Purpose of the webinar

- [Provide background to the ALERT 2025 opportunity](#)

- [Explain the scope of ALERT 2025](#)

- [Explain the application and assessment process](#)

Background to ALERT

BBSRC Forward Look: the power of bioscience

Our vision is to harness the power of bioscience to deliver a healthy, sustainable and resilient future.

Our ambition is to deliver three high-level and interconnected impacts
- Healthy people, animals and plants
- Sustainable agriculture and food systems
- A resilient bioeconomy

We will achieve our ambition through
- Applying innovations to deliver real-world change
- Catalysing discovery
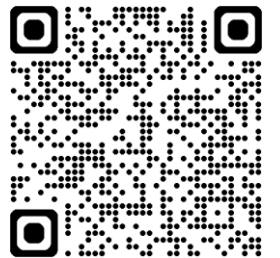- Creating and deploying transformative technologies
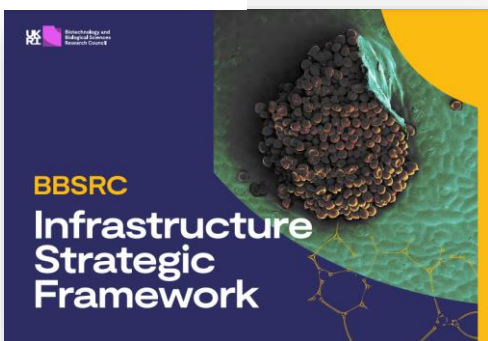
Our Commitments
provide leadership and catalyse collaborative working to support the people, infrastructure and routes to impact that will drive progress
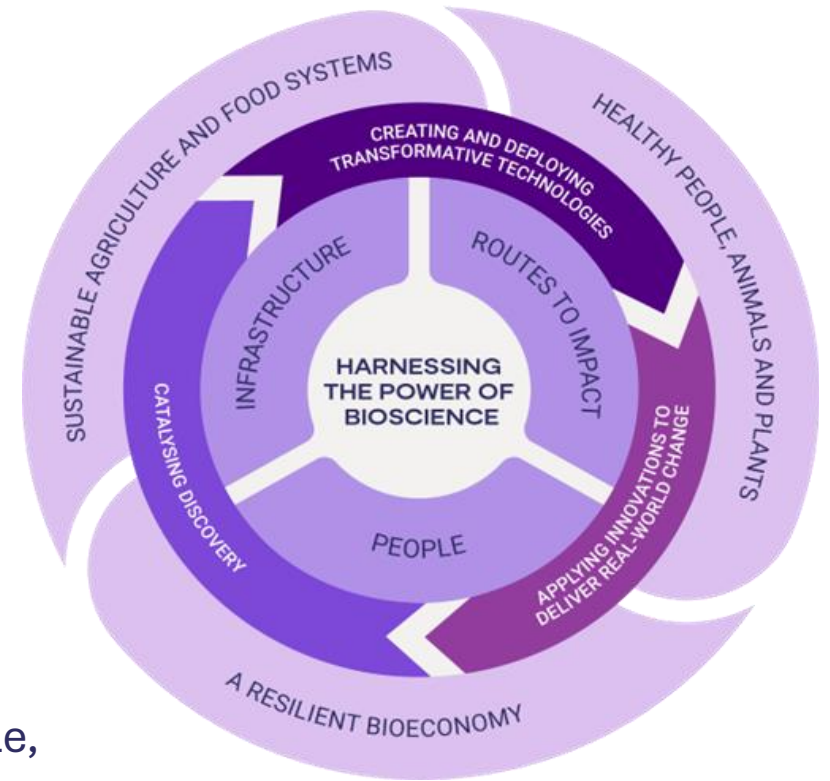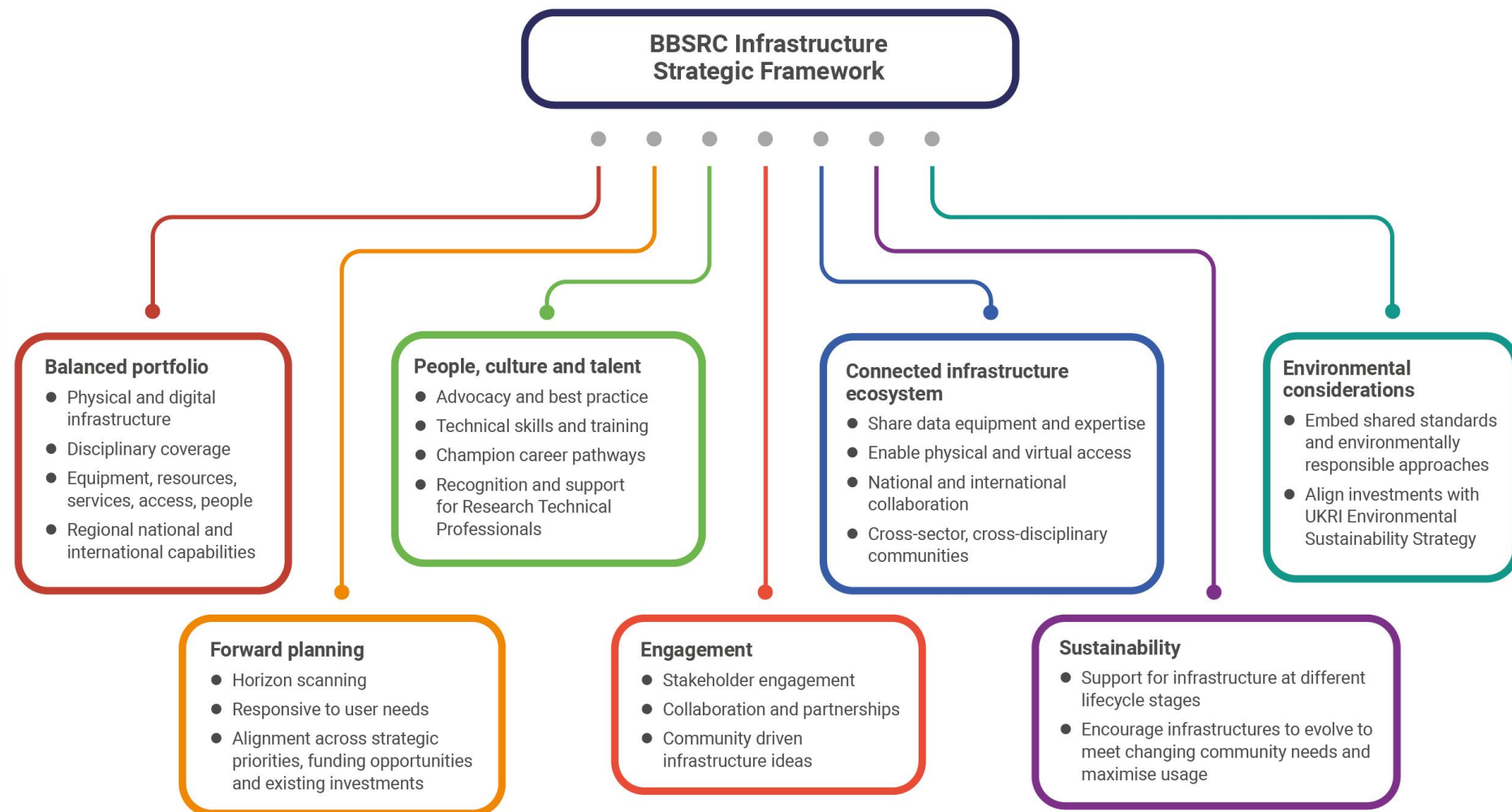

