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Advancing solutions for critical mineral production and recycling

Webinar for potential applicants

Tuesday, 3rd November 2026

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, overview of agenda

2. Introduction to Critical Minerals: Research to Industry programme (CMR2i)

3. Introduction to Advancing Solutions for Critical Mineral Production and Recycling funding opportunity

Including aims, scope, application and assessment process, and timeline

4. Q&As

5. Next steps



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Critical minerals: research to industry (CMR2i) Programme Overview

Background and rationale

- Critical and growth minerals are essential to the UK's **economic, industrial and national security**
- **Supply chain vulnerabilities** are growing as demand accelerates and global supply remains concentrated
- The UK Critical Minerals Strategy seeks to **build domestic capability through innovation, processing and recycling**
- **A strong research-to-innovation pipeline is needed** to grow UK critical minerals capabilities, support resilient supply chains, and drive growth across industrial strategy sectors.



CMR2i

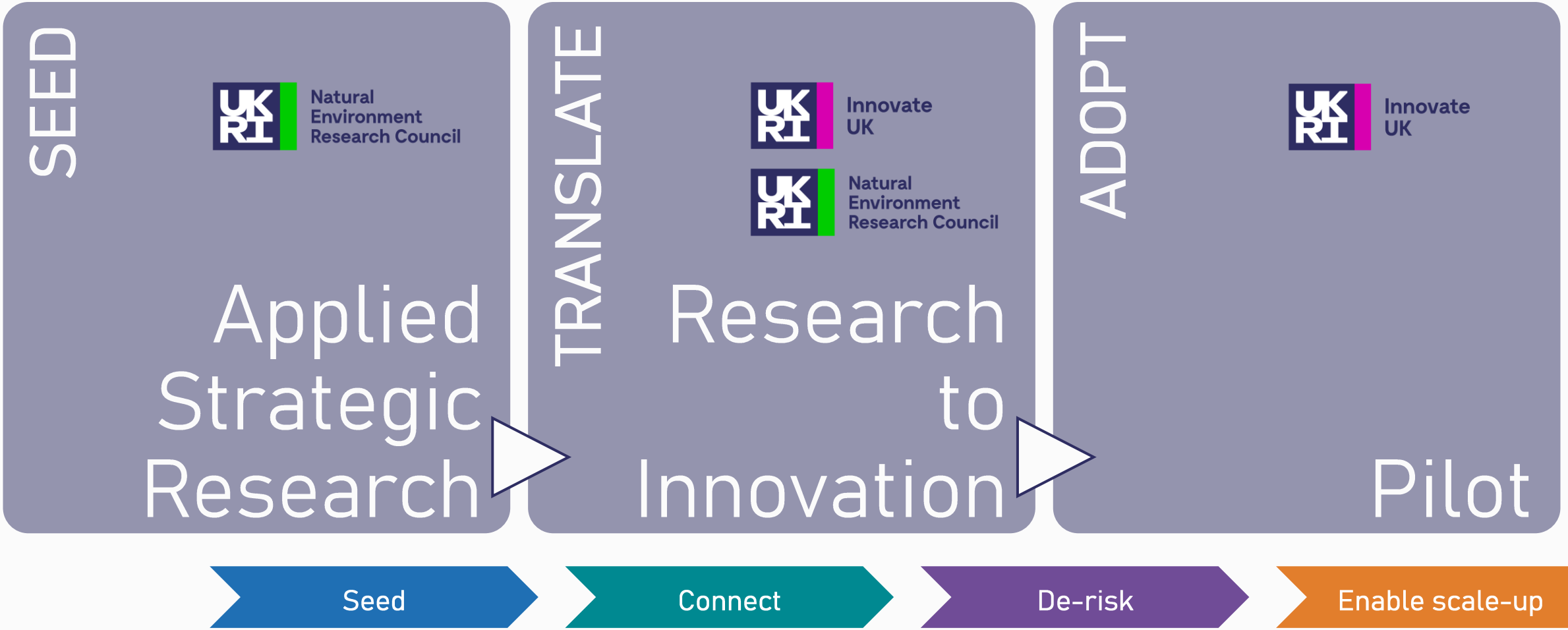
VISION

A resilient, responsible and innovation-led UK critical minerals ecosystem that converts research strength into industrial capability, investment and supply chain resilience.

