Network H+C Call 2

**Funding Application Guidance**

**Decarbonisation of Heating and Cooling Project Development Sandpit**

Contents

[1. Call Headline Details 1](#_Toc109920345)

[2. About Network H+C 2](#_Toc109920346)

[3. About this Flexible Funding Call 2](#_Toc109920347)

[Register your interest 2](#_Toc109920348)

[Sandpit event 2](#_Toc109920349)

[4. Call Overview and Timeline of Events 3](#_Toc109920350)

[5. Eligibility 4](#_Toc109920351)

[6. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) 4](#_Toc109920352)

[7. Eligible Costs 4](#_Toc109920353)

[8. What reporting will be required? 4](#_Toc109920354)

[9. Further requirements 5](#_Toc109920355)

[10. FAQ and Contact Us 5](#_Toc109920356)

# Call Headline Details

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| --- | --- |
| Maximum proposal value | £50,000 at full economic costing (fEC) |
| Funding level | **80% of fEC** |
| Number of awards available in this call | Funding for up to 7 projects  |
| Total available funding across this call | Up to £350,000 (fEC) |
| Call opens | 1 September 2022 |
| Closing date for Expressions of Interest | 23 September 2022 at 16:00 (GMT) |
| Project duration | 6 months |
| Anticipated project start date | 9 January 2023 |
| Anticipated project end date | 8 July 2023 |

# About Network H+C

The Network for Heating and Cooling Research to Enable a Net-Zero Carbon Future (H+C Zero Network) has been established by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to maximise the impact of UK-funded research and innovation. It is formed by a research partnership between Durham University, Oxford University, Brunel University London, Heriot-Watt University, University of Leeds and Northumbria University.

The aim of the Network is to facilitate researchers, technology developers, managers, policymakers and funders to come together to share their progress, new knowledge and experiences. It also offers seed funding to address key technical, economic, social, environmental and policy challenges.

The Network’s focus is on the following five themes which are essential for decarbonising heating and cooling:

Theme 1 Primary engineering technologies and systems for decarbonisation
Theme 2 Underpinning technologies, materials, control, retrofit and infrastructure
Theme 3 Future energy systems and economics
Theme 4 Social impact and end users’ perspectives
Theme 5 Policy support and leadership for the transition to net-zero

# About this Flexible Funding Call

This call aims to foster **new** collaborations between researchers who have **not** previously worked together on a project.

## **Register your interest**

The first step in this process is to register your interest in joining a cohort of researchers keen on forming new collaborations around the topic of the Decarbonisation of Heating and Cooling. Please complete the online form by 16:00 (GMT) on 23 September 2022 [**REGISTRATION FORM**](https://forms.gle/JYKe1nAxbjuftkeB7)

When registering your interest, there are 2 ways to be involved.

1. As a project lead – in which case you are invited to submit a project idea
2. As a collaborator on a project

## **Sandpit event**

All project ideas will be reviewed and a shortlist of projects to be ‘pitched’ at a sandpit event on 1 November 2022 at The Met Hotel, Leeds will be identified.

The sandpit event will be split into 2 parts.

1. **Pitching and Voting:** The morning will be dedicated to the pitching of project ideas. These pitches will be voted on by attendees and the successful proposals will move forward to be further developed in the afternoon. At this stage, it is considered that all successful pitches are suitable for funding.
2. **Project development:** In the afternoon attendees will be supported to co-develop project teams and shape the pitches into projects which can be delivered over 6 months.

After the event, these project teams will then be invited to submit a 1–2-page proposal by 30 November 2022. This document should detail the aims and objectives, methodology, tasks and deliverables, along with a budget and justification of resources. Subject to final approval, funding will be confirmed.

\*\*\*Please note, if you do not attend the sandpit event, you will not be eligible for funding.

# Call Overview and Timeline of Events

Network H+C is adopting a supportive, flexible approach to identifying new collaborations and project ideas around the topic of Decarbonising Heating and Cooling.

The Network strongly encourages engagement from Early Career Researchers and to support the pitching process, a ‘How to Pitch’ online workshop will be offered on 12 October 2022. Similarly, the Network welcomes a multi-disciplinary approach to this call.

The Network is looking to fund 4-7 projects from this call and based on the funding available, a project proposal is likely to be made up of a 2 – 4 researchers each with a % FTE across the 6 months, along with budget for travel, consumables, and institutional overheads.

The timeline for this call is below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Activity** |
| 1 September 2022 | Call opens |
| 23 September 2022 at 16:00 (GMT)  | Deadline for registering your interest and submitting project ideas |
| Week commencing 26 September 2022 | Cohort with be confirmed and email introductions will be made  |
| 12 October 2022 at 10:00 – 11:00 | Online ‘How to Pitch’ workshop via Zoom |
| Week commencing 17 October 2022  | Selected project ideas will be announced and shared with cohort |
| 1 November 2022  | Sandpit event will take place at The Met Hotel, Leeds (details to be confirmed) |
| 30 November 2022 at 16:00 (GMT) | Deadline for 1-2 page proposal |
| Week commencing 5 December 2022  | Funding will be confirmed |

# Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

(1) Academics based at a UK institution when carrying out the project.

(2) Applications are encouraged for projects led by ECRs from groups that are under-represented in heating and cooling related disciplines. We define an ECR as any academic who has been awarded a PhD but has not yet held a research grant of £100,000 or more.

(3) Network-H+C investigators can apply but will not be considered as PI for the final submitted proposal.

For this call, standard UKRI eligibility rules apply relating to the status of the organisation and the employment status of individuals applying.

For information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive UKRI funding, please refer to: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/>

# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The Network is committed to EDI and this is at the heart of the Network’s activities at all levels. The Network recognises the importance of EDI and that the link between diversity and research productivity is well established. It also understands the benefits that can be achieved through building an inclusive partnership within a multi-disciplinary collaboration with representatives, both academic and industrial stakeholders, across the five themes which underpin the Network.

# Eligible Costs

Applicants must discuss their applications with their local research office and obtain project costings on the institutions standard EPSRC template.

Eligible costs are in line with EPSRC - UKRI terms and conditions: [Costs you can apply for – EPSRC – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/costs-you-can-apply-for/)

Please note that large equipment cannot be supported by this call.

# What reporting will be required?

* It is anticipated that a project will be of 6-months duration, during which an interim report will be required at the end of month 3, detailing progress.
* A final report will be required within one month of the end of each funded application covering the project outcomes, publications and any future plans.
* A final expenditure statement will be required within one month of the end of each awarded project noting the actual costs at 100% and 80% fEC.

# Further requirements

* **Dissemination:** You must be willing to contribute to the overall aims of Network H+C and engage in building Network H+C’s ethos into your project. Furthermore, you will be required to provide an executive summary of the project, to be published on our website:

<https://net-zero-research.co.uk/network-hc/>.

* **Webinars:** Successful applicants will be required to participate in our webinar programme to showcase their project funded by this scheme.
* **Publication:** it is a condition of funding that each project leads to the submission of a journal publication.

# **FAQ and Contact Us**

If you have a question, please do not hesitate to contact the Network by emailing rachel.simpson@durham.ac.uk