



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

Bioinformatics and Biological Resources (BBR) Fund 2026

Applicant Webinar



Introductions

Panellists

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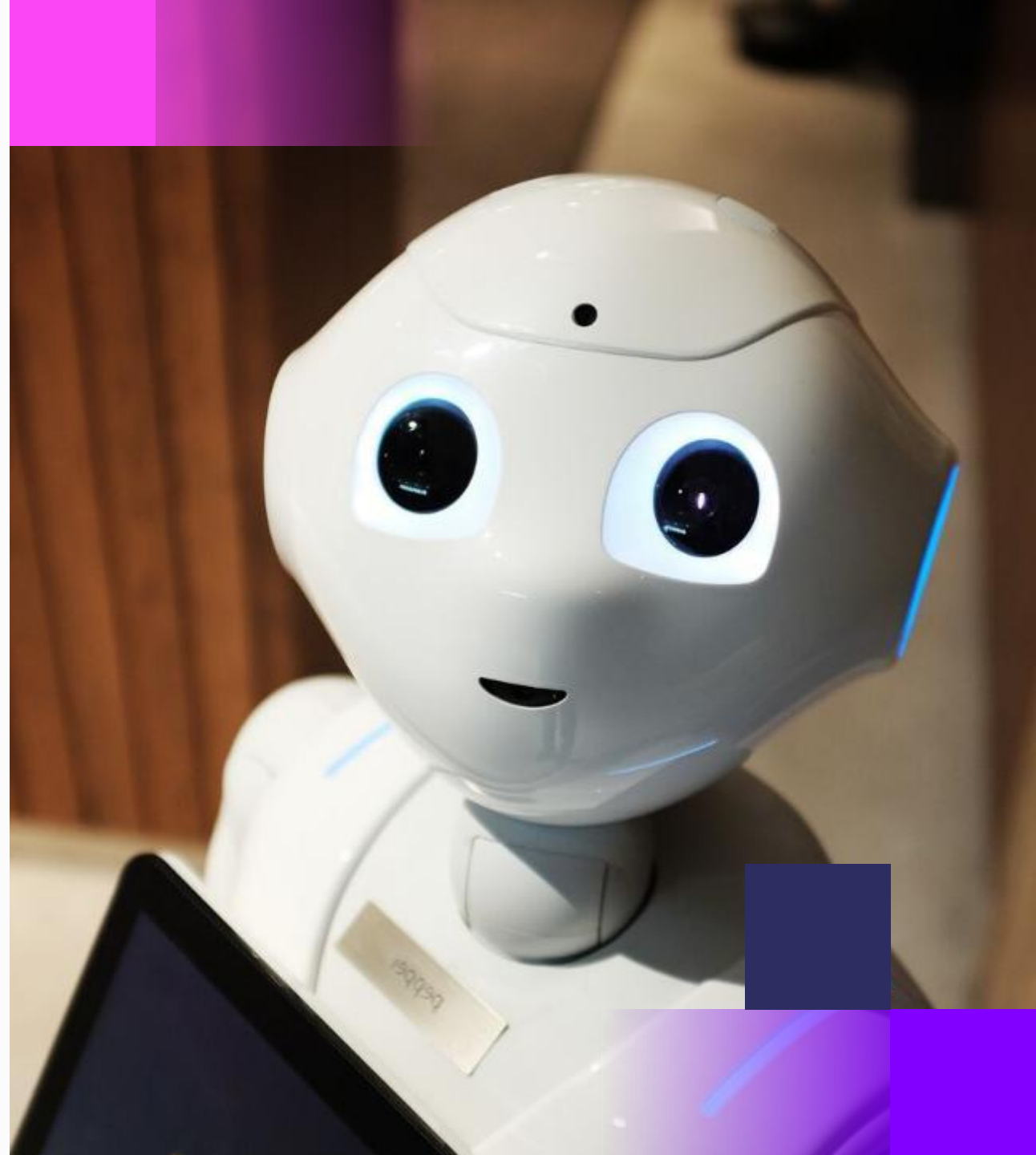


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Technical Notes

- By default, all attendees are muted, and video is turned off
- Submit any questions as they arise via the Q&A function
- Please only use the chat function for any technical assistance, bearing in mind that your name might be visible in the chat
- This webinar is being recorded. Video and slides will be shared on the BBR Funding Opportunity Page.



