment, expanding chemical and microbiological testing capacity for food and water, and ensuring high standards of accuracy and operational efficiency. A key component of the project includes knowledge transfer, with ownership of the upgraded laboratories set to revert to the municipalities at the end of the contract period.

The initiative aligns with Saudi Vision 2030, which emphasises economic diversification, improved public service delivery, and increased private sector involvement in key sectors.

By strengthening laboratory capabilities, the project is expected to enhance food safety standards, support national food security objectives, and contribute to sustainable development. It also aims to improve government spending efficiency by leveraging private sector expertise and innovation.

The launch of the EOI phase marks a significant step toward modernising Saudi Arabiaâ??s municipal food safety ecosystem while fostering collaboration between public institutions and private stakeholders.