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[BBSRC Forward Look 2025](#)

7 key principles to guide future investment

BBSRC Infrastructure Strategic Framework

Balanced portfolio
- Physical and digital infrastructure
- Disciplinary coverage
- Equipment, resources, services, access, people
- Regional national and international capabilities

People, culture and talent
- Advocacy and best practice
- Technical skills and training
- Champion career pathways
- Recognition and support for Research Technical Professionals

Connected infrastructure ecosystem
- Share data equipment and expertise
- Enable physical and virtual access
- National and international collaboration
- Cross-sector, cross-disciplinary communities

Environmental considerations
- Embed shared standards and environmentally responsible approaches
- Align investments with UKRI Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Forward planning
- Horizon scanning
- Responsive to user needs
- Alignment across strategic priorities, funding opportunities and existing investments

Engagement
- Stakeholder engagement
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Community driven infrastructure ideas

Sustainability
- Support for infrastructure at different lifecycle stages
- Encourage infrastructures to evolve to meet changing community needs and maximise usage

BBSRC Infrastructure Strategic Framework

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https://www.ukri.org/news/bbsrc-unveils-blueprint-for-bioscience-infrastructure/

ALERT 2025 scope

Purpose of ALERT

- ALERT supports the purchase of mid-range equipment for research across BBSRC's scientific remit.