MISSION

Seed, connect and de-risk the UK critical minerals research-to-innovation pipeline across all parts of a circular value chain.

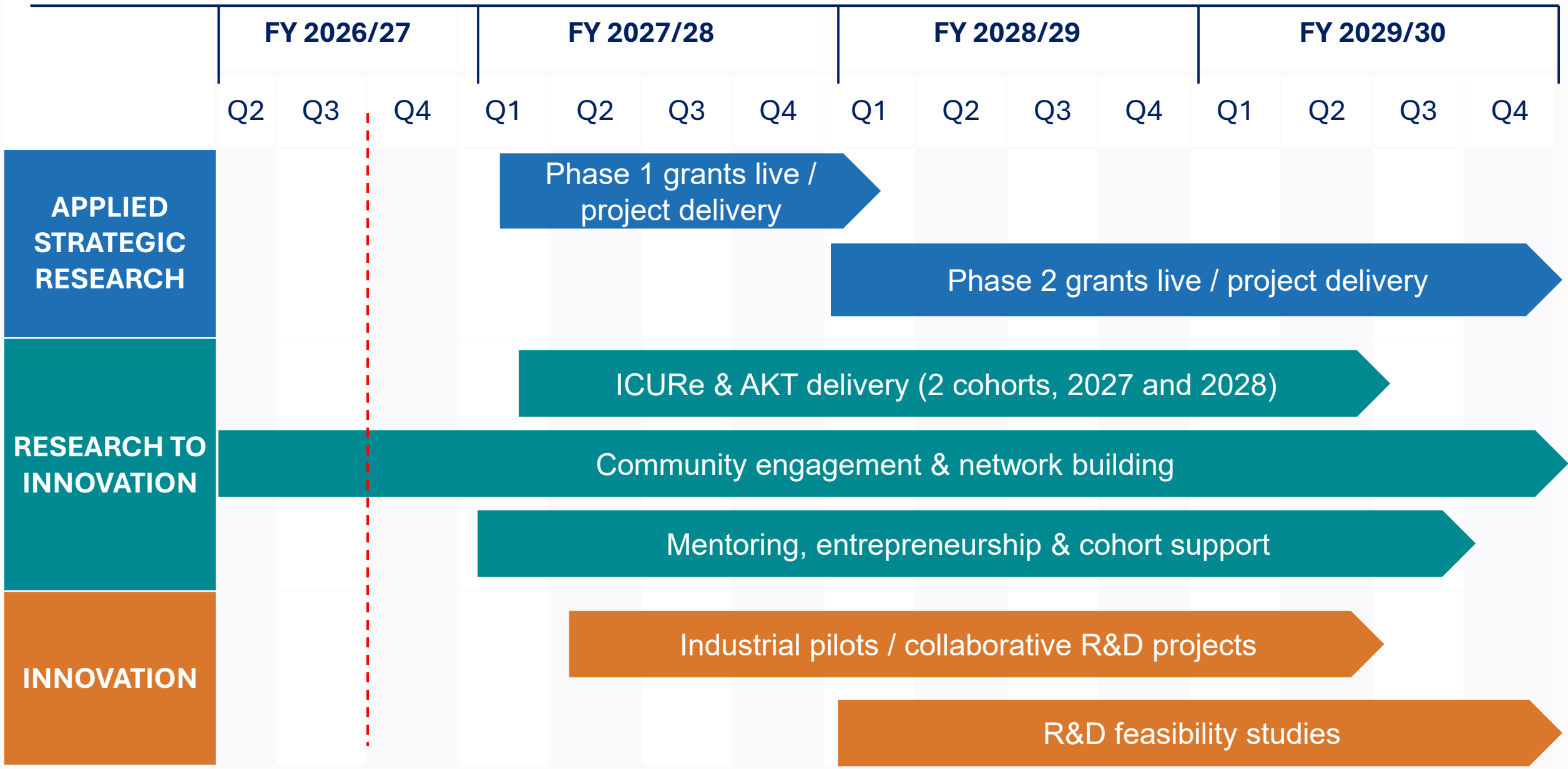
Delivery pillars



Success Stories

Ionic Technologies	–	Sustainable magnet recycling
Nanomox	–	Strengthening the UK's domestic capability in REE processing
Seloxium	–	Mineral recovery from complex industrial waste streams
HyProMag	–	Rare earth magnet recycling
DEScycle	–	Recovering critical minerals from e-waste

Upcoming opportunities – CMR2i



CMR2i Programme Launch

- Programme Launch – 30th November



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Advancing solutions for critical mineral production and recycling – opportunity overview

Aims

- Fund ambitious research to develop transformative CM production and recycling solutions
- Advance sustainable and efficient technologies across the value chain: extraction, processing, recovery, reprocessing, remining and recycling
- Build the commercial, regulatory, environmental and socioeconomic evidence base needed to derisk future investment, adoption and deployment
- Targeting areas with clear UK market opportunities and a credible route to UK impact and growth
- Support supply chain resilience and growth in Advanced Manufacturing and other Industrial Strategy priority sectors



Scope – phase 1 (the current opportunity)

Phase 1: seeding the research and innovation pipeline

- **Exploring, testing and demonstrating proof-of-concept** of novel technologies, processes and methodologies for sustainable and efficient extraction, processing, recovery, reprocessing, recycling and re-mining of critical and growth minerals
- **Open funding call** supporting early-stage R&I
- **Up to 6 projects** funded for **12 months** (up to **£305k FEC** per project; we will fund 80% of the FEC)

Expected outcomes

- Demonstrated technical feasibility and proof-of-concept for innovative solutions
- Evidence of commercial, environmental, socio-economic and strategic viability and transformative potential
