21st Century Challenges Network Call

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21\textsuperscript{st} Century Challenges

- 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Challenges defined as the big and often complex social, environmental and economic challenges facing the UK and other countries.
  - Examples: energy, infrastructure, resources, health, development, defence, security and resilience
- encompasses UK strategic challenges:
  - Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund,
  - Government Areas of Research Interest
  - Official Development Assistance Funding (Newton Fund and Global Challenge Research Fund)
  - Strategic Priorities Fund
  - Strength in Places Fund
21st Century Challenges Enabling Fund

- Supports STFC research community to engage with and provide solutions to these complex, multidisciplinary challenges
21\textsuperscript{st} Century Challenges Networks

Develop interdisciplinary communities focused on addressing challenges through:

• Enabling engagement of STFC researchers with challenge owners, people exchange, exploratory workshops, sandpits and scoping studies
OUR FIELD HAS BEEN STRUGGLING WITH THIS PROBLEM FOR YEARS.

STRUGGLE NO MORE! I'M HERE TO SOLVE IT WITH ALGORITHMS!

SIX MONTHS LATER:
WOW, THIS PROBLEM IS REALLY HARD.
YOU DON'T SAY.

[xkcd]
Current Networks

STFC Food Network+
Advanced Radiotherapy
STFC Batteries.org
UK NDN
NuSec Nuclear Security Science Network

Science & Technology Facilities Council
Previous Networks

Environmental Radioactivity Network
envradnet.co.uk

Network on Tropospheric Ozone

STFC/NERC Bioinformatics & Environmental ‘Omics Network

SpacE weather REsearch Network (SEREN)

21st Century Challenges Networks 2018 Call

- The Basics
- Assessment Criteria
- Additional requirements
- Hints and tips
Aim of 2018 Call

Support the STFC research community to engage with and provide solutions to these complex, multidisciplinary challenges through the creation of multidisciplinary research communities that bring together STFC researchers with challenge owners.

Any of the challenge areas but particularly welcome proposals relating to:

- Government policy objectives relating to air quality
- Blockchain in the agrifood supply chain

Contact katharine.hollinshead@stfc.ac.uk to establish the eligibility and suitability of your proposed network.
The Basics
AKA the boring but important bit
Remit and Eligibility

• Remit - application of science/technology/expertise funded by STFC’s core science
  – fundamental research (e.g. consolidated grant, PPRP project) in astronomy, space science, particle physics, particle astrophysics, nuclear physics, computing and accelerators in support of these; or
  – STFC’s national facilities and laboratories

• PI eligibility
  – standard research council: a researcher who is an employee of a Research Organisation that is eligible for Research Council Grants
The Basics/1

- Call opens: 2 July 2018
- Call closes: 4pm 2 October
- Scheme: Futures
- Call: 21st Century Challenges Network 2018/19

https://stfc.ukri.org/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/global-challenge-networks/
### The Basics/2

#### Three types of Networks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard Network</td>
<td>Up to 3 years, up to £240k</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary activities: e.g. workshops, travel awards, small awards</td>
<td>Demonstrate scope to build a multidisciplinary community to explore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network +</td>
<td>Up to 4 years, up to £480k: as Standard Network plus e.g. sandpits, scoping studies, discipline hopping, proof of concept</td>
<td>Demonstrate scope to deliver small projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Network+</td>
<td>Up to 3 years, up to £360k: as Network+ building on work of previous Standard Network or Network+</td>
<td>Demonstrate added value of extended funding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Basics/3

• All UK costs will be supported at 80% fEC in-line with standard Research Council rules
• Can included funding for a Network Manager/Co-ordinator – considered best practice
• Where Network involved Official Development Assistance challenges, non-UK costs paid at 100% plus contribution of 20% of total direct costs (see Annex 1)
• No single item of equipment over £10k (but would expect most of the funding to go towards networking and small projects/awards)
The Basics/4

