



Natural
Environment
Research Council

Welcome



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Network Plus: antifungal resistance in the environment

Launch Webinar: 15th October 2025

- Welcome
- We will be with you shortly
- This webinar will be recorded
- Please use the Q&A feature to post questions,
- You may use the chat feature to introduce yourself

Agenda

1. Welcome- Simon Kerley (NERC)
2. Role of the Environment Agency (EA)- Wiebke Schmidt
3. Overview of funding opportunity– Liz Rowse (NERC)
4. Q&A
5. Close – Simon Kerley (NERC)



Aim

- The aim of the Network Plus is to bring together academic researchers, business stakeholders, and policy partners to investigate the drivers and dynamics of antifungal resistance (AFR) in the environment.
- Manage a suite of 'plus' activities such as pump-priming projects, workshops and policy briefs.
- The network will adopt a systems approach, focusing on how AFR develops and spreads through the environment (air, land and water).



Key information

- Award **one network** for 3 years
- Up to £2,857,200 (100% FEC) is available for the network activities
- Up to £1,904,800 (100%FEC) on flexible fund activities.
- Network must start by **1st May 2026**
- We will fund at 80% of the FEC with the following exceptions:
 - eligible costs for international project co-lead involvement would be funded at 100%
- **We will not fund:**
 - PhD studentship costs
 - equipment costs of £25,000 and over. You should request smaller items of equipment (under £25,000 individually).
- **Environment Agency must not be included as a project partner**
- Deadline for applications **2 December 2025 at 4:00pm UK time.**



Programme partner

- Once the successful network has been awarded, it will engage with the **Environment Agency**.
- The Environment Agency monitors, regulates, and advises on the natural environment in England, including air, land, and water, and is working with NERC to position environmental considerations at the heart of this Network Plus opportunity.
- As a programme partner, the Environment Agency cannot advise or support individual applications. However, once the award is made, it will work with the successful network to provide guidance on regulatory processes and evidence gaps related to activities contributing to AFR entering the natural environment, as well as on environmental monitoring and evaluation assessments.



Scope

- This Network Plus will focus on the spread of AFR in the environment from the medical, agricultural and household cleaning product sectors
- This Network Plus will:
 - convene and strengthen collaborations across relevant stakeholders to find solutions to AFR
 - generate new insights that will enhance knowledge mobilisation and improve understanding of the environment's role in the development, emergence and spread of AFR
 - develop and manage a suite of 'plus' activities
 - support the development of best practice to industry and society
 - share and amalgamate data, linking data between disciplines and sectors to encourage a more open access to a wider range of data to effectively support a system approach
 - stimulate collective research outputs and implementation with lasting impact plans to ensure the realised benefits of the Network Plus continue beyond the funding period



Key requirements for the Network plus

- led by an environmental scientist and involve researchers from wider disciplines and stakeholders from wider sectors as required
- aim to be UK-wide by including England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales regions
- embed principles and best practices to ensure equality, diversity and inclusivity
- take a holistic approach that builds on, and links to, other key UKRI and wider UK investments
- engage and include ECRs
- promote knowledge exchange between academia, government, industry and other stakeholders through placements, secondments or innovative mechanisms
- manage the delivery of the flexible funding to fund activities that complement the network



Flexible Fund

- Up to £1,904,800 (100% FEC)
- NERC will withhold the funds allocated in the application for the flexible fund until we have agreed with the network on their use
- The network can use its flexible fund pot to undertake activities such as:
 - workshops
 - events
 - funding small projects (which could include pilot studies, scoping, knowledge exchange, evidence synthesis, impact generation, capacity building, methods development or other relevant activity)
 - producing key outputs
 - secondments or placements
 - horizon scanning



Application Assessment

TFS application:

- Vision
- Approach
- Applicant and team capability to deliver
- Ethics and responsible research and innovation
- Flexible fund

Assessment panel

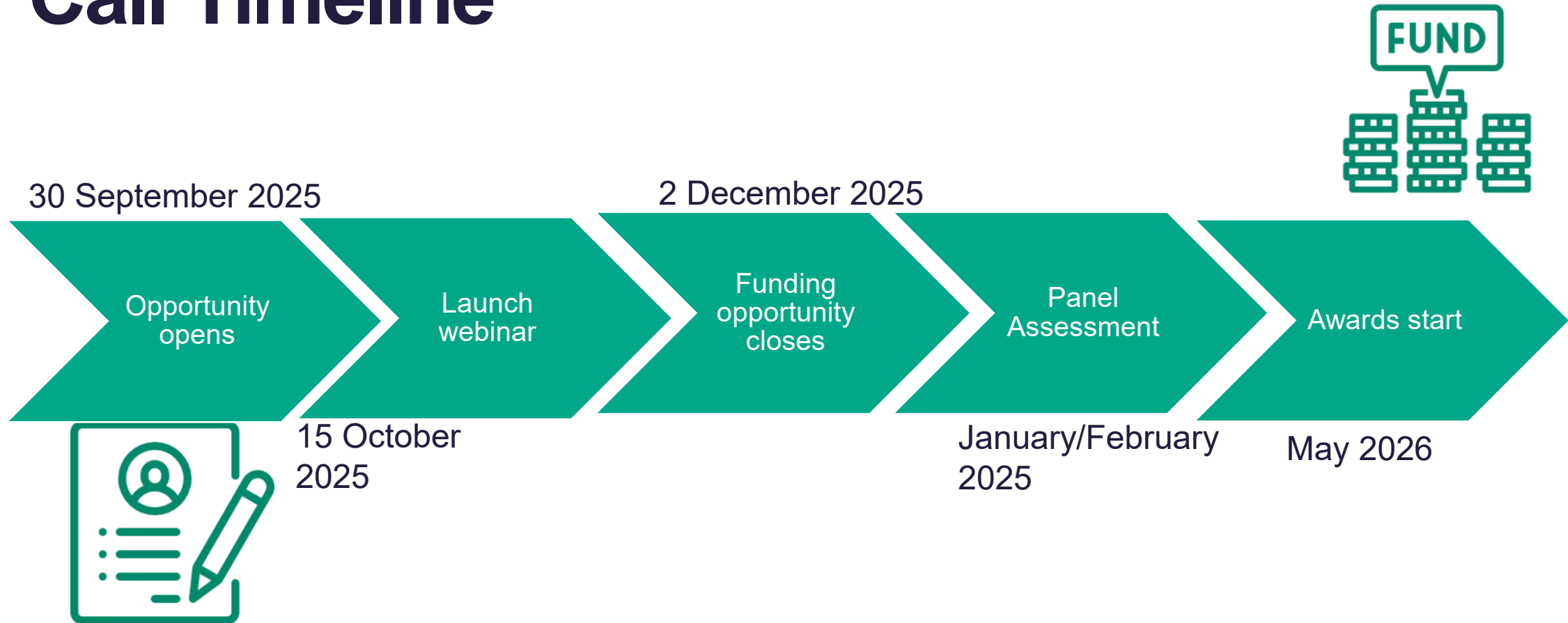
Interviews?

For more information, see the funding opportunity section ‘Application questions’



Assessment
criteria

Call Timeline



Additional TFS help

Links to additional resources on how to apply through the Funding Service are given in the Funding Opportunity on Funding Finder.

Additional guidance can be sought from the dedicated support team:

support@funding-service.ukri.org

Telephone: 01793 547490



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Question & Answer Session



HealthyEnvironment@nerc.ukri.org



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Thank you for attending

**The webinar recording, slides
and Q&A document will be
published on the UKRI Funding
Finder page shortly.**



HealthyEnvironment@nerc.ukri.org