2024 CoSeC CCP Bridging Call

This funding opportunity is by **invitation only**, if you have received this document from a source other than the CoSeC email address then please do not submit a proposal without first checking eligibility through CoSeC@stfc.ac.uk.

How to Apply
Please submit proposal to CoSeC@stfc.ac.uk with stephen.longshaw@stfc.ac.uk cc'd by the **18th September 2024 at 5:00pm UK time.**

Assessment Process
Full proposals will undergo a single stage peer review by an expert panel. Outcomes will either be that a proposal is funded with no further action, funded with remedial work to take place in conjunction with CoSeC in the first three months, or unfunded with the possibility of a single resubmission to the panel followed by a new decision. Full details of the assessment process and criteria are in Section 5 of this document.

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Call for Proposals Opens	10th July 2024
Deadline for Proposals	18th September 2024
Expert Panel	18th October 2024
Funding Decision	28th October 2024
Grant Start Date	1st November 2024

Contents of this Document

1 Background

This funding comes via STFC from the Large Scale Compute workstream of UKRI's Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) programme and is curated by the Computational Science Centre for Research Communities (CoSeC).

The goals of UKRI DRI result from the independent Future of Compute Review, with development of existing DRI activities like the Collaborative Computational Projects (CCPs) seen as key. From these, CoSeC has derived a list of key objectives for this funding, outlined in Section 2.

As Chair of one of the thirteen currently funded CCPs (see Annex C), you are invited to submit a proposal to create a new set of workplans that build on your existing funded plans and position your community to take advantage of any future funding opportunities.

Before submitting your proposal, please ensure you have read all aspects of this document in full, including all annexes.

2 Funding Objectives

This funding is for existing CCPs, currently funded through the EPSRC, BBSRC and MRC UKRI Research Councils.

The objectives for this opportunity are different to those of previous CCP calls and are representative of the nature of the UKRI DRI funding that underpins it. While proposals must align with the objectives in this section, it is important that CCPs develop within the general scope previously set out for CCPs (see Annex A).

Community:
- Contribute to a coherent landscape of CCPs that embeds the concept of cross-disciplinary collaboration wherever useful and enables knowledge exchange amongst computational researchers.

- Wherever useful, exploit synergies with other relevant investments and initiatives, thus contributing to the goal of creating a coordinated, expanded and sustainable landscape for the benefit of UK research and innovation.

Research software and data management:
- Explore and integrate heterogenous accelerator-based approaches for research software to enable use across the UKRI DRI infrastructure landscape, ensuring the UK's key research software can make effective use of as much of the current and upcoming computing platform landscape as possible.
- Use and application of AI across computational research where advantageous, sharing outputs with other AI investments, such as Institutes, Centres and Hubs.
- Systemic, sustainable and practical solutions for reducing the energy used within computational research.
- Progress towards ensuring data related to computational research within CCPs adheres to FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principles, exploring topics like Metadata and Research Object Cataloguing.
- Identify, explore and apply key other cross-cutting technical topics across computational research (e.g., quantum computing).

Training and skills:
- Training in environmentally sustainable computational research
- Training around topics relating to both domain-specific and cross-cutting computational research, with an emphasis on providing this in accordance with FAIR principles and making it widely available beyond a single CCP.
- Contribute to and aid CoSeC with its goal to develop a of cross-cutting computational research capability that benefits research domains across UKRI.

Management and governance:
To have a clear management and governance structure that support:
- An inclusive approach to developing and serving the community, embedding UKRI's principles for equality, diversity and inclusivity (EDI), details of which can be found in Section 7. This must include transparent policies for expanding community membership and open fora for community engagement.
- An effective collaborative relationship between the CCP and CoSeC.

3 Expectations and Requirements

This bridging investment should work alongside existing CCP workplans to identify elements that are both key for your community and can now be highlighted, enhanced and aligned with the national DRI and CoSeC objectives (see Annex A).

Alongside the objectives set out in Section 2, the following two subsections define specifics around engagement with CoSeC and required additional reporting related to this funding.

3.1 Core CoSeC Support

It is expected that CoSeC staff embedded within your community will be an integral part of the process when defining your plan of work. This opportunity is not designed to support a project solely to develop or create software, instead it should provide ongoing development or maintenance of software at the core of a community in collaboration with CoSeC. It is required that deliverability of activities is discussed and assessed with CoSeC ahead of final submission. This process should be undertaken in conjunction with your allocated CoSeC project lead who may also be included as a co-lead in this proposal (see Section 4).

Proposals received without this prior engagement will not be accepted, this process of pre-approval should be completed through your CoSeC project lead.

