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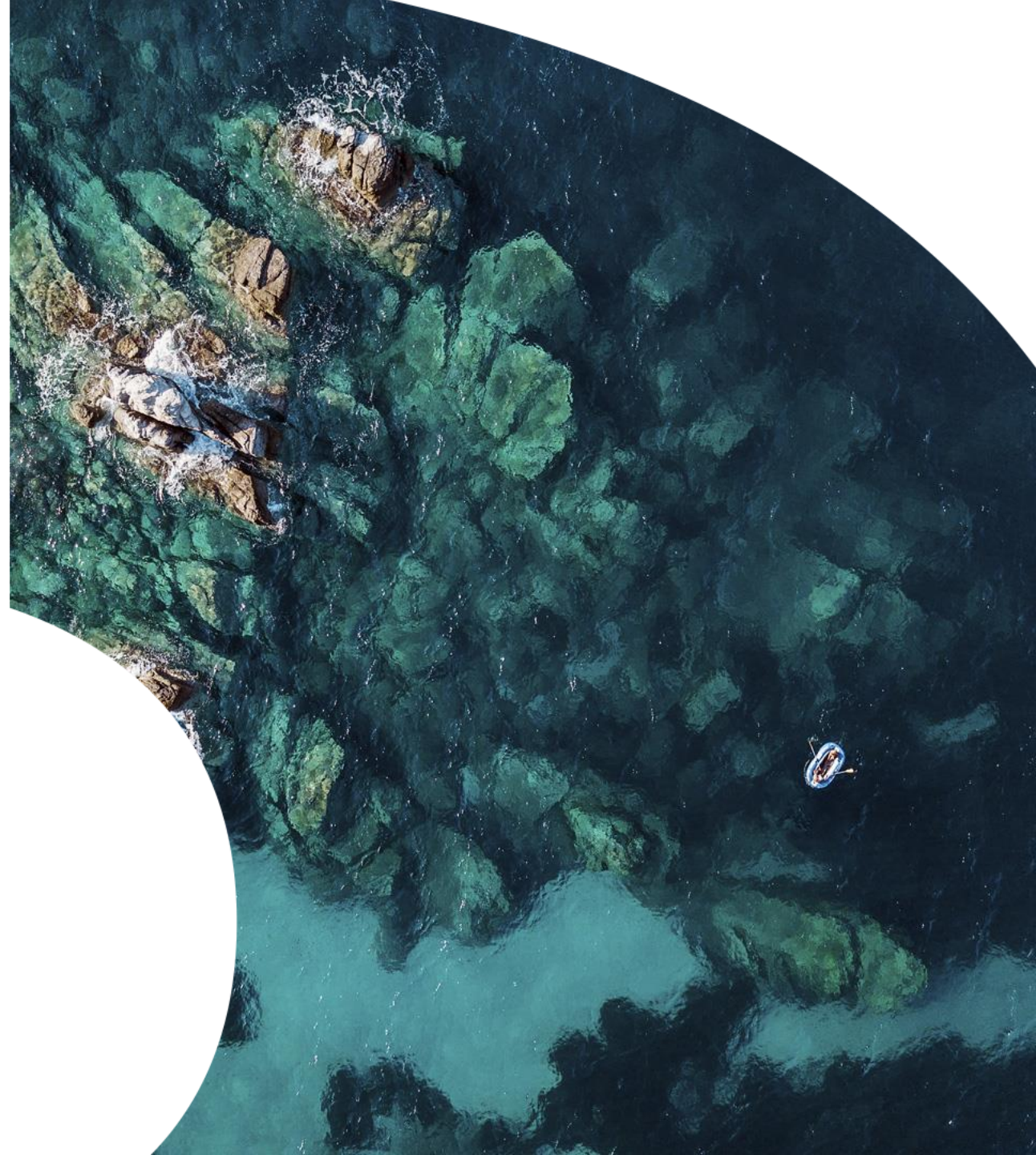
Capital Call 2022 Webinar

Improve environmental science research
through new equipment

capitalrequirements@nerc.ukri.org

Agenda

- 1 Call details
- 2 How to apply
- 3 Environmental sustainability
- 4 How will proposals be assessed?
- 5 Learning from previous calls





