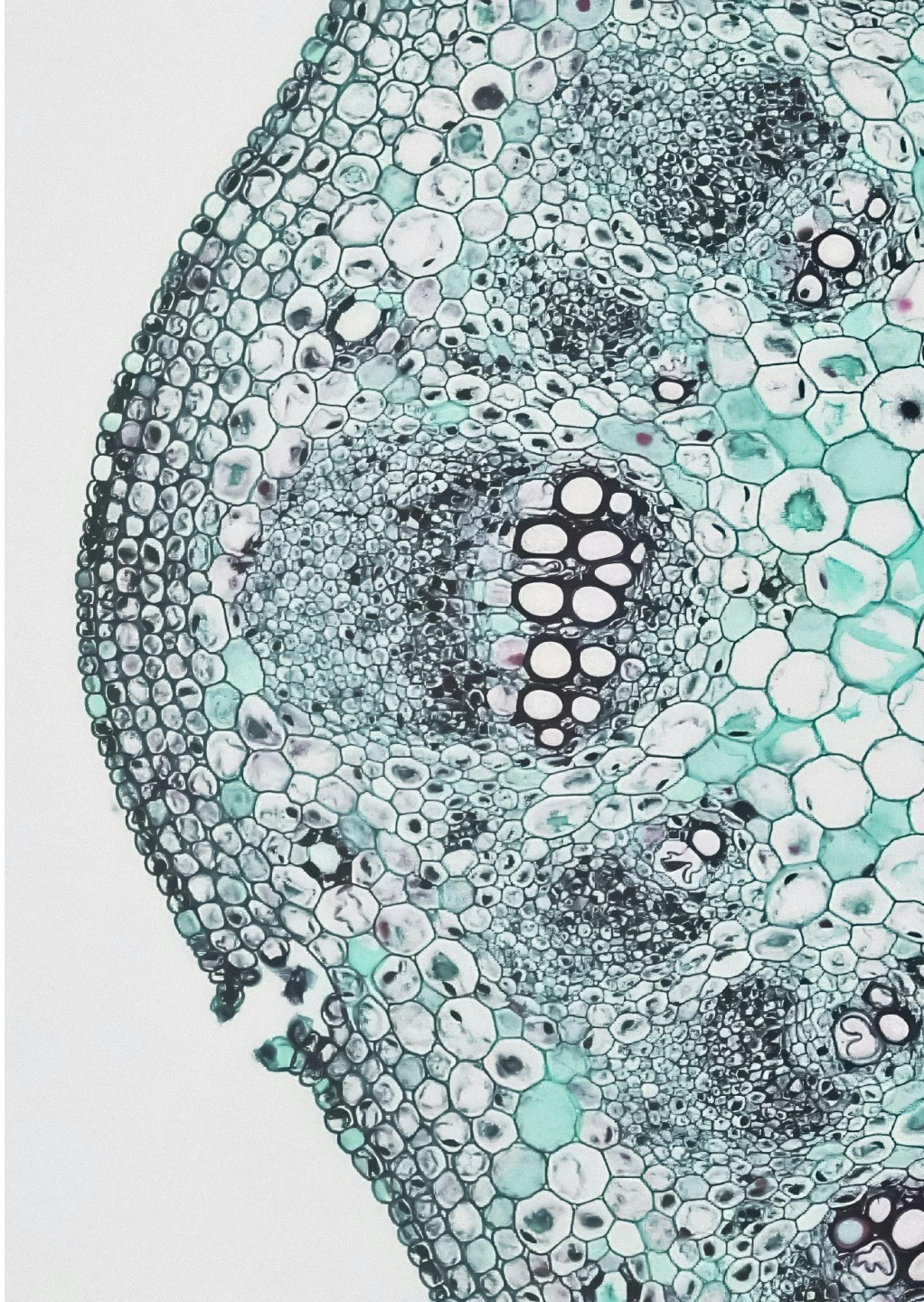
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Mid-range equipment for biosciences research: ALERT 2025

Applicant Webinar

Purpose of the webinar

- Provide background to the ALERT 2025 opportunity
- Explain the scope of ALERT 2025
- Explain the application and assessment process



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Background to ALERT



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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