- Clear pathway for further development, scale-up, adoption and impact
- Robust follow-on funding or investment propositions

Scope – phase 2

Phase 2: Rapid advancement of solutions

- **Closed competition** to support up to **3 phase 1 projects** for further 24 months (up to **£1.6M FEC each**)
- Accelerate progression towards deployment
- Build the technical, commercial, regulatory, environmental and socioeconomic evidence base needed to derisk adoption

To be considered for phase two funding, projects will be expected to have demonstrated:

- Strong potential to strengthen UK supply chains, create market opportunities, or establish new domestic capabilities
- Potential for significant economic, environmental and societal benefits
- A credible pathway to adoption, commercialisation and deployment
- Understanding of key technical, environmental, regulatory and market barriers, with plans to address them
- A compelling case for further investment and advancement to higher TRLs

Phase 2 funding opportunity anticipated to launch in Summer 2027.

Key requirements



Choice of mineral, technology or capability

You must address a mineral, technology or capability with clear UK market opportunity, a specific gap and credible route to impact

You may focus on primary or secondary resources, including emerging deposits, by-products, waste streams and legacy mine sites

Critical and growth minerals are those included in the UK Critical Minerals Strategy



Relevance to Advanced Manufacturing

You must demonstrate relevance to growth, resilience and competitiveness of UK Advanced Manufacturing frontier industries and other relevant Industrial Strategy priority sectors



Stakeholder engagement

You must include meaningful industry and stakeholder engagement to ensure alignment with user needs and market opportunities



Team and approach

Your team should bring together the expertise and stakeholder partnerships needed to deliver impactful, adoptable solutions, while identifying the additional expertise or approaches required to accelerate scale-up and maximise impact in Phase 2.