3.2 Required Outputs

In addition to any other regular reporting, an additional report will be required between months 18 and 24 detailing:

1. The key successes and outputs of your community, results relating to any specific milestone or deliverable noted in your submitted workplan should be included here.
2. The specific involvement of any project partners included in your community. This may include partners noted through letter at the point of proposal or new partners included over the course of the project.
3. A high-level roadmap for your community for the 3 years beyond the end of the bridging project.

This report will be made publicly available by STFC through CoSeC and be part of the evidence of output required by the UKRI DRI programme.

4 Funding and Resources Available

You are invited to apply for up to £250,000 of the full economic costs (FEC) **per CCP** for a duration of up to 2 years. Joint applications by two or more eligible CCPs are allowed. In this case, the maximum total amount that can be requested is the sum of the maximum amounts per eligible CCP participating in the joint application. Please check eligibility of all named individuals and their organisation against the [UKRI rules for funding of research and innovation](#), taking into consideration that these rules now allow a number of organisation types typically associated with industrial partners.

STFC will pay 80% of FEC relating to salary and travel and subsistence, and up to 100% of FEC relating to networking activities, which are marked below with an asterisk (*). Across these two percentages, the total amount requested from STFC **should not exceed £220,000 per CCP.**

Resources can be allocated across a number of UKRI [roles](#) and networking activities, with the expectation that salary **costs will be up to 50%** of the overall amount requested. This balance may be relaxed where a robust case for extra salary costs can be justified but these should **not exceed 60%** of the overall amount requested. Included effort related to CoSeC is **in addition** to the funding available through this call (see Section 4.1 for further details).

Costs can be requested for:

- **Project lead and co-lead:** Project leads and co-leads can request funds to cover their salary costs for the time spent setting up, managing and co-ordinating the CCP. Where requests are made for co-lead time, this should be restricted to individuals that have significant responsibility for the management and co-ordination of the CCP. *Time spent by the leads on the co-ordination of the CCP is not expected to form a significant amount of the overall cost of the proposal based on the assumption that a CCP acts as a high-level coordinating activity for communities.*
- **Researcher co-lead:** Researcher co-leads can request funds to cover their salary costs for the time spent setting up, managing and co-ordinating the CCP as well as their direct involvement in technical activities that interface with, or directly relate to, activities undertaken within the CCP by CoSeC. *Time spent by researcher co-leads on the co-ordination of the CCP should be proportionate to that of other lead roles, time spent on research or innovation activities should be justified in the supplied workplan and **only be requested for the 24/25 and 25/26 financial years**.*
- **Research and Innovation Associate or Specialist:** Funds can be requested for salary costs for carrying out research or innovation works that are designed to interface with work planned for, or co-ordinated by, your CoSeC support team. *These roles should*

*have no specific CCP co-ordination element (please refer to the research co-lead role type where this is required within the same role) and should **only be requested for the 24/25 and 25/26 financial years***.

- **Professional Enabling Staff:** Funding for support with aspects such as finance, accounting and marketing can be requested to help in the co-ordination of the network. *Costs should be reasonable and normally form a small part of the request and should consider that coordination and organisation of activities is part of the remit of the support provided by CoSeC.*
- **Travel and subsistence:** Including support of international activities and exchanges.
- **(*) Workshop and meeting costs:** Including funding for CCP workshops and events, community training, working group meetings and cross-CCP activities.
  (*) Dissemination and communication activities: Including web-based dissemination and impact activities such as collecting and publishing case studies. *Costs relating to these aspects should consider that collation and generation of community impact is also part of the remit of CoSeC and aiding communities with these activities is a reasonable expectation of the support you receive from the Centre.*

4.1 Available CoSeC Resources

For successful applications, in addition to the bridging funding allocated to the CCPs, an additional 1 FTE of CoSeC staff effort will be made available for the duration of the grant and **per eligible CCP involved**.

The overall workplan for the CoSeC effort across all funding streams for each CCP will be designed jointly by each CCP and CoSeC.

STFC employed staff working directly as part of CoSeC may be named in any role **other than project lead** but cannot have any salary or other costs included. Their resources as a named person on the grant should be included within the additional 1FTE of CoSeC effort allocated to each successful CCP.

It is **not a requirement** that CoSeC staff are named in the grant for them to work directly with a community, the role of *CoSeC project lead* remains separate in meaning to that of project lead in the context of this funding.

CoSeC does not hold funding to pay direct costs associated with running events for specific CCPs. The effort of CoSeC staff associated with organising and running events should be included within the CoSeC effort allocation and should not be costed directly in the proposal.

You are reminded that other CoSeC funding opportunities remain open to your community as additional routes for funding in addition to this bridging opportunity, including: (i) the CoSeC placement scheme, providing up to £5000 to cover the expenses of a 3-6 month research visit by members of your community to a National Labs location, either to work directly with CoSeC, or to enable other research visits; (ii) The CoSeC Fellows Programme which provides up to £3000 of expenses over 15 months for knowledge-exchange and other related activities, a copy of the document for the Fellow opportunity has been sent to you alongside this document.