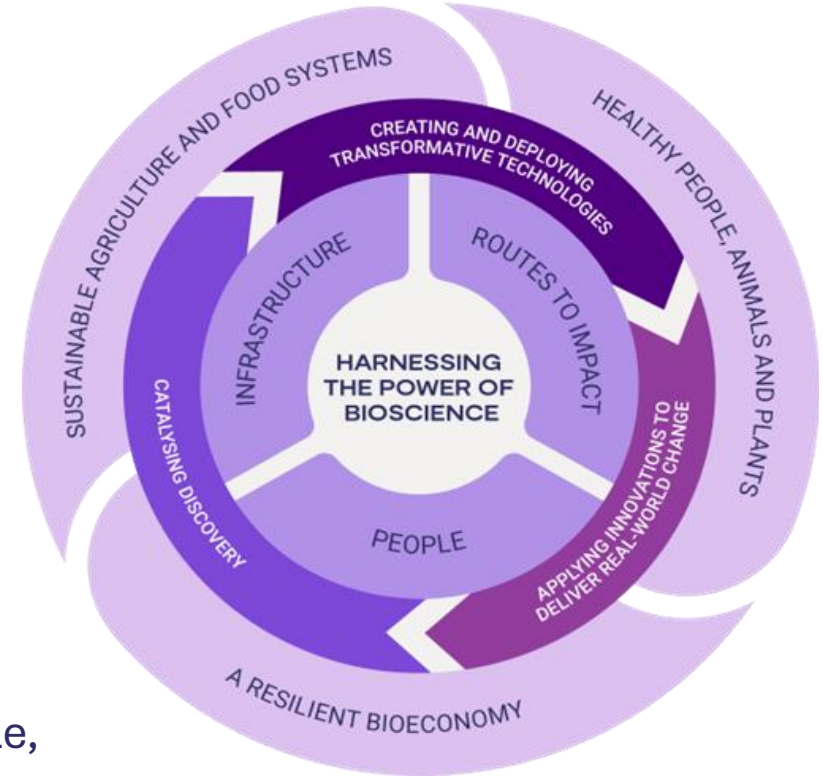
- Healthy people, animals and plants
- Sustainable agriculture and food systems
- A resilient bioeconomy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALERT 2025 scope



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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

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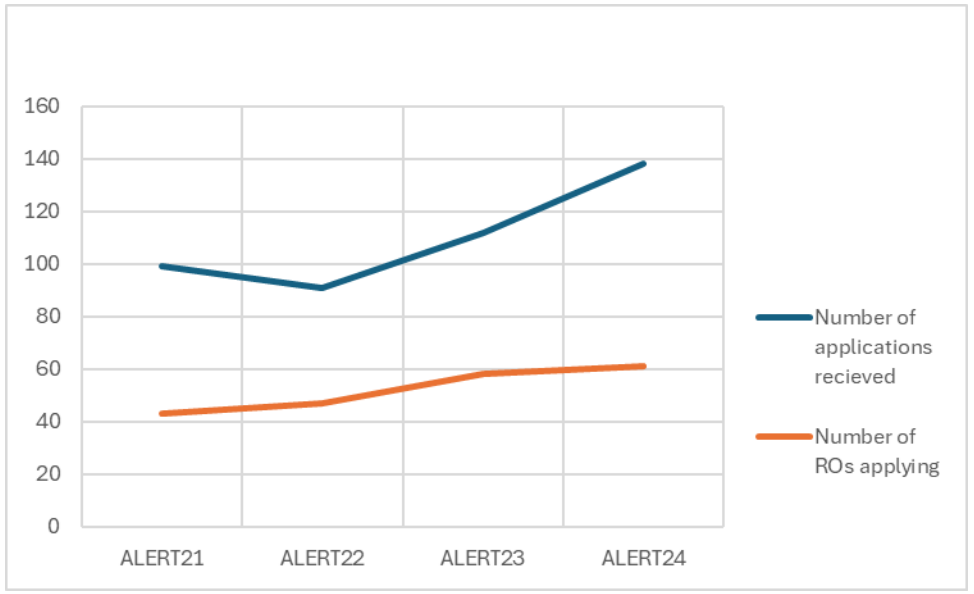
To confirm eligibility of your request for multi-component equipment, please contact us at bbsrcalert@bbsrc.ukri.org