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Call Details

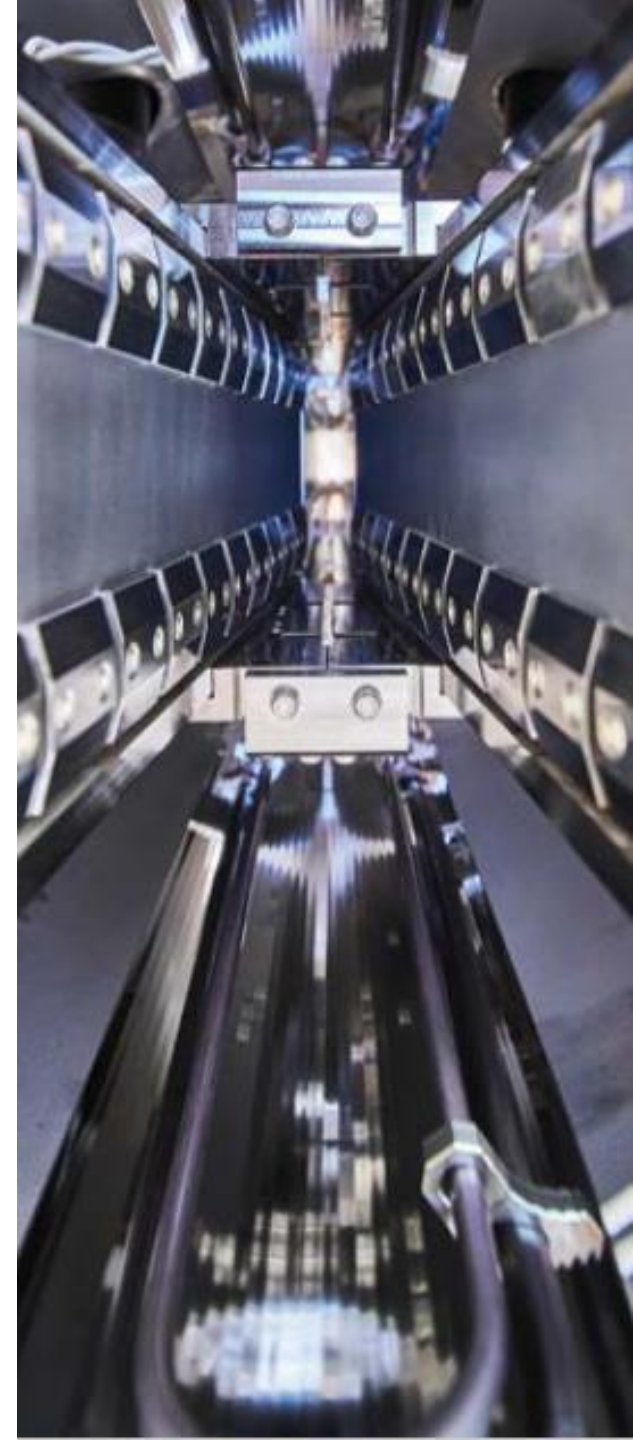
Call details

- For new or improved equipment in the environmental sciences
- Award range £350,000 - £750,000
- NERC will fund 100% of equipment costs, but contributions are welcome
- Two proposals per institution, or investigator
- Successful grants will run July 2022 to March 2024
- Closing date Tuesday 5th April 2022 16:00 UK time



What will we fund?

- Must support research in [environmental sciences remit](#)
- Must enhance capability
 - Check [equipment.data](#) before submission
 - If proposal is a duplication, a clear case must be made
 - Successful proposals must facilitate equipment sharing
- Must be a single asset
- Will not fund normal elements of a well-founded laboratory (centrifuges, fridges and incubators) and consumables
- Resubmissions are allowed, but please contact capitalrequirements@nerc.ukri.org





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How to apply



How to apply

The webpage has been updated

Submit using Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S)

When applying, select:

- Council: NERC
- Document type: standard proposal
- Scheme: NC&C
- Call/type/mode: NERC Strategic Capital Call 2022