  - Multi-user equipment that is widely used

  - Promoting collaboration and increased access to users within industry, public sector and other institutes

  - Enhances institutional and regional capabilities to maintain the competitiveness of the UK biosciences

- Aims to be responsive to new technologies and methods while also supporting "workhorse" equipment where required

- 'Lab-to-field' equipment which enables the translation (or applied use) of laboratory scale experiments to real-world settings or environments

Funding information

- ALERT 2025 budget is anticipated to be **£20 million** for **equipment-only** awards

- **12-month** awards of between **£200,000** and **£1.5 million** (100% full economic cost)

- Funding must be requested under the '**Exceptions – equipment**' heading only

- Other eligible one-off costs associated with the equipment e.g. initial service and maintenance contracts and warranties. Maintenance contracts can extend beyond the grant for a maximum of 24 months (so 36-month duration in total), but the contract must be paid upfront so that costs are covered in the 12-month lifetime of the grant

- Refurbishment costs – must be an absolute requirement for the proper functioning of the equipment

- Latest start date **3 August 2026**

- Take time to review 'what we will not fund' before you start your application

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Full guidance available on the ALERT 2025 opportunity webpage

Multi-component applications

- Equipment that requires assembly or involves several components (not necessarily physically linked) can be funded, provided they constitute either a pipeline or a platform:

  - **a pipeline**: each component can perform separate experiments, but you must demonstrate how the components are used as a whole system, rather than using only a subset of the requested pipeline throughout the user base.

  - **a platform**: individual components that are only capable of running experiments when they are assembled to form the final platform.

- You are expected to justify why each equipment piece is required and how the equipment will be jointly managed as a pipeline or platform.

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To confirm eligibility of your request for multi-component equipment, please contact us at bbsrcalert@bbsrc.ukri.org

Demand Management

- We are expecting significant demand for this opportunity

- Consider carefully whether your application is within remit and scope. You should clearly articulate how the proposed project addresses ALERT 2025 scope

- No institutional cap on the number of applications, but we **strongly** encourage ROs to prioritise internally, including resubmissions

- In the case of exceptional demand, we will ask research organisations to undertake further internal prioritisation

- We won't accept unsolicited resubmissions of applications, please contact bbsrcalert@bbsrc.ukri.org if you intend to resubmit

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Applications to previous ALERT rounds
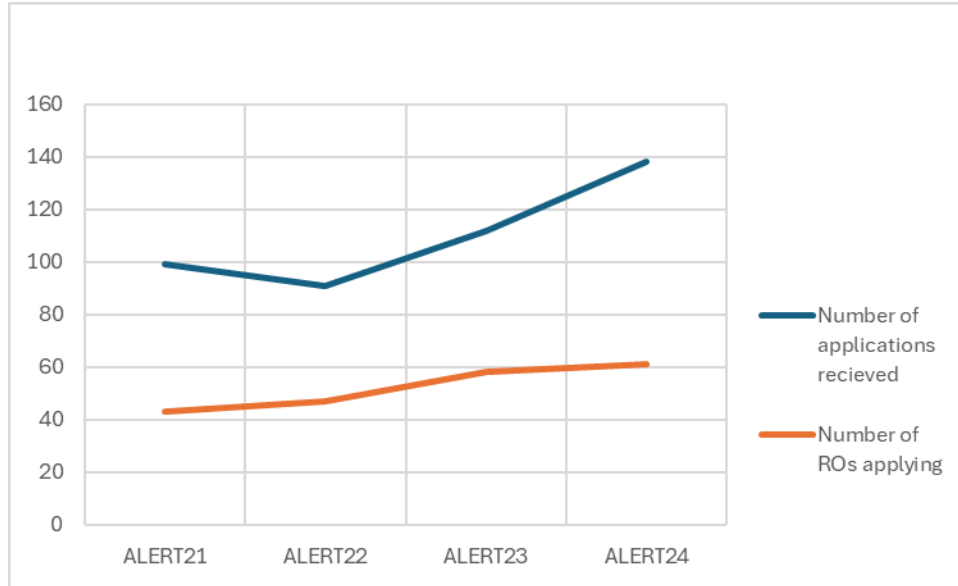
- Applications to ALERT have steadily increased
- Primarily driven by a greater number of Research organisations applying