Agenda

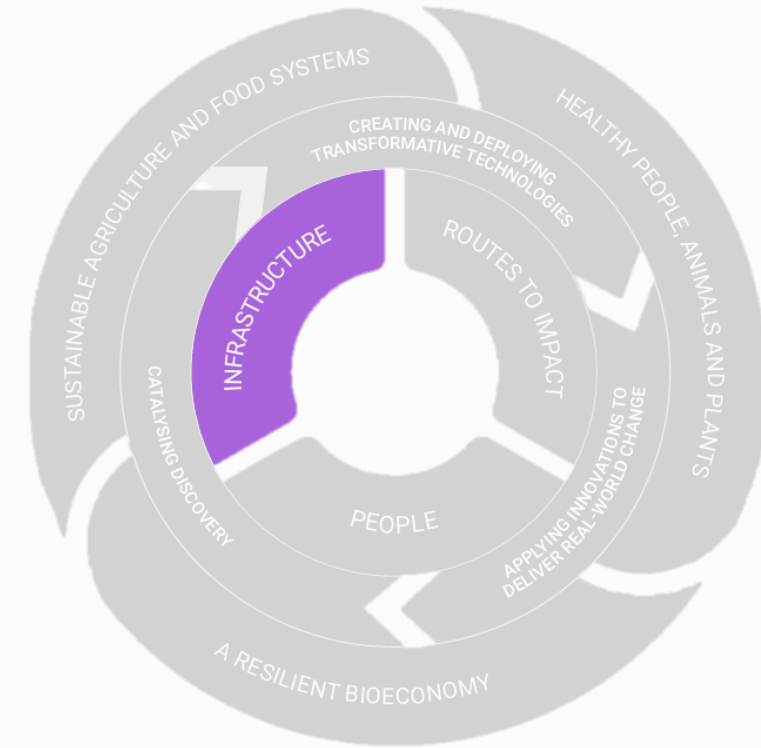
1. Background of the BBR opportunity
2. Clarification of BBR scope
3. Application and Assessment process
4. Q&A



Strategic Background

Our Forward Look for UK Bioscience articulates BBSRC's ambition to support the key infrastructure required to deliver progress

- Invest Strategically in national bioscience infrastructure.
- Connect people, data, facilities and sectors to accelerate innovation and impact
- Sustain critical capabilities through long-term investment



Aim

Bioinformatics or Biological Resources in support of UK Bioscience

Applications should aim to implement, improve or consolidate bioinformatics or biological resources in support of UK bioscience, helping to drive forwards progress in bioscience research and innovation.

You project must:

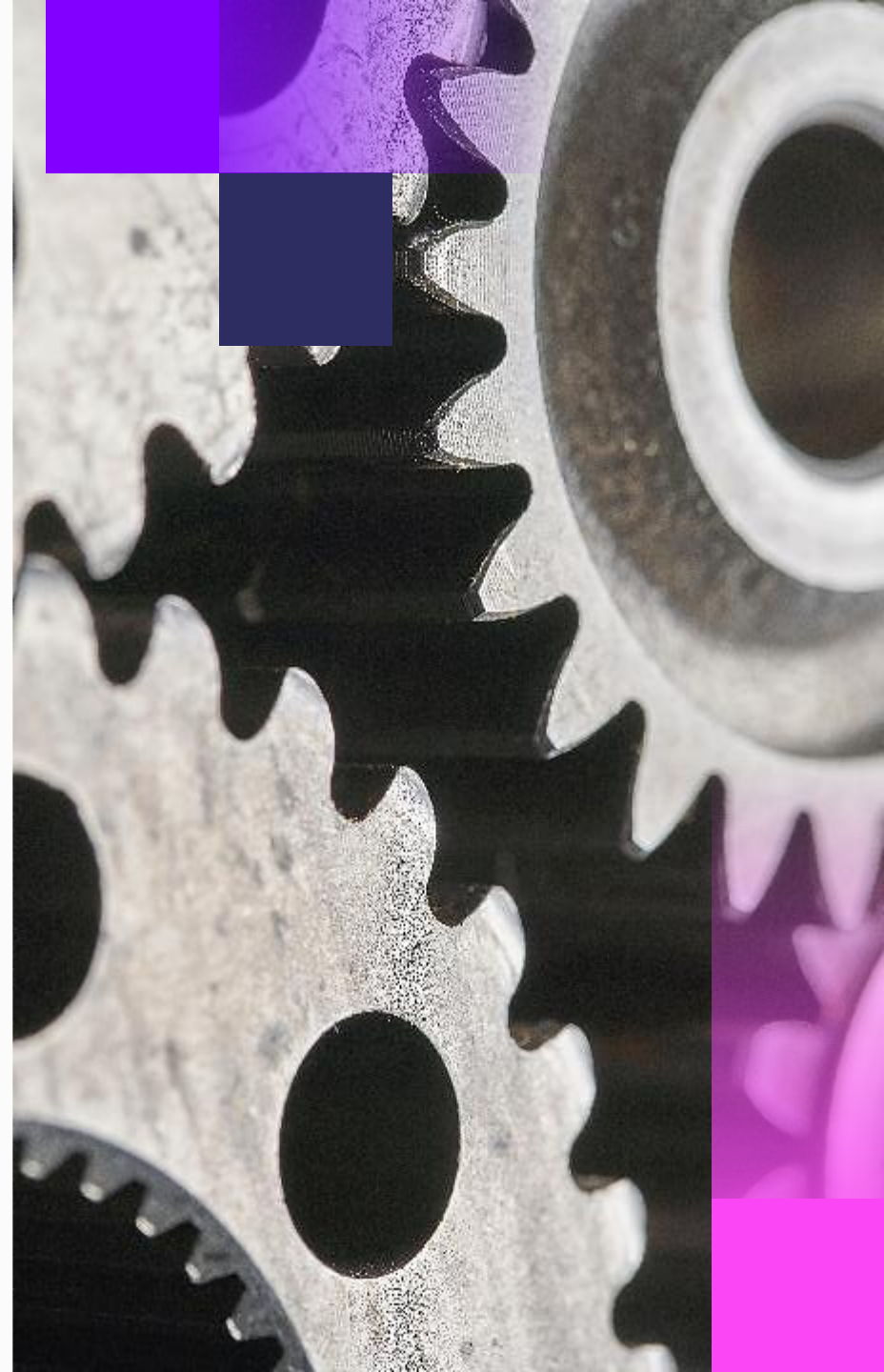
- Be a community resource that addresses a significant demand or supports an established user base in the biosciences



Opportunity

26BBR

- Funding can be up to 5 years
- Total fund: £7,000,000
- Maximum fund per award: £2,000,000 at 100% FEC
 - BBSRC to fund 80%
- Earliest start date: 1 July 2027



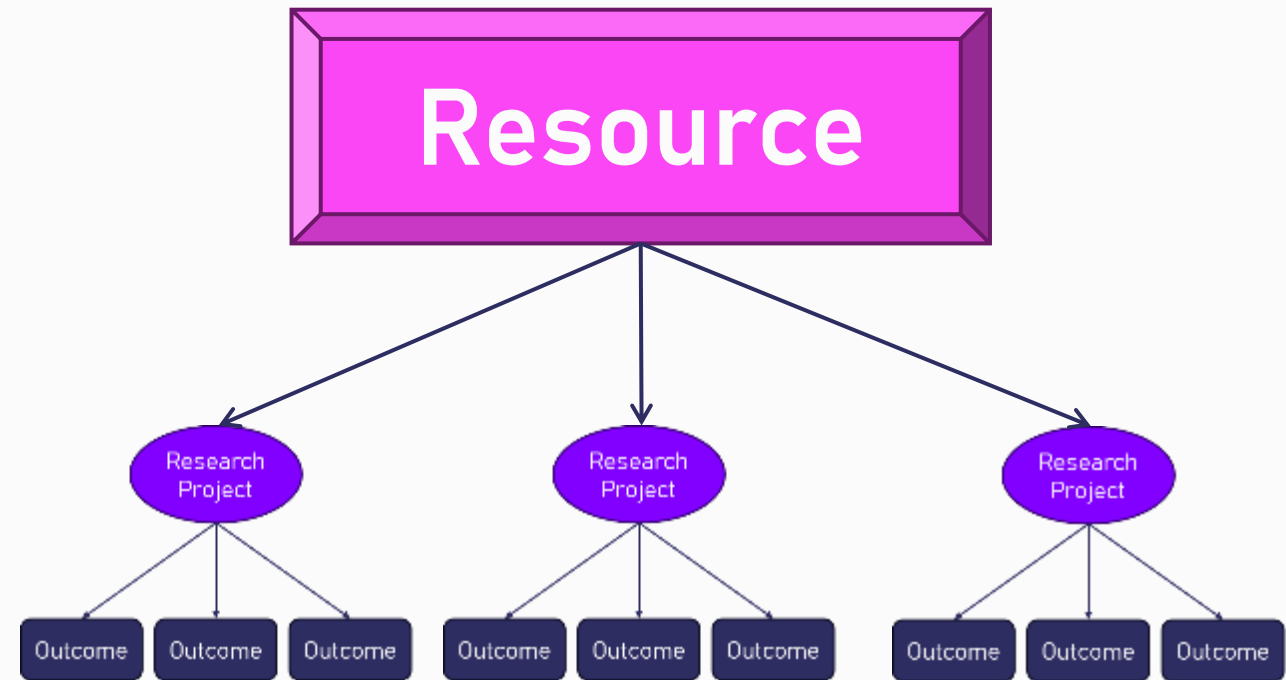
What is a resource?

