Overview of change(s) from previous version

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/11/19</td>
<td>Section 7: Guidance on submitting proposals with applicants from both UK ROs and STFC Labs is added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/11/19</td>
<td>NARIT allocation towards this call is added in Section 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/11/19</td>
<td>Clarification on letter of support provided by NARIT is added in Section 6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/11/19</td>
<td>Clarification on attaching Justification of Resources, Non-UK components and Workplan was added to Section 6:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Submission deadline:** 16:00 GMT on Thursday, 05 December 2019

Proposal to be submitted through the UKRI joint electronic submission (Je-S) system.

**STFC contacts**
External innovations and 21st Century Challenges Assistant Programme Manager
Kamalam Vanninathan – kamalam.vanninathan@stfc.ukri.org

**Contents**

1. Background ..................................................................................................................................... 2
2. Funding available ............................................................................................................................ 2
3. Eligibility .......................................................................................................................................... 2
4. Submission ...................................................................................................................................... 3
5. Guidance on submitting to the STFC Je-S form .............................................................................. 3
6. Guidance on writing an application - Documents required ............................................................ 3
7. Guidance on submitting proposals with applicants from both UK ROs and STFC Labs.................. 5
8. Eligible costs .................................................................................................................................... 6
9. Completing the Je-S form ................................................................................................................ 6
10. Assessment Process and Criteria ................................................................................................... 7
11. Equality of Opportunities ............................................................................................................... 7
12. Contact Information ........................................................................................................................ 8
1. **Background**

STFC has successfully partnered with National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) to deliver two previous calls. We are happy to announce this third collaboration to promote new partnerships in *Capacity Building in Software and Hardware Infrastructures, and Data Handling through Astronomy*. The two previous STFC-NARIT calls funded through the Newton Fund have supported projects that focus on instrumentation development, giving opportunities to Thai researchers, engineers and technicians to develop much-needed skills and work closely with UK counterparts. This third call will welcome both the extension of previously funded projects as well as new projects that will build on the capabilities that both countries have.

2. **Funding available**

STFC has secured up to £1.25m in total to support the UK component of collaborative projects with the Thai community. There is no upper limit to how much individual proposals can request funding for, though STFC anticipates supporting a range of projects across all three priority areas. Projects must be completed by March 2022.

NARIT has allocated ฿15m to support the Thai component of the collaborative projects.

3. **Eligibility**

3.1. Proposals must be based on one of the below priority areas as identified in the Thailand 4.0 economic model

   a) **Astronomical Instrumentation**

   Thailand is currently focusing on astronomical instrumentation development as it is crucial for the country to be self-reliant and sustainable on technology development. In the past decade, there has been an increasing demand for astronomical instrumentation in the country, particularly in the fields of optical and radio astronomy. Given that Thailand relies heavily on the importation of technologies, the country is on the verge of losing its competitiveness in technology development in the global arena if this trend persists. Making technology development within the country more relevant and accessible is crucial to enabling innovation and helping to create a knowledge-based society.

   b) **Big Data Analytics**

   Big Data Analytics is significant in modern-day astronomy as now it is possible to work with massive data volumes (terabytes to exabytes). Extremely large data volumes pose major challenges for how astronomers work nowadays as these data require much-sought-after knowledge and tools for capture, cleaning, curation, integration, storage, processing, indexing, search, sharing, transferring, mining analysis and visualisation. Traditional tools have become obsolete to tackle the volume of data, whilst new technologies require a skilled workforce who are capable of managing and manipulating this scale of data to good use.

   NARIT has set up its high performance computing cluster called Chalawan in recent years, which is one of the fastest clusters in the country. However, with a growing demand for Big Data Analytics and its applications in Thailand, the challenges of capacity building and knowledge transfer need to be met with appropriate development programmes and facilities to empower the growing workforce in Big Data Analytics in Thailand.
c) Outreach to Support STEM Education Programmes

Currently, there is a shortfall of STEM skills in the workforce in Thailand at a time when the government is encouraging the younger generation to pursue STEM education as one of the measures towards Thailand 4.0 economy. More students in STEM education leads to a larger STEM workforce and a more productive economy. Astronomy can play a vital role in supporting STEM education programmes; Thailand is keen to work with the UK to share experiences and develop programmes that support STEM education that will benefit Thailand in the longer term.

3.2. The proposal must be submitted by a researcher (the Principal Investigator) who is an employee of a Research Organisation that is eligible for UKRI Grants, i.e. Higher Education Institutes, recognised academic analogues, such as institutes funded by other Research Councils and other organisations eligible to apply for funding. Only academic partners may request funding.

3.3. For further information applicants should refer to the STFC Research Grant Handbook.

4. Submission

Your proposal must be submitted by 16:00 GMT on Thursday, 05 December 2019. Due to the tight time schedule of the Newton Fund Call, it is imperative you work with your Research Organisation and with the Thai partners to get your proposal on Je-S started on time.