- Majority of Research Organisations submit one or two applications
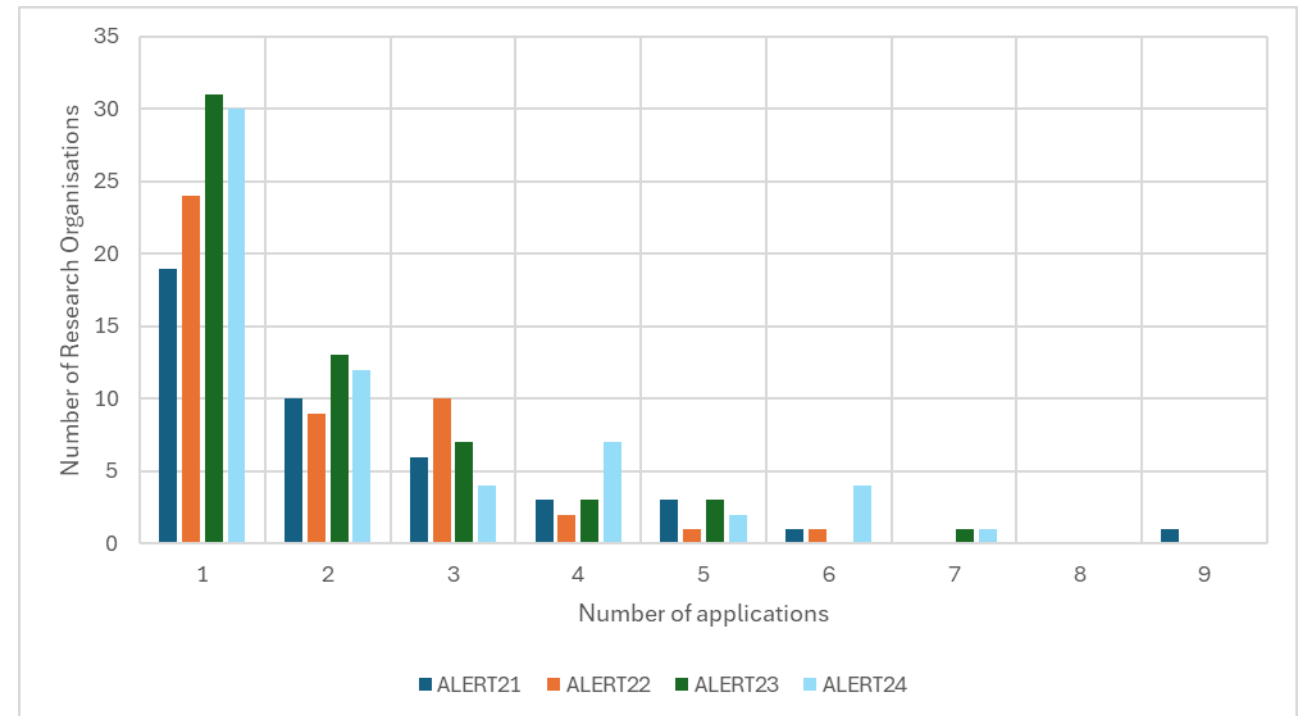
Remit

- Research enabled by the equipment must fit predominantly within BBSRC's remit and should be clearly articulated in your application

- You should use the 'Vision' section within the application form to highlight examples of research that align with BBSRC themes that will be supported by the equipment

- Further information on BBSRC remit is [on our website](#)

- See also the [MRC and BBSRC Interfaces: joint statement](#)

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If you are unsure whether your application fits within BBSRC remit, please contact us at bbsrcalert@bbsrc.ukri.org

