

OPP1335 Q&A

Trusted Research & Innovation

- 1. How is EPSRC viewing accountability for TR&I once we move out of institutional frameworks or are operating across several host institutions?**

EPSRC are allowing flexibility in the access models to meet the identified community needs. We acknowledge there is variation in the awareness of TR&I risks across communities and can work with successful applications to provide support on TR&I in their access models.

- 2. Do NSI requirements limit which vendors can provide the compute hardware?**

They may. Applicants should consider any TR&I implications of the proposed work and procurement routes.

Pre-application conversation/contacting EPSRC

- 3. Who should we be having this pre-app conversation with?**

The EPSRC Research Infrastructure team. The details are provided in the funding opportunity call outline and webinar. Please email researchinfrastructure@epsrc.ukri.org

- 4. Are you expecting a full hardware quote & vendor-approved risk mitigation plan before having pre-app conversation?**

We do not require this at the pre-application conversation stage, but the more detail that can be provided, the more we will be confident in your understanding of the market and ability to deliver on the required timeline.

*The pre-application conversation is **not** an assessment step, and the information provided at this stage is **not** part of an application. However, you **cannot** apply if you have not had this conversation. The deadline to contact EPSRC for this is 29th September to arrange a conversation.*

Assessment Process

- 5. How many awards does EPSRC expect to make, and is there a minimum award value?**

We expect to make multiple awards. Although there is no set minimum award value, it is likely that awards below £2M would be unlikely to deliver the aims of the opportunity. However, this may vary depending on community need, so we have not explicitly stipulated it.

6. Will there be interviews as part of the assessment process, or is it all on the written submission?

There will be no interviews. This call will be assessed by an expert panel. Applicants will have an opportunity to respond to written questions from the Panel. The assessment process is detailed on the funding finder.

Scope of Funding Call

7. Other recent HPC calls stipulated DLC (direct liquid cooling) is used in hosting any new resources. Is there any such requirement for this call?

This is not an explicit requirement of the call. The cooling infrastructure may depend on existing infrastructure, which may be hard to modify on the timelines for this opportunity. However, environmental sustainability should be appropriately considered.

8. Would there be a preference for "thematic communities" across institutions - so very specific discipline/topic; or institution-based communities, but potentially across disciplines (e.g. maths-computer science-physics)

Cross institution thematic communities are more likely to meet the intended outcomes of the opportunity. Applications that look to be bolstering a specific organisation's compute without wider benefit to national communities are not likely to be seen as meeting the aims of the opportunity.

9. Is the cluster supposed to be available just to the identified community or can we provide access to communities adjacent to our core/main identified community?

There is nothing to prohibit expanding access, but you should ensure you are meeting the needs of the identified community as a priority and delivering the facility as peer reviewed.

10. Is there a hard expectation that the resources will be available for use to external communities beyond our institution?

Yes. There would need to be a very clear reason why a community was only relevant to one institution to justify otherwise.

11. Do you have any thoughts on the percentage of resource available to the host organisation?

There is flexibility for applicants to propose access models that meet the needs of the opportunity and allow organisations to sustainably support the resource during its lifetime.

12. Is there scope for just looking at capacity to assist moving from small local scale towards HPC clustering workloads and eventually tier 2/NSC rather than bolstering existing HPC communities?

Yes, applications from communities that have not traditionally used high-performance computing at Tier 2 or Tier 1 level are welcome, but there should be a plan to integrate these communities into the landscape as part of the proposal.

End of Grant Information

13. What happens to the resource after the four years? Is it up to the institution to decommission or continue funding the operational costs?

As with other EPSRC equipment, the host would own the equipment and may decide to continue to run this in some capacity, or factor decommissioning costs into their procurement plans. Environmental sustainability should be considered as part of this proposal.