Please refer to Annex B for details of the conditions under which core CoSeC support will be made available.

5 Assessment

The proposal will be judged by an expert panel as a single stage process. Potential outcomes of this are:
1. Funded.

2. Funded but with the requirement that identified issues are sufficiently addressed directly with CoSeC in the first 3 months of the project.
3. Not funded.

In the case of a proposal being identified as not funded (option 3) by the panel then a single opportunity for revision will be invited. This will then be reconsidered by the panel, after which point if it still does not consider the proposal to be fundable then the process will conclude with an unfunded outcome. The available length of funding for proposals that are moved through this option may be adjusted at the point of it being updated for reconsideration, to reflect the fact that the UKRI DRI funding underpinning this opportunity has a strictly fixed and time limited profile.

The proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

Quality:
- The suitability for proposed activities to meet the funding objectives defined in Section 2.
- The quality and sustainability of the proposed research software development and maintenance.
- The potential of the proposed pathways for exploring cross-CCP and cross-UKRI collaboration to expand the community and increase its partnerships.
- The potential of the proposed activities to positively impact on the effective development and exploitation of the computational research landscape.

Skills and careers:
- The suitability of proposed networking activities for sharing expertise, ensuring an inclusive approach to developing the community and promoting skills and career development.
- An embedded approach of the UKRI strategy for equality, diversity and inclusivity (see Section 7).

Resources and Management:
- The suitability of the requested resources and the proposed work plan and management arrangements.
- The appropriateness of the workplans to enable effective collaboration with the technical work of CoSeC and Research Technical Professionals within the community.

6 Project Partners
The panel review process will not specifically mark proposals based on project partner letters of support and where project partners are proposed, values relating to in-kind support will not be considered.

However, as the premise of the CCP model is predicated on the idea of community, we strongly encourage you to seek a continued working relationship with partners from your existing projects and to consider where you may be able to bring in other partners. The benefit of this should be considered in the context of the reach and growth of your community, with a view that hethis bridging grant is designed to increase its potential for the future. Growth in project partners over the length of the grant is strongly encouraged with an opportunity to define this in a required report due in the final 6 months (see Section 3.2).

7 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
UKRI embeds Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) into every aspect of its work and expects those that it funds to understand and champion its published principles. All proposals are expected to have read and apply the UKRI strategy around EDI, considering the four objectives that it sets out:

1. Foster a world-class research and innovation system, 'by everyone, for everyone'.
2. Include and support a diversity of people and ideas through our funding and partnerships.
3. Create a more inclusive and fair organisational culture, where everyone can contribute and participate, and feels valued and respected.
4. Advance and grow knowledge and capability to support a thriving research and innovation system by being a creative, evidence-based and evidence-informed organisation.

CoSeC and STFC will ensure that these principles are considered throughout all engagements we have with your community. STFC has a robust policy in place to ensure fairness and equality relating to its use of the peer review panel process and that will be applied while considering all proposals received through this invited call.

8 How to Apply

The proposal should be a single PDF document, any inclusions that are in addition to the main proposal should be embedded in the same document, including:

- While letters are not specifically required, where you wish a partner to be officially recognised then letters of support from project partners should still be supplied, which should be an official letter-headed document signed and dated by the partner.
- A technical CV of any **named costed** Research and Innovation Associate or Specialist. These should be no more than 2 pages in length.

Include the following table at the top of your proposal:

Project Title	
Project Team	Your team should include **one** project lead role (including contact details), plus any number of: • Project co-lead, researcher co-lead, research and innovation associate, specialist, professional enabling staff, technician
Start and End Date	

Your proposal can be **up to** 10 pages in length (not including the above table) and include:

1. **Description of the proposed bridging CCP and its context (up to 6 pages):**
   a. Background of the CCP, including its current aims and objectives and a definition of its research remit and future vision **(up to 1 page)**.
   b. How the CCP will aim to meet the objectives for this funding set out by CoSeC and UKRI DRI (see Section 2), including tasks planned around networking activities and community engagement and how they contribute to the overall objectives.
   c. A description of how the bridged activities contained in this proposal will derive from and complement existing activities.
   d. A strategy that highlights how the CCP will consider engagement across research domains
   e. Plans around engagement and collaboration with CoSeC.
   f. An explanation of the roles and context of named project leads, any project partners and any external advisory panels or bodies named.
   g. An outline of how the CCP will support the Research Technical Professional (e.g. Research Software Engineering) career paths.
2. **Workplan (up to 2 pages):**

a. This should combine all proposed activities in a single timeline. Where a role is assigned to a task then it should be made clear if this through core CoSeC support (see Section 4.1) or requested funding.

b. Deliverables and/or milestones should be made clear within the plan.

c. Requirements around computational resources to deliver planned activities should be scoped, stating clearly how this need will be met. This can include reference to computational resources available to CoSeC.

d. A **mandatory** deliverable of a formal report to CoSeC should be included within the final 6 months of the project (see Section 3.2).

e. In the case of a joint proposal from two or more eligible CCPs, the workplan needs to demonstrate the value of the joint approach. Some parts of the workplan can be specific of individual CCPs if appropriately justified.