- Make sure that you follow the guidance on the required attachments and their lengths:
  - Case for support (max 6 pages for Standard Network or Extended Network+, 10 pages for Network+)
  - Pathways to Impact (max 2 pages)
  - Project Partner letters of Support (max 2 pages each)
  - Data Management Plan (max 2 pages)
  - Gantt chart (max 1 page)
The Basics/5

• Case for Support
  – Justification for focus of network
  – Track record of applicants
  – Vision statement and strategy
  – Programme of activities
  – Management and governance plans
  – User engagement and communications plans
  – Justification of resources
  – Added value
  – Commissioning of projects (Network+ and Extended Network+)
Assessment Criteria:
Make sure that you address them in your application
Assessment Criteria/1

Standard Network

- Importance of the 21st Century Challenge area being addressed
- Likely impact on the 21st Century Challenge area and ability to create a new multidisciplinary community, generate new research topics or solutions
- Clearly articulated strategy and vision for the Network/Network+, with clear objectives and a well-defined purpose
- Proposed programme of activities and events to deliver the objectives of the Network
- Track record of applicants and composition of leadership team that demonstrates their ability to create an effective interdisciplinary community or generate new research ideas that may provide solutions to 21st Century Challenges.
- Appropriateness of membership and recruitment strategy for building, maintaining and managing a membership with appropriate critical mass that evolves with the Network
- Clearly articulated vision, strategy and mechanisms to deliver engagement with users
- Demonstration of a robust management plan, including coordination, governance and managing for impact
Assessment Criteria/2

**Network+**
As Standard Network but also:
- Proposed range of pilot projects and placements to deliver the aims of the Network and plans to manage the award process, collect outputs and report and outcomes

**Extended Network**
- Existing achievements of the precursor Network and track record in creating a multidisciplinary
- Likely impact and added value of the proposed Extended activities
- Clearly articulated evolution of the strategy and vision for the original Network/Network+, with clear objectives and a well-defined purpose
- Proposed programme of activities and events to deliver the objectives of the Network
- Demonstration of a robust management plan, including coordination, governance and managing for impact
- Proposed range of pilot projects and placements to deliver the aims of the Network and plans to manage the award process, collect outputs and report and outcomes
Additional Requirements

• Governance: independent steering committee to provide advice on the conduct and guidance of the network
  – Membership drawn as appropriate from academic, industrial and international communities, including representative from STFC
  – Should meet at least twice a year
  – Terms of Reference to be agreed with STFC
• Report annually at meeting of networks
• Collaboration Agreements: if the project involves more than one organisation
Hints and Tips

- Challenge-led: problem and solution focused, not technology push
- Involve stakeholders and demonstrate this with good quality letters of support – don’t leave to the last minute
- Don’t under estimate the resource needed to co-ordinate/manage the network
Exploration Awards

Support for small, exploratory projects (<£20k)

- e.g. stakeholder engagement, challenge-capability mapping, workshops, early stage scoping studies
- outputs should be published and identify opportunities for further development e.g. next stage actions and funding routes
- Proposals must be challenge-led and have strategic relevance and timeliness

https://stfc.ukri.org/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/global-challenge-exploration-awards/
The Basics

• Proposals can be submitted at any time
• Considered by a sub-set of the 21st Century Challenges Assessment Panel on a quarterly basis (starting end October 2018)
• Demonstrate that other funding routes have been considered and aren’t suitable:
  – Impact Acceleration Account
  – 21st Century Challenges Networks
  – Innovation Partnership Scheme
  – Follow-on Funding
Remit and Eligibility

• Remit - application of science/technology/expertise funded by STFC’s core science
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  – STFC’s national facilities and laboratories

• Investigator eligibility
  – Must involve at least one PI or Co-I employed

• Appropriate stakeholder and/or interdisciplinary involvement
How to Apply

• Contact 21cc@stfc.ac.uk with an outline to establish suitability of proposal

• Further information on how to submit will then be provided
Thank you for listening
Good luck in developing your proposal
Questions?