Applicants

- **Standard BBSRC eligibility rules apply**

- You can only apply as Project Lead on one submitted application

- You can still be member of a consortium on multiple applications provided you do not take a leading role as Project Lead

- Use of Resume for Researcher and Innovators (R4RI) to demonstrate a broader set of skills and experiences relevant to the application

- Focus on wide range of expertise and experience required to demonstrate capability to deliver the proposed equipment

Research Technical Professionals (RTPs)

- UKRI is a signatory of the Technician Commitment – recognition of RTPs

- **RTPs/Research Software Engineers (RSEs) are eligible to apply as project lead/project co-lead**

- Consider how your approach ensures provision for training and development of RTPs

Check out BBSRCs recent changes to RTP eligibility criteria
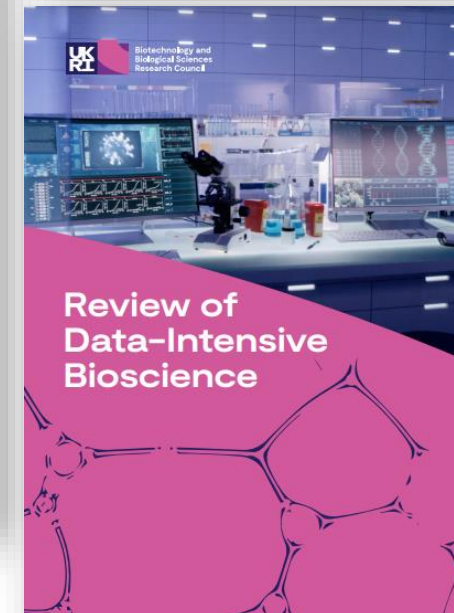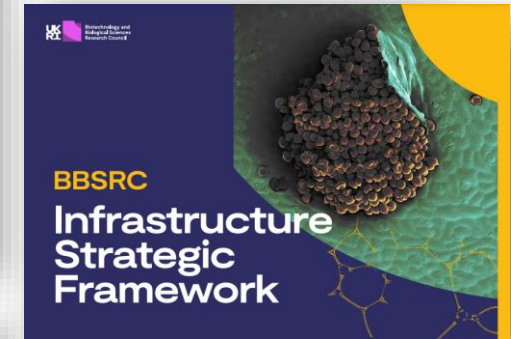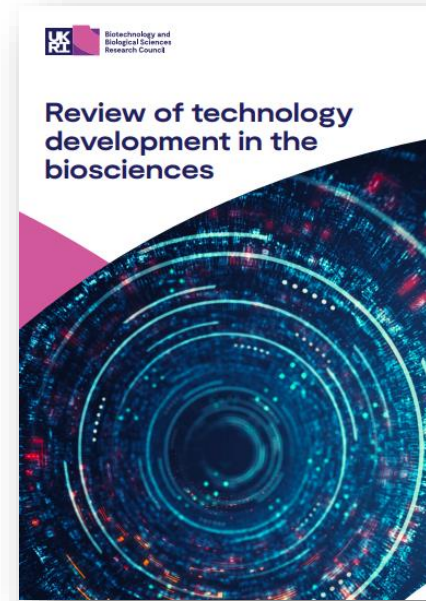
RTP success in ALERT 2024

138 applications
33 RTP led

31 awards

9 RTP led awards*

ALERT 2024 success rates

Overall = 22%

RTP led applications = 24%

RTP led awards = 29%

*Many more RTPs named as project co-leads

The value of RTPs in ALERT

Brought to you in partnership with The UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy, we've also created a three-part video series to showcase how RTPs are leveraging BBSRC's ALERT funding to support the delivery of bioscience research and innovation.