Bioinformatics Resources:

Management, analysis, and sharing of large/complex datasets (databases, software suites)

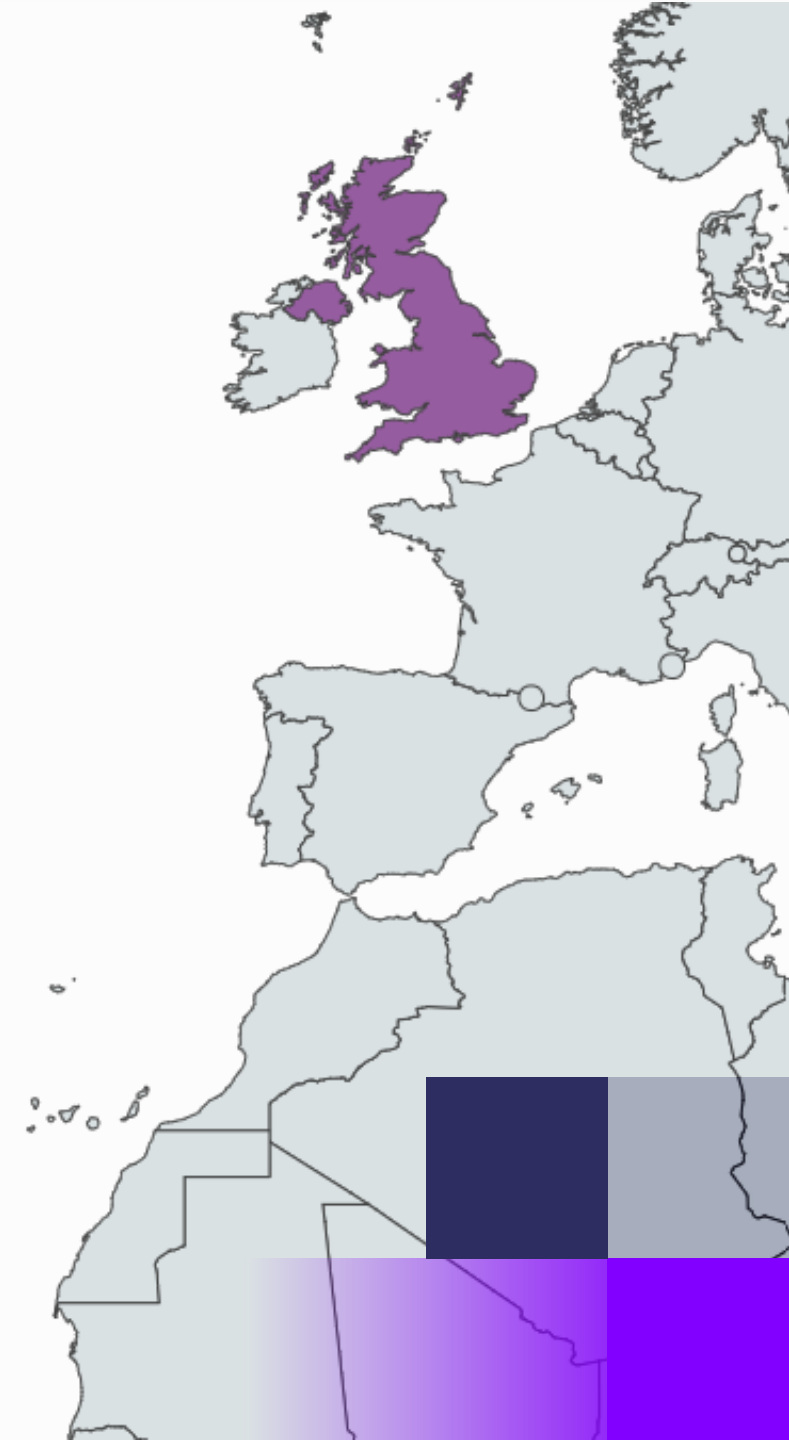
Biological Resources:

