



## Net zero digital research infrastructure coordinator and network funding opportunity - FAQs

Theme	Question	Response
Expected coordinator background	Can you please provide examples of the expected profile / background /experience of the Coordinator / PI?	<p>We do not expect the coordinator to have a particular background, we've intentionally opened it up to all disciplines because the coordinator and network will be working across the whole of the UKRI DRI remit, and therefore hopefully we will receive applications from a wide range of individuals with different backgrounds and experience.</p> <p>The criteria that the panel will be focused on is how the applicant meets the person specification in the funding opportunity. For example whether they have provided evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a track record of leading and managing complex interdisciplinary research and delivering demonstrable impact</li><li>• a track record of working inclusively across a broad range of disciplines, bringing together varied approaches and interest</li><li>• knowledge of the current UK DRI landscape and emerging issues related to net zero and an ability to take an all-inclusive, overarching view of the UK DRI landscape</li><li>• a profile within the research community for research excellence and the ability to act as a figurehead for the UK NZ DRI community.</li></ul> <p>In addition to demonstrating their experience and track record, they will also be looking at whether they have the skills and ability to be a:</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• thought leader</li><li>• inspirational team leader</li><li>• strategic thinker</li><li>• strong communicator</li><li>• and have strong partnership management skills</li></ul> <p>Please refer to the funding opportunity for further information on the assessment criteria.</p>
Expected career stage	What is the expected profile of a successful applicant? A researcher with established career?/ At what level an academic is expected to be in this role? E.g., Can lecturers apply for this role?/ Are PDRA eligible?	We haven't specified a career stage, as the panel will assess the applications based on how well the applicant meets the person specification outlined in the funding opportunity. However, based on those requirements in the person specification, around being a team leader, thought leader, experience managing complex interdisciplinary research etc., it is likely that the successful candidate will be a senior figure that is established within both their career and within the research community.
Funding opportunity scope	Can this funding opportunity be available for creation of a global virtual space for artists and rio institutions and biennials?	This is not the focus of this funding opportunity
Funding opportunity scope	How is the funding to be used in the support of at sustainable technology in manufacturing for all sectors and the associated skills development required for their adoption?	The main aim of the funding opportunity is to accelerate the path towards NZ DRI in the UK. As part of the network there will be a flexible fund which will be used for the research community to develop and test new innovative approaches to sustainability and net zero in a variety of digital research infrastructures. We hope that because the network will be interdisciplinary and will bring together groups from across different



		domains, it means that there will be integrated activities and interconnected learning which will then benefit all sectors from academia to industry to government and other stakeholders.
Funding opportunity scope	What is the scope of the network, what duty is expected from the coordinator?	<p>The full scope of the network will be developed at the second stage of the process, the successful coordinator will be provided with a closed funding opportunity which will outline the broad scope of the network, but it will be for the coordinator to develop and shape that network with the experience and expertise they have. As a broad overview we expect the network to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be a community hub for knowledge exchange and connectivity across diverse disciplines and stakeholders including academics, industry, policymakers, DRI users and other stakeholders to derive common and interconnected learning from across the UK landscape</li><li>• disseminate evidence based best practice with DRI facilities, promote and champion interdisciplinary NZ DRI to facilities in the community, and raise the profile of the network and its activities in all relevant communities. Might be through creating case studies, webinars, seminars etc. but that will be for the coordinator to identify the best approach.</li><li>• work with UKRI's environmental sustainability team, UKRI DRI team, open research team to take forwards the recommendations from the scoping study</li><li>• contribute towards the development and implementation of new innovative approaches for net zero DRI, improving the UK's evidence base and informing strategies to help meet UKRI's</li></ul>



		<p>2040 net zero target and broader environmental and sustainability goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• enhance utilisation and engagement with net zero approaches for DRI across the UK, inciting societal and behavioural change across the interdisciplinary community</li></ul> <p>The coordinator will be expected in the first six months to write an application for the second stage of the funding process, within that application we would like them to think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how the network will be inclusive and actively seek to achieve national reach, across domains and disciplines, and across the landscape of UKRI owned, partly owned, and other DRI investments</li><li>• how they will ensure coordinated and integrated activities across the network (this should also include an element of prioritisation, following the community engagement)</li><li>• how the network will collaborate with UKRI to implement some of the DRI-specific NZ DRI scoping study recommendations</li><li>• how the network will be structured, composition and governance</li><li>• how the network will ensure alignment and knowledge exchange between the interdisciplinary community, the private sector and the wider UKRI portfolio (including infrastructures and facilities that have previously been awarded funding to develop their approaches to net zero, and the UKRI environmental sustainability team's net zero programmes)</li></ul>
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Funding process	Will stage 1 just fund 1 person who can then apply for stage 2, or will there be a pool of people funded at stage 1 who then compete for stage 2 funding?	The coordinator can either be a single individual or it can be two people that share the role as co-coordinators. Co-coordinators must make clear to the panel how they would work together effectively, how they jointly fulfil the assessment criteria and would effectively co-lead the wider