Research Technical Professionals: adding value to BBSRC ALERT applications

BBSRC ALERT Programme

UK Research and Innovation

Playlist · 3 videos · 314 views

BBSRC's ALERT funding supports the purchase of mid-range equipment for research right across UK biosc...**more**

▶ Play all

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ALERT 2025 Application Guidance

ALERT 2025 Application Sections

Purpose	**Vision**	**Approach**	**Sustainability**
Applicant and team capability to deliver	**Resources and cost justification**	**Ethics and responsible research and innovation***	**Organisational support**
Project partners	**Data management and sharing**	**International collaboration**	**Trusted Research and Innovation**

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assessment areas are in the pink boxes
*additional **optional** sub-questions on animals, human participants and GMOs are included this year
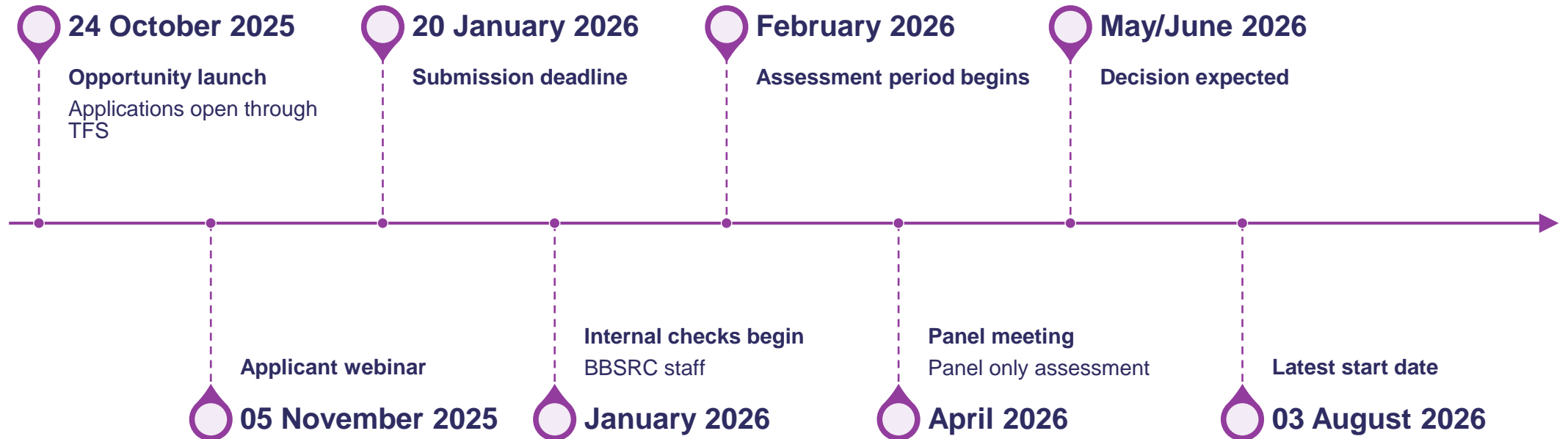
Trusted Research & Innovation

Does the proposed work involve international collaboration in a sensitive research or technology area?

Demonstrate how your proposed international collaboration relates to Trusted Research and Innovation, including:

- list the countries your international project co-leads, project partners and visiting researchers, or other collaborators are based in

- if international collaboration is involved, explain whether this project is relevant to one or more of the <u>17 areas</u> of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act
- details of proposed international interactions, regardless of whether these relate to areas covered by the 17 sensitive areas in the National Security & Investment Act 2021

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See https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/good-research-resource-hub/trusted-research-and-innovation/ for further information & guidance

Timeline

24 October 2025

Opportunity launch

Applications open through TFS

05 November 2025

Applicant webinar

20 January 2026

Submission deadline

January 2026

Internal checks begin
BBSRC staff

February 2026

Assessment period begins

April 2026

Panel meeting
Panel only assessment

May/June 2026

Decision expected

03 August 2026

Latest start date

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Subject to demand

Assessment Process

- All applications will be viewed through UKRI's funding service (TFS)

- Interdisciplinary panel across BBSRC remit

- Each proposal assessed and scored by minimum 3 panel members with relevant expertise

- We ensure that panel members are unable to influence the assessment of conflicted applications

- Panel meeting to produce funding recommendation to BBSRC

Principles of assessment:

We support the [San Francisco declaration on research assessment](#) and recognize the relationship between research assessment and research integrity

Find out about the [UKRI principles of assessment and decision making](#)

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Contact

For ALERT-specific queries: bbsrcalert@bbsrc.ukri.org

For TFS-related queries: support@funding-service.ukri.org

TFS Helpdesk: 01793 547490

We aim to respond to emails within five working days

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Questions?