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

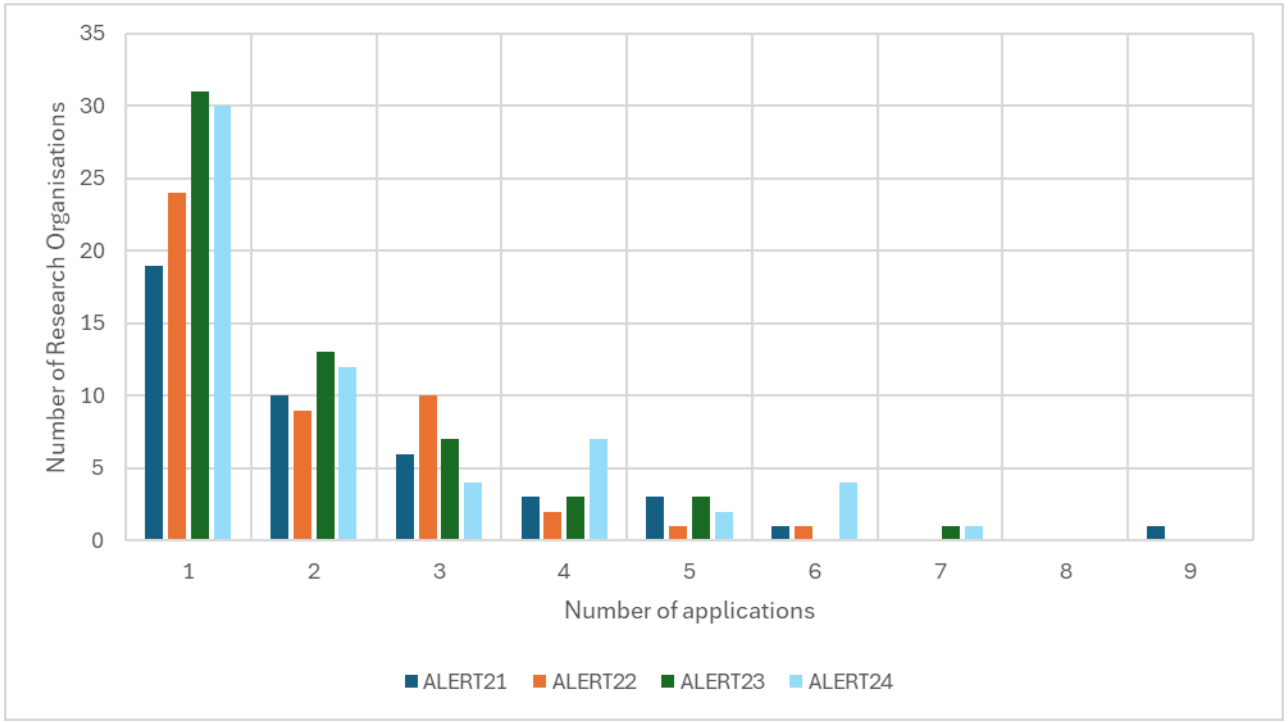
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Applications to previous ALERT rounds



- 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



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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

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Research Technical Professionals (RTPs)

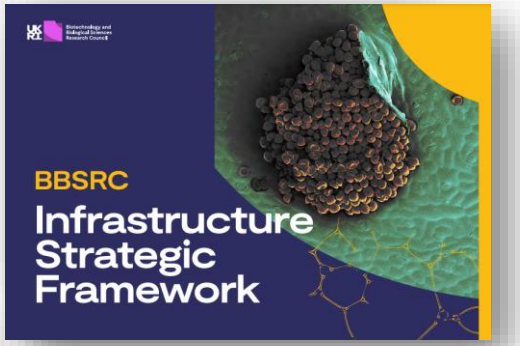
- UKRI is a signatory of the Technician Commitment – recognition of RTPs
- **RTPs/Research Software Engineers (RSEs) are eligible to apply as project lead/project co-lead**
- Consider how your approach ensures provision for training and development of RTPs