		consortium. The coordinator or co-coordinators will then be able to apply for stage two of the call (a closed call for the successful candidate).
Eligibility	Does this funding call apply to businesses that use and or supply UKRI DRI?	The funding opportunity has standard UKRI eligibility criteria, so individuals employed by a business cannot apply for the coordinator role. However, we are really keen that businesses that use or supply UKRI DRI are part of the network, so that we can ensure knowledge exchange (interconnected learning), connectivity and coordinated activity across the different stakeholders and communities.
Eligibility	Can i be in a consortium for both coordinating and undertaking research?	The coordinator will be responsible for building and then leading the network, they will be responsible for managing a flexible fund which is expected to be approximately 50% of the network budget. The flexible fund will be allocated to small projects for the research community to be able to develop and test new innovative approaches to sustainability and net zero for DRI. The coordinator will not be able to apply for that fund due to potential perceived conflicts of interest. But it doesn't mean they can't be undertaken their own net zero DRI research.
Eligibility	Can we clarify. for the part(b) funding, only the coordinator can apply?	Yes that is correct, only the successful coordinator will be invited to apply for the second stage of funding (a closed call). If successful, they will be responsible for distributing the funds to the network.
Scope	Are you looking (guess part (b)) for both blue skies science/research (e.g. what processes to change to get to Net Zero) and/or social science aspects (how to engage all stakeholders such there is behaviour change so people do	We are looking for both, new innovations that might help us to move towards net zero as well as how we can influence and encourage behaviour change around the use of DRI.



	implement changes in processes that lead to net zero)?	
Eligibility	Please can you clarify if other researchers in the coordinator's host organisation can apply to the flex fund opportunities?	The successful coordinator won't be eligible to apply for funding from the flexible fund but individuals from the same organisation as the coordinator will be eligible to apply.
Eligibility	Can some of the project partners or stakeholders be from outside the UK, like companies outside of UK?	Standard UKRI eligibility criteria applies, so funding will only be available for eligible UK based organisations. However, although UKRI cannot provide funding to international project partners, the network may choose to engage with and draw upon the expertise of international DRI experts so they can learn from examples outside of the UK.
Scope	How do you see the intersection between this DRI network and this one? <a href="https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/network-to-drive-digital-sustainability-and-a-circular-economy/">https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/network-to-drive-digital-sustainability-and-a-circular-economy/</a>	We have been liaising with the team responsible for the Circular Economy Hub and they have provided input into this funding opportunity. The coordinator and network will need to think about the wider landscape and think about how their activities fits into that wider landscape.
Funding process	Just to clarify, 1 successful coordinator project will be approved and then this co-ordinator will submit the final stage. What if this closed submission for the final stage is not successful?	The stage-gate is in to ensure that what is being proposed will meet the aspirations of the programme. The successful coordinator's application for the NZ DRI network will go to a Panel and will be treated in the same way as any other call managed by UKRI. It may be that some amendments will be required but if it is a very poor proposal it may not be funded and UKRI will need to reconsider how we meet the aspirations of the programme.
Scope	Is the focus on decarbonising DRI itself, or developing services for decarbonising the economy through DRI?	We recognise the role of DRI in decarbonising and achieving net zero for the country overall, but this call is focused on decarbonising of DRI itself.



Eligibility	Can somebody from a research group apply to be coordinator (part a funding) and rest of research group take part (b) funding?	As long as there are no conflicts of interest then yes this is possible.
Funding process	Can you clarify if only one coordinator awarded at stage one or you will award several to write for stage 2 ? If so how many?	It will be either one coordinator or two co-coordinators (maximum of two) that we will write the proposal for stage two.
Finances	Assume it is expected that the stage 2 will also cover the salary of the coordinator until the end of the project?	That is correct, yes.
Finances	Will the costs for networking events and activities also be funded at 80% FEC?	All costs, including T&S costs, will be funded at 80% FEC