

# NDA-Sponsored Call for Proposals

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September 2022

# Academic User Access Call 2022

Time	Agenda item	Lead(s)
10:00	Welcome and introduction	Jonathan Hyde, NNL
10:05	Background to the call	Rick Short, NDA
10:10	The call process	Jonathan Hyde, NNL
10:30	Question and answer session	ALL

## The NNL team

Paul Nevitt (Director of S&T)	Jonathan Hyde (Head of R&D)	Amanda Kenway-Jackson (User Access Lead)*	Stacey O'Driscoll (Procurement)
Mike Wilson (Project Manager)	Adam Qaisar (Technical Lead) – Sellafield site	Ed Butcher (NDA programme lead)	Dan Shepherd (Technical Lead – Preston site)

HENRY . . . .  
ROYCE . . . .  
INSTITUTE



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council



*NNL invites proposals from university academics for user access to NNL facilities and equipment focussing on R&D in support of NDA's mission to clean up the UK's civil nuclear legacy*

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**The call is open from 12<sup>th</sup> September – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 for experiments performed in the period November 2022 to March 2023**

1. To be considered for user access in this call, academics supported by NNL technical leads are required to submit a proposal outlining their proposed experiments using the template provided.
2. Submissions will be assessed by a panel and feedback provided for all submissions.
3. Successful applicants will then work closely with NNL to prepare for the experiments and undergo relevant training and security clearance (where necessary under the site licences).
4. User Access 'time' will then be agreed by the NNL User Access Leader with the academic.
5. The NNL Equipment Lead will work closely with the academic and supervise the experiments, subsequent analysis and provide support in preparation of scientific publications for peer reviewed journals.

### Note

It is a requirement of any granted access that a short case study is prepared jointly, to be used to publicise the value of the R&D delivered.

### **Proposed active\* research must be relevant to the NDA's mission:**

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-strategy-effective-from-march-2021>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nda-5-year-research-and-development-plan-2019-to-2024>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-mission-progress-report-2021>

### **All FY22/23 NDA bursary programme proposals for facility access must apply via this Call.**

\*Primarily, this call covers access to active facilities and equipment. However, access to non-active equipment and facilities will be considered if it is an essential pre-cursor to future active work.

**Funding will primarily be committed for projects that can be completed before the end of March 23**

**Longer duration proposals which include work that extends into 2023/24 will be considered.**

- This call will only fund work completed by end March 23.
- Additional funding for FY23/24 may be forthcoming but is not guaranteed.
- The funding situation for FY23/24 will not be known before April 2023.

**Proposals for work to be delivered solely in FY23/24 can be submitted.**

- However, decisions will have to wait until the FY23/24 funding situation is known (April 2023 at the earliest).

# Proposal Submission Form (Applicant Details)

User Access Call 2022

## Proposal Submission - Academic User Access 2022 Call

To be completed by the applicant with assistance from NNL technical team.

<b>Applicant details</b> To be completed by the applicant with assistance from NNL technical team	Title	
	Full Name	
	Institution	Only UK universities are eligible
	Email contact address	
	Phone number(s)	
	Contact postal address	
	Title of the research project to which this active proposal relates	It is expected that proposals will form part of an ongoing PhD or PDRA research project
	Funding provider for the above research project	e.g. University, EPSRC, Industry, Nuclear Site Licence Company, NDA, Regulators If industry, please provide contact details for the industry sponsor
	Progress to date for above research project	e.g. 50% of PhD project completed to date
	University Contract's Office contact for this proposal	Name and email address of University Contract's Office contact with whom the Call and associated contract requirements including turnaround timescales have been discussed
	NNL contact(s) for this proposal	Name and email address of NNL technical lead with whom the active facilities proposal has been discussed/developed

- Proposals to be developed collaboratively with NNL
- Please include details of your technical contact within NNL

# Proposal Submission Form (Technical Proposal)

Title of the proposed active research activity			
Brief description of the work to be undertaken	This should be at a high level suitable for a general audience – not deep technical detail (200 words)		
Detailed technical scope	Should specify the technical work that will be undertaken in the active area (500 words)		
Sample requirements	Sample details including activity, location, owner, contact details		
	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Type of Access</b>	<b>Rental requirements (Hours) and Any Existing Cost Provider(s)r</b>
Facility (or facilities) that will be required (Add rows as required)	Name of facility and NNL lab in which the facility is located	Hands on, Hands in pocket or remote	Number of facility hours that will be required and name(s) of NNL contact who verified the details. The applicant should complete this form listing any funding sources obtained by their research group for the project area to enable the Assessment Panel to understand financial requirements of and leveraging associated with the proposal

- To be completed with assistance from NNL technical team
- Critical for identifying the facility requirements, access to samples & agreeing type of access
- Please identify any additional funding that may be available from other sources (leverage)



