

## Opportunity: FMRI – Accelerating Adoption of Marine Sensor Innovation 2024 FAQs

This document provides answers to the questions asked at the NERC Accelerating Adoption of Marine Sensor Innovation 2024 webinar, held on 20th March 2024. Most questions were answered live during the webinar and are repeated in this document. Some questions could not be answered live due to time constraints, and these are answered here.

The ordering of the questions has changed in this document from the order they were asked at the webinar to group similar questions.

Theme	Question	Response
<b>Call Details Queries</b>		
Call Details	Is it planned for the validation cruise to happen outside of the project? Cruise summer '26 from first slides. Also, project Aug. '24 – Mar. '26 from second slides.	The validation trial is expected to be programmed in the period March to September 2026. It is now confirmed that the funding opportunity is extended into FY 26/27 to cover the duration of the 2026 cruise.
Call Details	Does it matter if you are proposing one versus three sensors to be developed in this call?	If multiple sensors fit within the budget for a single submission, suites of sensors are allowed. Note that an investigator can only lead one submission and be involved in two.
Call Details	Do the sensors to be developed have to address BGC essential ocean variables (as shared in the additional information) which are very definite, or are sensors that target BGC research in scope?	The objective is to deliver sensors that allow the investigation of biogeochemical processes. The <a href="#">Essential Ocean Variables</a> are provided as a guide.
Call Details	Is there a list of platforms that can/should be targeted?	Sensors must be integrated with one or more of the following Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) from the National Marine Equipment Pool: Autosub Long Range (ALR), Teledyne Slocum Glider, Kongsberg Seaglider.  Integration with these platforms does not need to be costed into the project. Integration with other platforms is permitted if in addition to the above, but these integration costs must be factored into the project.
Call Details	Does the proposed sensor need to have a demonstrated commercial application?	The sensors do not need to have a demonstrated commercial application. However, a strong proposal will demonstrate a route for future procurement of these sensors for the National Marine Equipment Pool.

Call Details	How do you define 'biogeochemical sensor' - is this the target substance or also the method of measurement? For example, are optical measurement proxies eligible?	The sensors are required to allow the investigation of biogeochemical processes. How the sensors function is not specified by this call.
Call Details	Just to ask whether the solution will focus on the innovative part only or it should also include as many as what available already thus make it a complete solution.	The aim of this call is to demonstrate that innovative sensor technologies can be rapidly translated into deployable solutions. Projects must therefore include an innovative aspect. This may include adapting or integrating mature technologies for marine science applications.
Call Details	Is sensor interaction with the control system in scope?	Integration with the vehicle will be led by the National Marine Facilities team in collaboration with the project team.
Call Details	If we propose to reach TRL 7 for a biogeochemical sensor within the project we must also indicate how it can progress beyond TRL 7 after the project ends using new funding?	Technologies are required to be at TRL7 already with a clear pathway to progressing to TRL8/9 as part of this project. Applications need to clearly demonstrate feasibility to exceed TRL 7 after the sea-trials to enable it to be embedded into the NMEP pool, and applications for TRL 7 will be rejected if the panel determines that there is no demonstrated route for achieving levels 8 to 9. Consequently, the panel will be seeking to recommend projects that have the greatest feasibility of achieving the desired level of technological maturity level at the time of the sea trials.
Call Details	The impression I got is that the focus is on use of underwater platforms (ALR and gliders), and no other platforms (e.g. surface, USVs)? Is that right?	The available National Marine Equipment Pool platforms for this call are all autonomous underwater platforms. Projects may additionally include integration with surface platforms if this is within their budget.
Call Details	Are imaging sensors being of particular interests?	There is no preference for any particular type of sensor.
<b>Resources &amp; Costs Queries</b>		
Resources and Costs	From call text. Already planned assets (or co-funded) can't claim institution contribution. Owing to high TRL requirement in short time of project technology probably exists in some form. If project deliverables are distinct from existing projects/funding can institution contribution be included?	In your proposal you should only list the funding you are requesting from NERC. If you note the total funding needed to make this asset, and have additional funding from elsewhere, please note how much is requested from NERC and how much from any other source.

Resources and Costs	Should all biogeochemical sensors be included in the design? Also, for industrial partners, whether they can receive funding? What kind of funding percentage for academia and industry?	Industry can be involved as project partners who will receive funding for their direct contribution to the project. There is no specific percentage of funding that is recommend by NERC to be allocated to academia or industry in the application. It is for applicants to determine what is necessary and appropriate to deliver their project
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