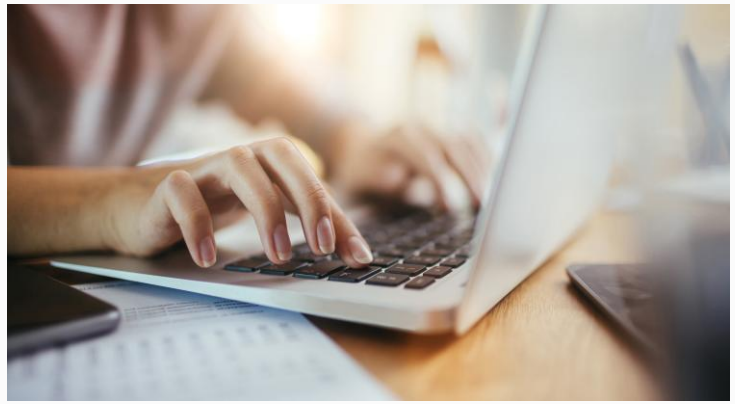
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How to apply, assessment process and timeline

How to apply

Stage 1: notification of intent (NoI)

- You must submit a NoI before submitting your full application
- The NoI asks for information on your team project plans.
- NoIs are not assessed
- Nothing submitted at NoI stage is considered final.
- We will not respond to NoIs
- **Deadline: 1st December 2026** (4pm UK time)



Stage 2: Full application

- Apply via the UKRI Funding Service (TFS)
- Only the Project Lead can submit an application
- **Deadline: 7th January 2026** (4pm UK time)

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Funding Service

Links to complete a NoI and start your full application can be found on the funding opportunity page

Assessment process

Assessment Panel

Applications will go to a panel of independent experts who will make a funding recommendation. UKRI will make the final funding decision.

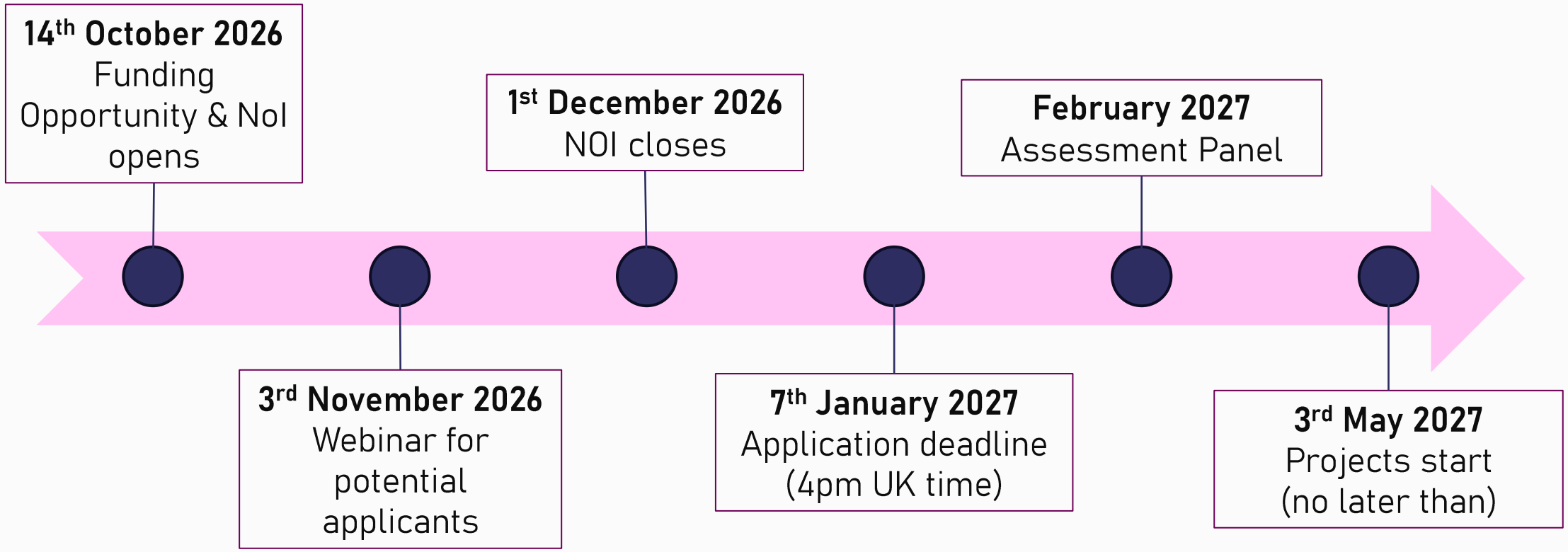
There will be no response stage for this funding opportunity, the proposed projects will be assessed on their application, against the published assessment criteria.