# Proposal Submission Form (Facility Requirements & Assessment Criteria)

<b>Assessed Criteria</b>	
<b>Type of work</b>	Hands on/Hands in pockets/postal/active/non-active This category will count for 20% of the overall score in the assessment process. See Assessment Criteria category <u>Type of Work</u> below for guidance on how to complete this section
<b>Relevance to NDA mission</b>	This category will count for 35% of the overall score in the assessment process. See Assessment Criteria category <u>Relevance to the NDA mission</u> below for guidance on how to complete this section
<b>Skills and capabilities</b>	This category will count for 25% of the overall score in the assessment process. See Assessment Criteria category <u>Skills and Capabilities</u> below for guidance on how to complete this section
<b>Project management</b>	This category will count for 20% of the overall score in the assessment process. See Assessment Criteria category <u>Project management</u> below for guidance on how to complete this section

- Extensive guidance in the call document
- Be succinct – refer back to your detailed technical proposal

# Proposal Submission Form

## Table summaries the activities that need to be funded

- Tick the relevant boxes if you are requesting cover via this call
  - NNL will align funding from the various sponsors (NDA, NNUF & ROYCE)
- If you plan to make use of other funding sources, then please provide details

	NDA funded researcher (e.g. PhD or PDRA on NDA bursary scheme)	Non-NDA funded researcher (e.g. independent PhD student)	
Security clearance*	NDA (plus any additional sources)	Alternative provider; eg University, existing grant funding, NNUF, HRI or NNL	
Drugs and alcohol testing*			
Training courses*			
NNL support in the translation of the experimental requirements to enable production and approval of the written schemes of work to permission the successful experimental proposals			
Support completing the required access forms*			
Transportation of samples to the NNL facility			
Facility time			NDA (plus any additional sources)
NNL operator to perform the experiment			Alternative provider; eg University, existing grant funding, NNUF, HRI or NNL
NNL Project Management			
Travel expenses for attendance at the NNL facility			
Accommodation during attendance at the NNL facility	Funding not included in this Call		
Any form of salary or payment for the work performed by the academic team			
Clear-up and disposal of any waste arisings		Alternative provider; eg University, existing grant funding, NNUF, HRI or NNL	
NNL supervision*	NDA (plus any additional sources)		
Support from NNL scientists on the publication of co-authored posters and production of experimental reports	NNL (if it were beyond what the researcher already receives from their nominated NNL Industrial supervisor)		

\*arranged by NNL for projects that include attendance at NNL

## Equipment:

- P45-69 of the NIRO nuclear equipment catalogue  
[https://www.nirab.org.uk/cdn/uploads/attachments/UK\\_Fission\\_RD\\_NIRO\\_CATALOGUE\\_ONLINE.pdf](https://www.nirab.org.uk/cdn/uploads/attachments/UK_Fission_RD_NIRO_CATALOGUE_ONLINE.pdf)
- NNUF Facilities at NNL - <https://www.nnuf.ac.uk/national-nuclear-laboratory>
- ROYCE Facilities at NNL - <https://www.royce.ac.uk/partners/national-nuclear-laboratory/>

## User Access Modes:

- **'Postal'** - Samples are provided to NNL and analysis is performed by NNL staff
- **'Hands in Pockets'** - Samples are provided to NNL for analysis which is performed by NNL with the academic present to direct work within the agreed scope\*
- **'Hands On'** - Work performed by the academic under NNL supervision \*

\* *These user access modes require individual security clearance.*

# Schedule (1)

Date *	Activity	Notes
<b>12<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Call Opens	Webinar September 22nd
<b>September 2022</b>	Proposal preparation period for academics	Dialogue between the academic and the NNL Lead Equipment Scientist to test the technical and operational feasibility of the proposal within the defined timescales.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Call Closes (23:59)	
<b>17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Panel Assessment of the proposals	A panel review of all proposals is planned to be held during the week 17-21st October.
<b>24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022</b>	Notification of the Panel decisions	<p>Applicants will be notified of the Panel's decisions. Feedback will follow.</p> <p>Successful applicants will receive contract paperwork that includes additional details to be completed by the applicant. (Contract and Researcher Study Agreement is mandatory).</p>

\* The schedule of this call is subject to potential change and/or enduring restrictions arising from any further COVID-19 or other pandemic response.