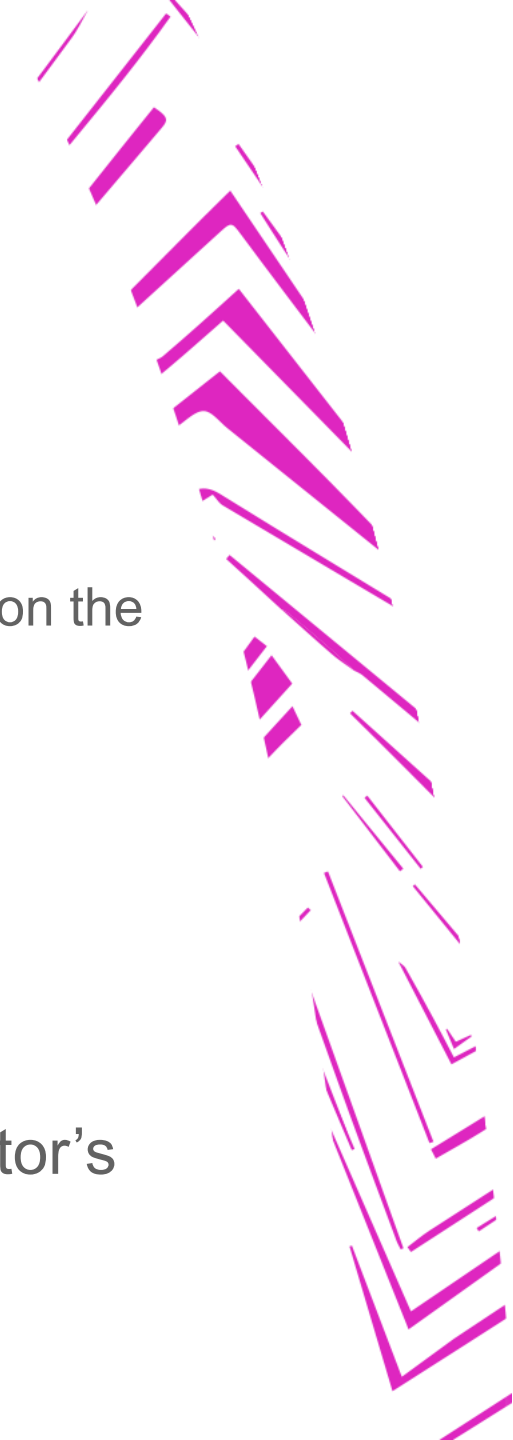
Technicians can apply and Post Doctoral Research Associates can be named as researcher co-investigators



How to apply

Proposal documents

- Je-S proforma (completed proposal form)
 - No funding for staff, costs must be Directly Incurred – Equipment
 - For the mandatory field 'How many hours a week will the investigator work on the project?', state '1' (one hour).
- Case for Support proforma
- Three equipment quotes for equipment over £138,000
- Project partner letters of support
- If your proposal has additional funding from the principal investigator's institution, a Letter of Support is required from the institution



How to apply

Project partners

- Must be essential to the delivery of the project
- Can now include equipment suppliers
 - This will be updated in the next update of the NERC Grants Handbook
- If purchasing equipment for a NERC Service and Facility (S&F), the S&F must be a named project partner



How to apply

Demonstrating community demand

- Letters of support are not permitted, UKRI are reducing bureaucracy and the NERC Grants Handbook has been updated
 - Collaborators can be listed in the Academic Beneficiaries section of the Je-S Completed Proposal Form
- How does the equipment relate to institutional, local, regional or national strategies?
- What is the demand on similar equipment? Or in the research area?
- Does the equipment fill a gap in research, training or innovation capability?



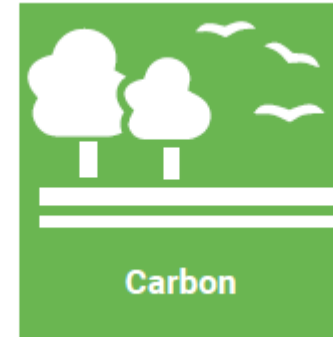
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Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability



Environmental Sustainability in UKRI

- ...is an evolving area
- Sustainability needs to be embedded in everything we do to meet ambitious targets of net-zero by 2040
- UKRI Environmental Sustainability Strategy has six priority areas, which can be used as a stimulus



What is required and why?