5. Guidance on submitting to the STFC Je-S form

Log in to Je-S at https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/JeSWebLoginSite/Login.aspx
Documents screen: Select ‘New Document’
Add new document screen: Select ‘Call search’ (highlighted at top of screen). When prompted type in the call title “STFC-NARIT Newton Fund 2019” call and select from the list created. The remaining three selection fields will be automatically populated.
These should read:

a) Select Council: STFC
b) Select Document Type: Standard
c) Select Scheme: Newton Fund

Select the Create Document button.
Please prefix the title of your application with Newton STFC-NARIT

The call is being hosted by STFC through Je-S. You do not need to submit a separate application to NARIT. After the application deadline STFC will share the applications submitted with NARIT.

Please ensure that you allow time for any internal authorisation processes in your research organisations both in the UK and Thailand ahead of the submission deadline.

6. Guidance on writing an application - Documents required

The grant application will comprise of a Je-S pro-forma and a number of attachments. Details of what is required in each documents are given in this section. It is recommended that attachments are uploaded in PDF format to ensure that unsupported font type issues do not cause problems.

The application should include:
a) Je-S proposal form (mandatory, exactly 1)
b) Case for support (mandatory, exactly 1)
c) Justification of Resources (mandatory but not listed under documents on Je-S, exactly 1, see guidance below for submission)
d) Pathways to Impact (mandatory, exactly 1)
e) Data Management Plan (mandatory, exactly 1)
f) CVs and publications (mandatory, 1 for each UK and Thai investigator)
g) Letters of support from host organisations (mandatory, up to 3 attachments, see guidance below for submitting more than 3 letters where appropriate)
h) Non-UK Components (mandatory, exactly 2)
  • Gender statement (mandatory, exactly 1)
  • ODA compliance statement (mandatory, exactly 1)
i) Workplan (mandatory, exactly 1)
j) Proposal cover letter (optional)

6.1. Case for Support (please complete the template)
This is the body of the research proposal; applicants must complete the Case for Support template and attach it as a “Case for Support” document.

6.2. Justification of Resources (please complete the template)
Please complete the template, justifying both UK and Thai costs and providing a more detailed breakdown of the Thai costs. Breakdown of UK costs are already included in the Je-S proposal form. The Justification of Resources must contain a breakdown and explanation of the costs requested by each partner, taking into account the nature and complexity of the activities proposed. Combine Case for Support and Justification of Resources into one document and upload it as attachment for Case for Support.

6.3. Pathways to Impact (maximum two sides of A4 sheet)
Guidance can be found on the STFC website.

6.4. CVs and Publications (maximum three sides of A4 sheet per applicant)
A CV for each Principal Investigator and Co-investigator should be included. This should include contact details, qualifications, academic and professional posts held since graduation, a list of the most relevant and recent publications, and a record of research funded by the UK and Thai funding bodies. This should not exceed three A4 pages. It is expected you would use two pages for the CV and one page for publications.

6.5. Letter of Support (each letter maximum two sides of A4 sheet)
It has been agreed that NARIT will provide one letter of support confirming that the request of funds for Thai component of the proposal is acceptable and that NARIT will fund the proposal if it is successful after the review process.
Please include additional letters of support for the following:
  • From the partner country institutions involved in the project
  • Any organisations entered on the Je-S form as project partners. (A project partner is an organisation which contributes in cash or in kind to the project but which is not requesting any money.)

If the proposal is benefited by additional letters of support, please combine multiple letters into one document before uploading it. Further guidance can be found on the STFC website.
6.6. Gender statement (maximum 1 side of A4 sheet)

To comply with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, applications must provide a Gender Equality Statement, outlining how applicants have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities.

Applicants are required to address the below criteria, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable.

Criteria to address while considering gender impact:

a) Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation, and the beneficiaries of the research and innovation.

b) The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.

c) The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.

d) How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?

e) Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

This statement must be attached as a “Non-UK Components” type attachment. Further guidance for applicants on Gender Equality Statements is available here.

6.7. ODA Compliance statement (maximum 1 side of A4 sheet)

This statement is already part of Section 3 in the Case for Support template. Please copy this section alone into a separate document and attach it as a “Non-UK Components” type attachment. Guidance on ODA and help to fill out this statement can be found here.

6.8. Workplan (maximum 2 side of A4 sheet)

Please include a Gantt chart.

6.9. Cover Letter (maximum two sides of A4 sheet)

You may include a cover letter.

6.10. Do not attach any documents additional to those listed above. Although Je-S allows other documents, such as technical assessments, Facility form etc, they will be removed before being sent for review.

7. Guidance on submitting proposals with applicants from both UK ROs and STFC Labs

7.1. Finances that are associated with the STFC Labs should be separated from those of the UK ROs. This is best done by submitting joint proposals with lead and non-lead organisations. There is no specific condition on who should be the lead organisation. This is entirely up to the project team and how the project is designed.