# Schedule (2)

Date	Activity	Notes
<b>Nov 2022</b>	Security Clearance Process	The level and duration of this varies based on the type of access requested and individual circumstances but it is a <b>rate-limiting step for access</b> (average of <u>4-6 weeks for non-active and Preston Lab</u> ; <u>3 months for areas of Central and Windscale Labs</u> ) so must be initiated for successful applicants immediately. NNL will advise successful applicants of the requirements.
	Preparation and planning for experiments and access	This will require further discussion between NNL and successful applicants.
<b>November 2022 – March 2023</b>	User Access for 'Postal' experiments	The specific timing of user access will be notified by NNL User Access Leader noting maximum project duration of 3 months
<b>December 2022 – March 2023</b>	User Access for 'Hands in Pockets' and 'Hands On' experiments	The specific timing of user access will be notified by the NNL User Access Leader and is subject to security approval. NOTE: Maximum project duration of 3 months

## Proposals

- **must be endorsed by NNL technical leads (to confirm proposed work is feasible & to ensure facility requests are realistic)**
- **should lead to detail high quality scientific output relevant to the NDA mission**

## Proposals will be assessed by a panel with external representation

- NDA, NNUF and Royce representatives are being invited

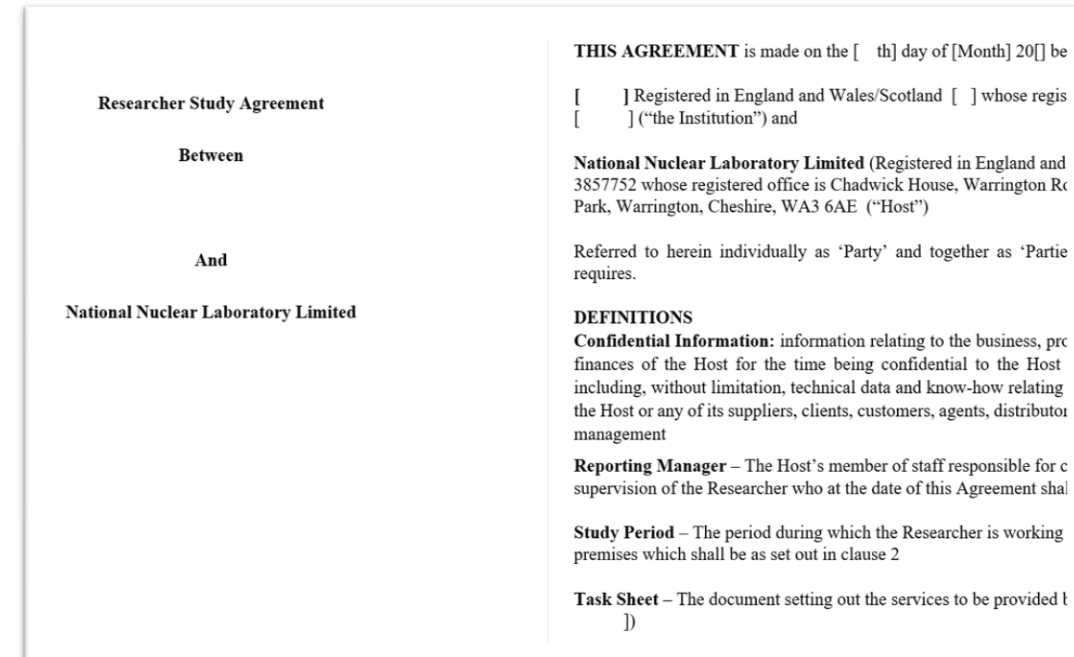
## Proposals will be assessed against the following four categories:

- Type of Work (20%)
- Relevance to the NDA Mission (35%)
- Skills and Capabilities (25%)
- Project Management (20%)

**Detailed information on these categories was provided as part of the Call paperwork**

### Successful applicants will need to sign a 'Researcher Study Agreement' (RSA) - a legal agreement between your University and NNL that must be in place before accessing NNL facilities to perform work and covers:

- High level description of the agreed access
- Terms & Conditions
- Confidentiality and ownership of any IP
- Data Protection
- Duties, Standards & Expectations of all parties
- Liability Insurance



### **This call aims to**

- Facilitate scientific progress in support of the NDA mission
- Encourage collaboration between academia, national labs and industry
- Enable researchers' to develop practical skill-sets of relevance to the nuclear sector
- Lead to publishable research

**Early engagement with NNL's technical leads is advised – contact details in the NIRO catalogue or email [access.liaison@uknnl.com](mailto:access.liaison@uknnl.com)**

**NNL is very grateful to the NDA, NNUF and ROYCE for co-sponsoring this call.**



# Q & A

Moderated by Ed Butcher (NNL) and Rick Short (NDA)

**National Nuclear Laboratory**  
5th Floor, Chadwick House  
Warrington Road, Birchwood Park  
Warrington WA3 6AE  
**T.** +44 (0) 1925 933 744  
**E.** [customers@uknnl.com](mailto:customers@uknnl.com)  
**[www.nnl.co.uk](http://www.nnl.co.uk)**

*The schedule of this call is subject to potential change and/or enduring restrictions arising from any further COVID-19 or other pandemic response. Dates noted within this Call are all subject to the condition that any planned access must be possible within any Government imposed restrictions on work or travel, any imposed restrictions by the Site licensor and within any operating procedures put in place by NNL to ensure the continued safety and health of our workforce and any other visitors to our facilities*