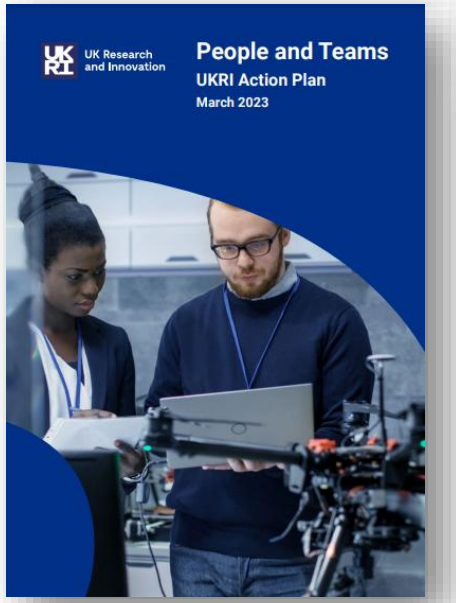
Check out BBSRCs recent changes to RTP eligibility criteria

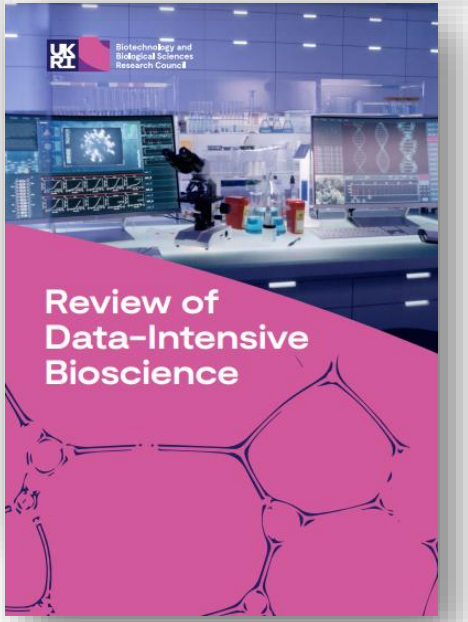
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RTP success in ALERT 2024



ALERT 2024 success rates

Overall = 22%

RTP led applications = 24%

RTP led awards = 29%

*Many more RTPs named as project co-leads

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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.



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ALERT 2025 Application Guidance



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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?

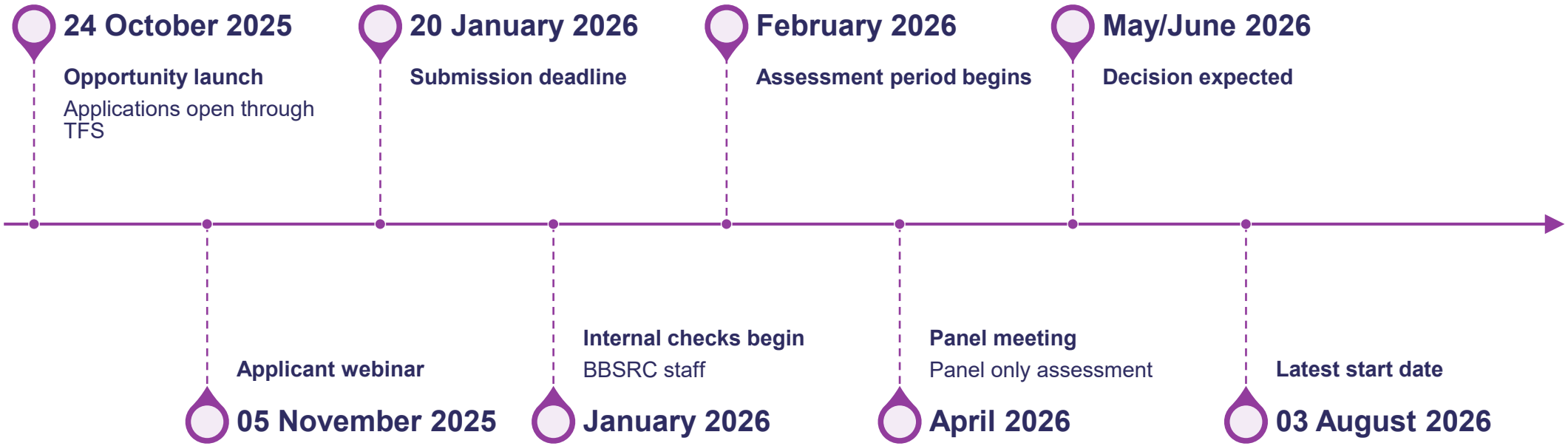
Demonstrate how your proposed international collaboration relates to Trusted Research and Innovation, including:

- 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 17 areas 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



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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?