Materials that underpin cutting edge bioscience research (cultures, genetic libraries, mutant lines)



26BBR – Scope

- Establishment of New and Innovative Resource with benefits to a broader BBSRC user base
- Maturation and subsequent maintenance of a project-based resource into a community based one
- Further development or essential maintenance of an existing community resource, with well-established access mechanisms, to increase its relevance, quality and utility
- Association, or integration of distinct resources that will create an upgraded resource with a greater value than the sum of the parts



26BBR – Out of Scope

- No primary relevance to BBSRC's remit and mission
- The expected use of the resource and user communities lack a clear focus within the biosciences
- Primary aim is to address specific research hypotheses or questions, versus building or enhancing a community resource
- Projects where data generation is the primary objective, rather than the development, enhancement or delivery of a community resource.
- Resources already suitably supported via other means
- Resources that only provide institutional, or restricted access
- Collections of preserved, non-recoverable specimens
- Archive-only resources without active usage



26BBR – Assessment Criteria

Vision

Approach

Note: Mandatory
Gantt Chart

Strategic Case

**Community
demand letters
of support**

**Applicant and
team capability
to deliver**

**Project
partners**

**Management
strategy**

Note: Prepare
Advisory Board

**Data
management
and sharing**

Note: Use template

**Resources and
cost
justification**

Read: [Costs we fund](#)

Who can apply

Open all

+

What we're looking for

+

How to apply



+

How we will assess your application

+

Contact details

+

Additional info

+

Application questions

Vision

Word limit: 1,700

What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed resource?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how your proposed work:

- is of excellent quality and importance within or beyond the field(s) or area(s)
- has the potential to advance current understanding, or generate new knowledge, thinking or discovery within or beyond the field or area
- is timely given current trends, context, and needs
- meets the evidenced needs of clearly identified user groups
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment and have measurable impact where appropriate

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 [17 areas](#) of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act
- if one or more of the [17 areas](#) of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act are involved, please identify which areas

17 Sensitive Areas:

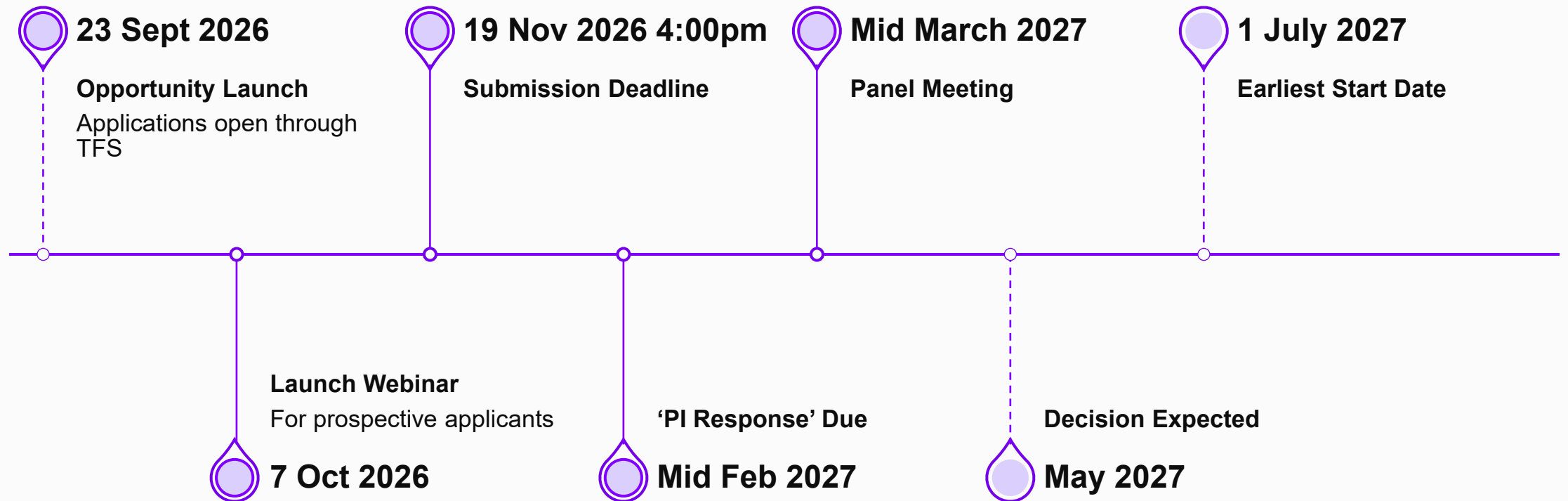
- Advanced Materials
- Advanced Robotics
- Artificial Intelligence
- Civil Nuclear
- Communications
- Computing Hardware
- Critical Suppliers to Government
- Cryptographic Authentication
- Data Infrastructure
- Defence
- Energy
- Military and Dual-Use
- Quantum Technologies
- Satellite and Space Technologies
- Suppliers to the Emergency Services
- Synthetic Biology
- Transport

