

espirita 

Part of Acacium Group

Case study

June 2022



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Espirita

With nearly 20 years' experience, and the backing of Acacium Group, one of the UK's leading healthcare staffing providers, Espirita is perfectly placed to help partners meet their strategic recruitment and business goals. Offering a variety of services from staffing consultancy to full RPO (Recruitment Process Outsourcing).



Acacium Group

Acacium Group is the first global specialist healthcare solutions partner offering staffing, managed services and innovative delivery models at scale to the healthcare, social care and life sciences sectors.

The are focused on using their experience and capabilities to improve people's lives through expert healthcare, social care and life sciences.

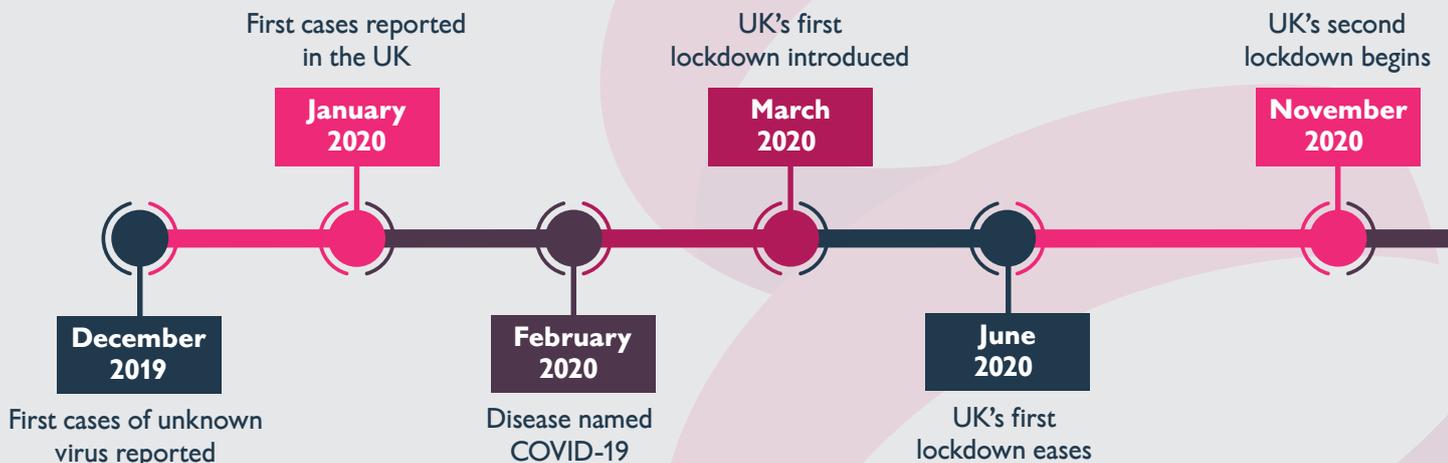
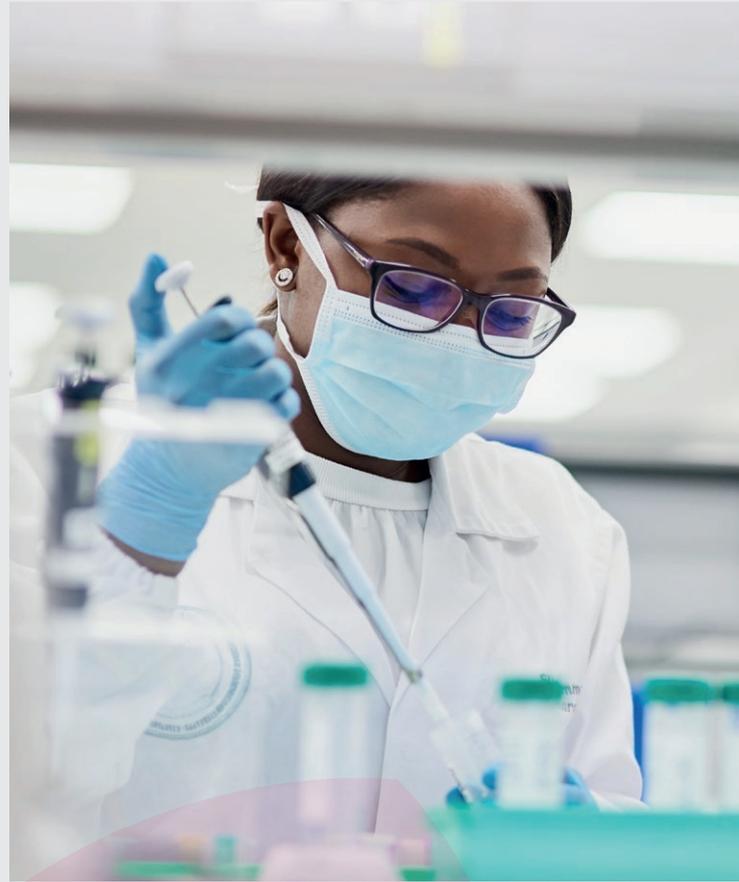
The Challenge

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) required an operator to provide the scientific, logistical and personnel capability that would allow a fleet of mobile testing laboratories to be effectively deployed in the fight against COVID-19.

These mobile labs would need to be deployed anywhere in England and Wales in areas of high covid incidence or critical events with just hours' notice.

Key challenges faced included:

- Recruiting under unprecedented conditions to staff the vehicles
- Achieving scientific validation and verification in accordance with ISO15189 accreditation for the vehicles
- Achieving approval from the DHSC for the vehicles
- Ensuring the staff were fully training and able to be deployed to critical locations at short notice



The Solution

Remote Medical International (RMI) and Espirita (as part of Acacium Group) established a project team that was able to deliver fully staffed state-of-the-art mobile laboratories. This required scientific validation and verification in accordance with ISO15189 accreditation and approval from the DHSC before deployment. The partnership recruited 80 logistical and support staff and over 155 scientific and non-scientific staff in a period of just 8 weeks.