3. **Justification of Resources (up to 2 pages):**

a. A detailed breakdown of requested funds, including a profile per financial year (see Section 4). You should ensure it is clear where funds are requested outside of an 80% full economic costing.

b. A timeline of effort requested for all costed roles should be provided. **Note: Effort related to research and innovation associate, specialist or non-leadership elements of research co-lead roles should only be included in the 24/25 and 25/26 financial years.**

Annex A: General Objectives for CCPs

- Continue and grow the leadership of domain-specific computational research that exists in the form of the currently funded CCPs.
- Promote research software sustainability and growth for the benefit of UKRI's research communities. To include long-term development and support strategies.
- Promote the sharing and exploitation of research software to maximise the impact of computational research.
- Promote and provide domain-specific training around computational research software, its applications and related skills.
- Create impactful relationships between researchers across the whole of UKRI's academic and industrial community base around computational research while bridging with private industry within the UK and internationally.
- To ensure UK driven computational research takes a leadership role on the international stage.

Annex B: Additional Grant Conditions

Grants will be subject to the standard UK Research and Innovation grant conditions however the following additional grant conditions will be added to this call. STFC reserves the right to modify or add to these on award as required:

- Projects should reference that they have received funding from the UKRI DRI Programme through CoSeC using the following text. 'This project has received funding through the UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure Programme through the Science and Technology Facilities Council's Computational Science Centre for Research Communities (CoSeC)'.
- Funding will be supplied according to a predefined schedule and financial profiling and according to conditions set out in an offer letter.
- Requests for funding for more than 50% of the total requested for salary costs will be approved at the discretion of STFC, wo reserves the right to propose an alternative funding profile following panel review. Proposals that exceed the 60% limit will not be accepted.
- Funding will be provided with a requirement of the delivery of a report within the final 6 months of the grant period (see Section 3.2).
- The available funding runs between the 1st of November 2024 and the 31st of October 2026. Reprofiling of timelines outside of this period is not permitted except in exceptional circumstances. These will be agreed in advance and STFC retains the right to refuse any such deviation.
- Staffing levels provided by CoSeC are offered based on availability and on the continuation of sufficient funding into the Centre. In the case of expected funding no longer being available or due to unforeseen circumstances relating to staff availability, CoSeC maintains the right to adjust these levels. Any such action will be taken in close consultation with all relevant people.
- Proposals must be produced in conjunction with CoSeC. Those that are not and contain a workplan not approved by the CoSeC Programme Office will not be accepted (see Section 3.1 for details).

Annex C: Current CCPs

	Chair	CoSeC Project Lead	
CCP9	Prof. Stewart Clark	Dr Leon Petit	leon.petit@stfc.ac.uk
CCP-NC	Prof. Paul Hodgkinson	Kane Shenton	kane.shenton@stfc.ac.uk
CCPi	Prof. Philip Withers	Dr Edoardo Pasca	edoardo.pasca@stfc.ac.uk
CCPSyneRBI	Prof. Kris Thielemans	Dr Evgueni Ovtchinnikov	evgueni.ovtchinnikov@stfc.ac.uk
CCPBioSim	Prof. Sarah Harris	Dr James Gebbie-Rayet	james.gebbie@stfc.ac.uk
CCP-NTH	Prof. Shuisheng He	Dr Wei Wang	wei.wang@stfc.ac.uk
CCP-WSI	Prof. Deborah Greaves	Dr Wendi Liu	wendi.liu@stfc.ac.uk
CCP-Turbulence	Prof. Sylvain Laizet	Dr Stefano Rolfo	stefano.rolfo@stfc.ac.uk
CCPQC	Prof. Viv Kendon	Dr Alin Elena	alin-marin.elena@stfc.ac.uk
CCP5	Prof. Paola Carbone	Dr Alin Elena	alin-marin.elena@stfc.ac.uk
CCP4	Dr Ivo Tews	Dr Eugene Krissinel	eugene.krissinel@stfc.ac.uk
CCP-EM	Prof. Neil Ranson	Dr Tom Burnley	tom.burnley@stfc.ac.uk
CCPN	Prof. Geerten Vuister	N/A	