Research Technology Professionals (RTPs)

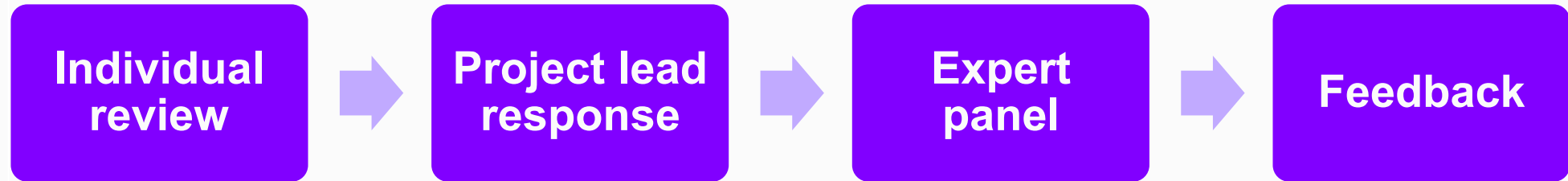
- Technician Commitment – recognition of RTPs
- RTPs/RSEs are eligible to apply as project lead/project co-lead
- Provision of relevant training and upskilling opportunities should be costed.



Timeline



Assessment process



Principles of assessment:

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

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

Assessment process

Tiered decision making

We will use a tiered approach to make decisions, using assessment tools such as banding, randomised and strategic allocation so that the aims of the opportunity are met. Applications will be assigned to one of three tiers:

Tier 1, the highest quality, prioritised for funding

Tier 2, highly competitive, selected by assessment tools and dependent on remaining budget

Tier 3, not competitive enough to be considered for funding

Applications within tiers will be prioritised using a strategic allocation. In making these decisions, consideration may be given to the following factors:

- strategic relevance
- uniqueness
- interdependencies within the bioresources ecosystem
- future strategic value

Where resources are considered equivalent against all other prioritisation criteria, a randomisation approach may be used.

Contact

For questions related specifically to 26BBR please contact bbr.fund@bbsrc.ukri.org

Questions regarding the system of TFS should be directed to the helpdesk: support@funding-service.ukri.org

Ensure you reference “26BBR”.

We aim to respond to emails within five working days.



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Questions?

Community Demand

- Single PDF containing a maximum of 10 letters or emails of support
- **Mandatory for BBR**
- Avoiding generic support without identifying particular usage

Letters of support aimed at demonstrating community demand should:

- outline the uniqueness and expected added value of the proposed resource to the UK bioscience research community and infrastructure landscape
- clearly explain the impact and benefit of the proposed resource on the writer's research and the associated community
- if possible explain where this supported research has already demonstrated or could have potential for particular scientific, economic or societal impact
- help to demonstrate the breadth of the relevant user community



Management Strategy

Sound management of such important resources is essential to ensure the highest quality support for the UK bioscience community. Can be provided in visual form if relevant.

**Governance
agreements**

**Project management
and advisory structure**

**Project and risk
management**

**Managing demand,
access requests & user
support**

**Advisory board
(mandatory)**

**Considering user
perspective, needs, and
feedback**