COVID-19, in the span of weeks, has had a catastrophic effect on the world with deaths totalling in the millions and overwhelming healthcare systems since being declared a global pandemic in 2020. With all the tragedies that came with it, we also saw collaboration on a global scale between different communities and institutions to further our understanding of treatments and prevention of Covid-19.

The collaboration between Acacium Group and Remote Medical International on the MPUV Project, is a testimony to how far we as a country and the scientific community have evolved and adapted to our surroundings.

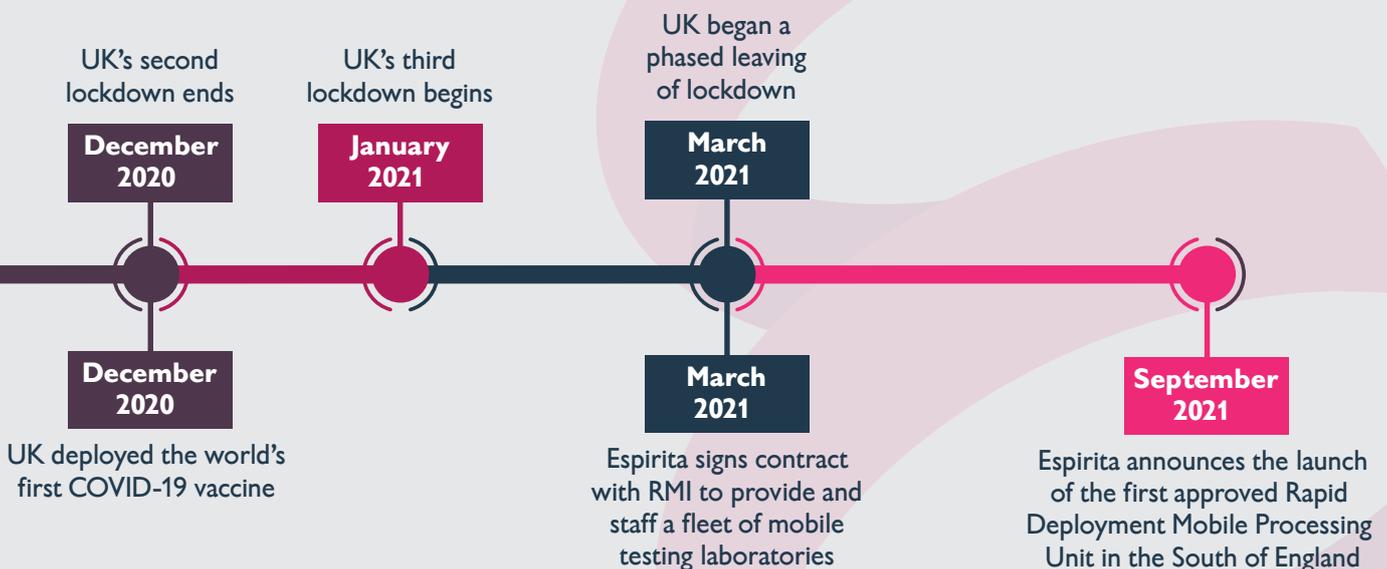
Working with two organisations who, we as scientists, would probably have never crossed paths with, has been a lifetime of experience as they continually delivered and kept up to the demands of the ever-changing pace of the pandemic. This project has challenged operational and logistical needs daily with the response to both being met with the understanding and urgency that it deserved by the Operations Manager, Michelle Marples. With

the support from Michelle, the amazing clinical team and the scientists on the ground, we beat the odds and successfully delivered Covid-19 testing from the back of a transit van, a concept both logistically and scientifically never done before!

Working for this project has been an insightful experience which, despite some of the challenges, has been invaluable for my professional development.

Acacium Group has had a leading hand in the development of new clinical guidelines for Covid-19 RT-LAMP testing and in the national effort to overcome the pandemic. I, for one would like to thank them for their work and for giving me the opportunity to be part of this amazing work.

Murshida Begum
Clinical Operations Director



The Result

All the labs were operational within the required timeframe and Espirita successfully launched the first vehicle in the South East. The ongoing DHSC-approved comprehensive training programme and recruitment ensured that the labs were available 7 days a week with no downtime from staff shortages.

In addition, the flexibility of our teams allowed the labs to be deployed to critical confidential deployments where enhanced disclosures and vetting were required on all deployed staff at very short notice.

Throughout the first four months of operations, the project achieved over 14,400 hours of training to guarantee safe and effective deployment of staff. Since May 2021, Espirita successfully supported 197 staff members and 190 clinical staff to ensure smooth running of the deployed vehicles. Clinical staff worked 135,440 hours throughout the course of the project and gathered 239,611 samples in total from all 3 lab partners. Out of 110,409 samples processed we saw 32,956 positives identified, safeguarding the operation of key infrastructure and government functions during the pandemic.

On behalf of everyone at HCA UK Laboratories, we would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank Acacium Group for the collaboration and their tireless work to maintain the operational delivery of the MPU project across the South of England. Through the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic the partnership has demonstrated true resilience and grit, to get the job done.

We are extremely proud of the working partnership. Despite this crisis, Acacium continued to deliver a

professional service whilst introducing, and engaging in the essential regulatory components of laboratory accreditation. HCA UK recognises and appreciates all the efforts and dedication to maintaining business continuity as well as that of a dynamic working relationship.

Andrew Cowderoy
Senior Project Manager
HCA Laboratories

110,409
tests

239,611
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partners

32,956
positive results

197 staff
members contributing
to the project

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