7.2. The lead applicant should create their proposal first following the steps below

- Select “Edit Joint Proposals”
• Select yes to "is this a joint proposal", Select yes to "are you the lead RO", the Joint reference number is generated. The following information will appear under the heading of Joint documents:
  o Lead document (detailing Principal Investigator, RO and Department).
  o Non-lead (same details as lead document displayed at this stage) with the option to assign owner or delete.
• Select Assign Owner to add the details of the Principal Investigator to the non-lead. An email alert will be generated to the PI of the non-lead that the document is available in their Je-S account

7.3. It is mandatory for the non-lead application to submit a completed Je-S proposal form. This form will not include all the sections which are available to the lead. It is most important to complete the sections on finances. The non-lead part can view the attachments on the lead part. All other attachments are optional. Documents mentioned is Section 6 are relevant only to the lead grant.

8. Eligible costs

UK applicants should refer to the STFC Research Grants Handbook for more details on eligible costs. The STFC funding element will not cover the cost of individual items of equipment costing more than £10,000 (including VAT). In general eligible UK costs for this programme include Directly Incurred costs (staff, travel and subsistence, other costs), Directly Allocated (investigators, estates and other directly allocated, e.g. administrative support staff where fully justified) and Indirect costs. Studentships (e.g. fees and stipends) are not eligible for funding but costs of training and/or exchange visits for students are eligible. The STFC element of the funding must be spent on the UK component of the project, for example, to cover the costs of UK investigators’ time, bursaries for Thai researchers visiting the UK (to cover the costs of accommodation and other living expenses) and costs of UK personnel to travel to Thailand. Thai applicants should consult NARIT for guidance on funding.

9. Completing the Je-S form

9.1. Investigators

Investigators may be from more than one Research Organisation both in the UK and Thailand but the UK Principal Investigator must be from the Organisation that will administer the UK side of the grant.

Thai and UK investigators need to be registered on the Je-S system. Instructions for registering with Je-S are available here.

With the exception of the UK PI, please input UK and Thai investigators as co-investigators. The number of hours being applied for by UK researchers should be recorded on Je-S. The number of hours for Thai researchers should recorded as zero in Je-S and entered into the separate Justification of Resources template, which is then uploaded as an attachment.

If a Thai co-investigator wishes to indicate their annual salary in Je-S this should be converted to sterling.

9.2. Resources

All resources requested for both Thailand and the UK must be fully justified in the Justification of Resources template.

Within the Je-S form, enter the costs to be incurred by the UK Research Organisation and NOT those to be incurred by the Thailand Research Organisation. Research grants under RCUK are
costs on the basis of full economic costs (fEC). If a grant is awarded, STFC will provide funding on the basis on 80% of fEC. The UK research organisation must agree to find the balance of fEC for the project from other resources.

Thailand resource costs should not be included on the Je-S form but included in the Justification of Resources template.

STFC will pay the UK component of the award directly to the lead UK Research Organisation which, where necessary, will be responsible for disbursing the funds to other UK co-investigators. NARIT will pay the approved Thai costs according to their normal procedure.

Under the Newton fund we cannot accept costs for capital i.e. equipment costing over £10,000 on the UK side.

9.3. Project Partners

If you have secured a commitment from another organisation or funding body (other than NARIT) to provide additional resources for the project, the details of that support should be entered here. A letter of support from each partner organisation confirming the level of support specific to this proposal must be included as an attachment via this section.

9.4. Other Support

Enter details of any support sought or received from any other source for this or other research in the same field in the last three years.

9.5. Human Participation and Animal Research

We envisage that projects funded under this call will not involve human participants or animal research. All proposals that plan to involve the use of humans or animals need to contact STFC before submission.

10. Assessment Process and Criteria

Following submission, assessment will be undertaken by NARIT and STFC. To be funded, proposals must be of a standard equivalent to that normally expected to be supported by each funding organisation.

Key assessment criteria for the submissions will be:

- Research merit of the proposal
- Relevance of the proposal to the strategic objectives of the Newton Fund – including potential benefits and impact
- Strength and appropriateness of proposed partnership and collaboration
- Project management structure and resources, including value for money

Applications will be assessed by an expert panel consisting of experts from both Thailand and the UK.

11. Equality of Opportunities

STFC is committed to a policy of equal opportunities for our applicants for funding. No eligible applicant should receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of disability, sex or gender re-assignment, marital status or civil partnership, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, age, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, or contractual and work roles (protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010). An Equality and Inclusion Impact Assessment for the call is available on the STFC website.
If anybody has any concerns regarding our equality of opportunities policies or any other aspect of the workshop application process then please contact us to voice these issues. We constantly strive for absolute equality within our organisation, and we make every attempt to make the workshop available to as many people as possible.

Further information on STFC’s equality of diversity policy can be found on the STFC website.

12. Contact Information

12.1. For all queries relating to Je-S please contact the Je-S helpdesk
   email: JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org
   telephone: 01793 444164
   Helpdesk staff can be contacted Monday to Friday 09.00-17.00 UK time (excluding bank holidays and other holidays). For out of hours, please leave a voice message.
   When reporting problems by email or telephone, please give your name, organisation and user id, the date and time, what part of the form or system you were working on and the nature of the problem.

12.2. For non-Je-S enquiries please contact
   Assistant Programme Manager for External Innovations & 21st Century Challenges, Kamalam Vanninathan
   email: kamalam.vanninathan@stfc.ukri.org or stfcnewtonfund@stfc.ukri.org
   telephone: 01793 442029