The assessment areas are:

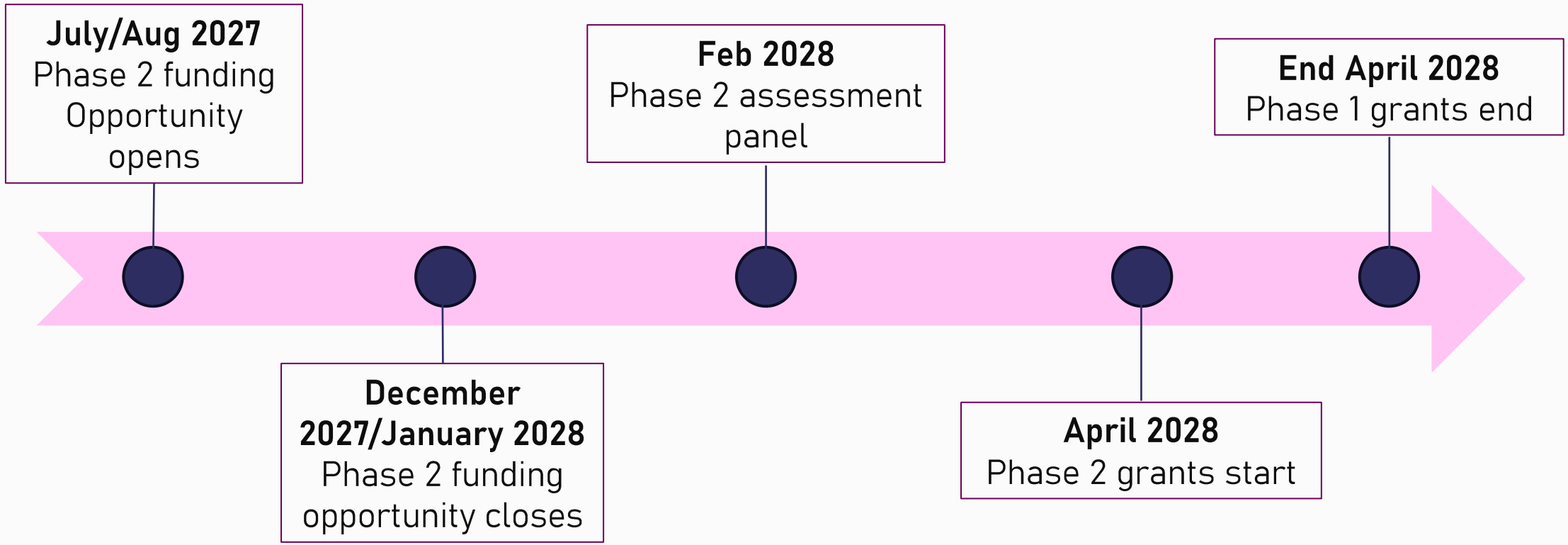
- vision
- approach
- applicant and team capability to deliver
- ethics and responsible research and innovation

For more information on how applications are assessed, please visit: How we make decisions – UKRI

Timeline - phase 1



Anticipated Timeline - phase 2



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Questions and Answers

Next steps

- We will publish this webinar's recording and slides on the funding opportunity webpage

- We will compile answers to all questions submitted to us and publish these on the funding opportunity webpage




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Thank you