- Plans should be **proportional** to the equipment
- Assess key **environmental risks** and impacts of the equipment, e.g. carbon emissions, waste generation
- Provide a plan or actions to reduce environmental harm or to provide positive impacts on the environment across the **whole lifecycle**



Prompts: Analytical Instruments



Decision-making and engagement

- Run equipment at full capacity
- Effective training to maximise use, share skills and minimise waste
- Maintain equipment for prolonged lifespan



Efficient use of resources

- Minimise use of chemicals, water and consumables
- Eliminate single-use plastics and materials
- Consider decommissioning



Carbon

- Low power, energy efficient equipment
- Replace existing instruments
- New or alternative method may use less energy



Fostering a healthy living environment

- Support local, regional or national environmental plans
- Consider if research has positive impact on environment



Procurement

- Use suppliers with environmental credentials
- Possible local suppliers
- Outsourcing or local management of data



Interactions with the physical environment

- Eliminate pollution through effective ventilation
- Passive cooling
- Integrate into existing building footprint and processes

Prompts: Field-based Equipment



Decision-making and engagement

- Consider the frequency of use
- Consider the amount of data collected and its long-term management and carbon use



Efficient use of resources

- Eliminate waste, pollution and emissions at site
- Limit chemical and water use
- Consider whole lifecycle of operations



Carbon

- Minimise travel to/from site
- Consider energy source
- Consider passive or self-powered systems
- Electric vehicle over diesel/petrol



Fostering a healthy living environment

- Chose deployment sites to minimise affect on ecosystems
- Responsible equipment design
- Consider material choices if modifying equipment



Procurement

- Energy efficient equipment
- Consider need for adapting equipment
- Consider the lowest carbon option

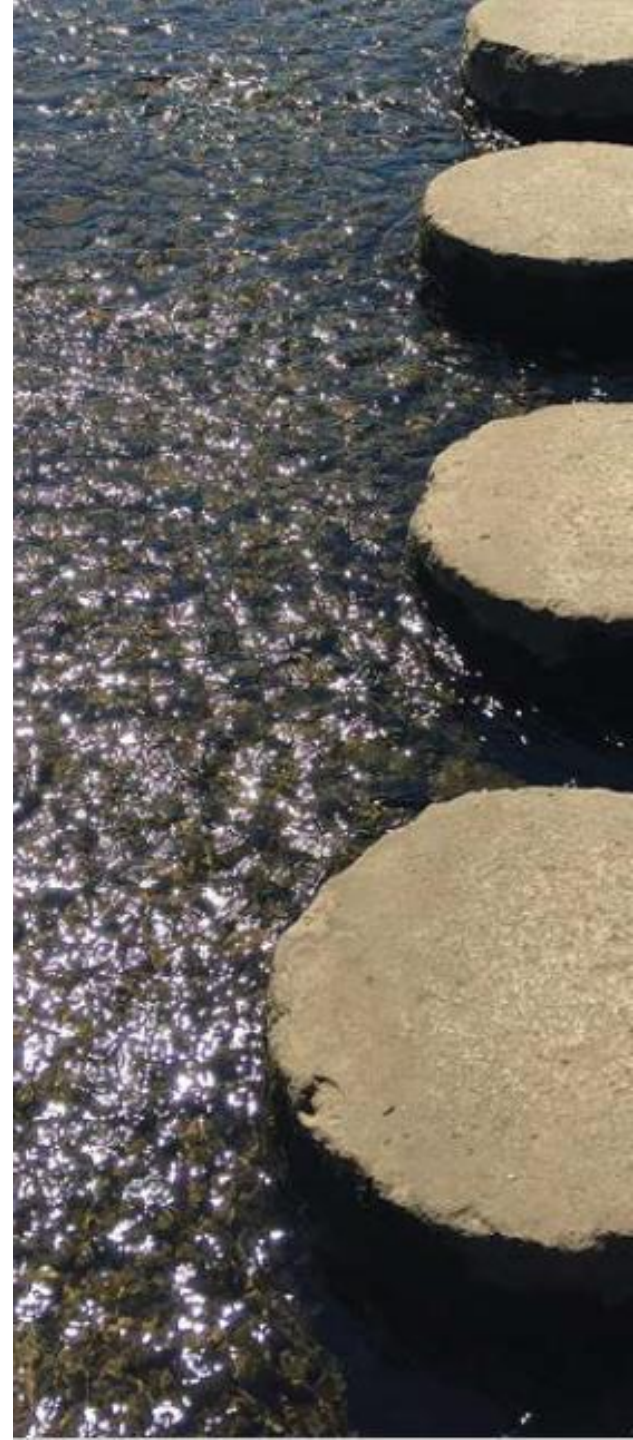


Interactions with the physical environment

- Limit impact of deployment, removal and decommissioning
- Use recoverable and reusable equipment
- Reduce noise

Social Sustainability

- Consider Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
 - How will the equipment be made accessible to a broad community?
 - Is there a user plan and how will that be managed?
- How will long-term staffing of the equipment be managed?
- Are there any social harms to the local, regional or national community?
 - Risk of modern slavery? Discrimination of access by design, operation or location/housing of equipment?
- Are there any social benefits?
 - Local job creation? Community engagement or outreach?



Economic Sustainability

- How will maximum value be obtained for the lifetime of the asset?
- How will operations, maintenance and decommissioning be funded?
 - Are there long-term funding commitments in place by the host institute (if so, a Letter of Support is required)
- How will access be granted to the community?
 - Are there access costs and how will this be managed sustainably and fairly?





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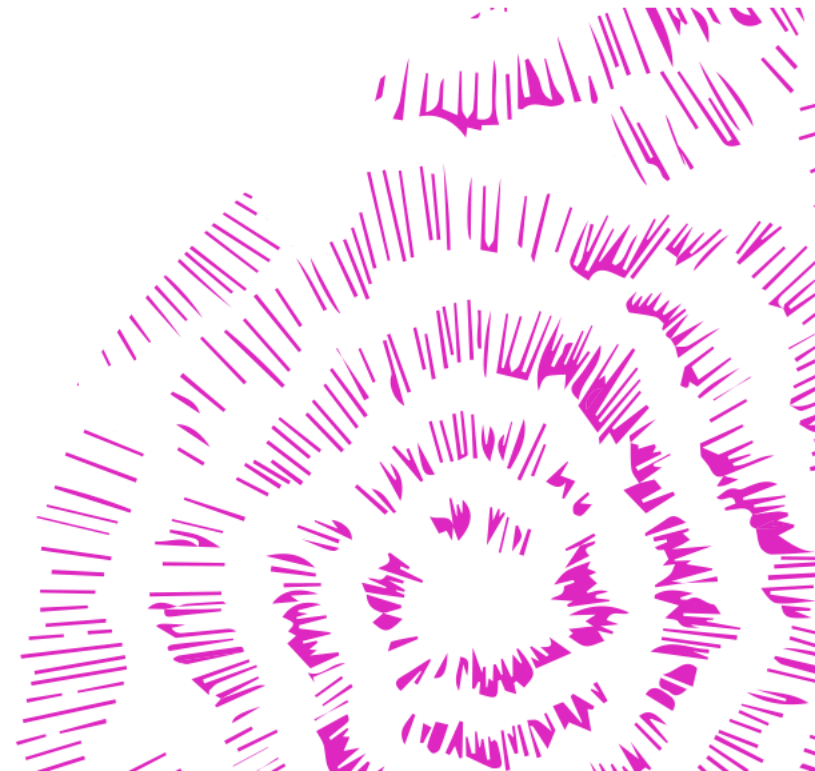
How will proposals be assessed?



How will proposals be assessed?

Peer Review Process

- Proposals will be assessed by an expert, multidisciplinary panel
- The panel will use the assessment criteria and the funding opportunity requirements
- NERC will fund highest rated proposals, within constraints of budget



How will proposals be assessed?

Assessment Criteria

- Creates or supports a step change in world-class environmental science capability
- Demonstrates long-term support for NERC's environmental science
- Demonstrates a strategic and timely response to an evidenced community demand
- Demonstrates full consideration of sustainability, including for the lifecycle of the asset
- Demonstrates the asset's capability to generate wide impacts





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Learning from Previous Calls

Learning from Previous Calls

We have kept...

- Ambitions of the call
- Simple and brief application process
- Retained Case for Support proforma

We have changed...

- Updated eligibility: technicians, equipment suppliers as project partners
- Requested answers on question areas, for greater narrative
- Allowed two pages to describe science
- Clarity on Letters of Support
- Provided further guidance through this webinar





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Questions?

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