

NERC Environmental Data – Short Projects to consider applications, products and services

Aim of the Call: NERC is keen to enhance the impact of its investments by facilitating the take up of environmental data and information, produced from research it has funded, in the development (& use) of applications, products or services that could benefit a wide range of users.

To achieve this, NERC is working in partnership with the Technology Strategy Board on a feasibility study competition, “New Business Solutions from Environmental Data”, which launched in October 2013, with projects starting in 2014.

The purpose of the short projects was therefore, in advance of the feasibility study competition, to fund initial short studies to enable researchers from across the NERC community, to engage with businesses and/or other end users. The aim of the projects was to better understand end user needs and consider whether these could be met by using and integrating NERC funded environmental data and information with, if necessary, other sources of information.

The focus of the call included, but was not limited to:

1. Liaising with businesses and other end users to understand their requirements and gauge their interest in a product, service or application, which uses NERC funded data;
2. Development of, in discussion with the end user, a mock up or ‘storyboard’ to visualise what the product, service or application may look like.
3. The working up of datasets, preferably from NERC Data Centres, which are of interest to business and other end users, to ensure they will be accessible, in preparation for the Technology Strategy Board/NERC “New Business Solutions from Environmental Data” call.

Funded Awards (July 2013)

Title	PI	Grant held at	Partner organisations (where applicable)	Grant Award (£)
Inclusion of water stress metric in the Cool Farm Tool	Dr. J. Hillier	Aberdeen	Reading	7,901
Applied Geological map products for the house building industry	Dr. R. Dearden	BGS		10,809.89
Meta-Model: Ensuring the widespread access to meta-data and data for environmental models - A scoping study	Dr. A. Hughes	BGS	HR-Wallingford	14,963.57
Natural Hazard Partnership Hazard Impact Model Operational Delivery System, feasibility Study	Dr. M. Harrison	BGS	CEH	15,000
Development of a cliff instability susceptibility tool	Dr. P. Hobbs	BGS	Channel Coastal Observatory	15,000.00

One RTM: a pilot study for exploring the business case for the next generation of online real-time numerical modelling and data services	Dr. L.Wang	BGS		12,560.91
Sustainable Urban Meteorological Networks (SUMNs): Managing the Legacy of the Birmingham Urban Climate Laboratory	Dr. L. Chapman	Birmingham		12,948
Assessing ecosystem services in the Cool Farm Tool: a model for pesticide impacts on the natural pest control service based on evidence and biological records	Dr. L. Dicks	Cambridge	Aberdeen	11,714
The Use of NERC Data to develop water security indicators	Dr. S. Wade	HRW		14,915
Wind and solar resource mapping tools to unlock renewable energy potential within cities	Professor A. Tomlin	Leeds		15,000
Provisional: Data mining for geological information	Professor A. Gorban	Leicester	BGS	14,705
Empowering Business to Access Climate Science (E-BACS)	Professor A. Morse	Liverpool		13,553
Risk Mapping for improved conceptual models - Using BGS g-based data to reduce uncertainty and support sustainable development in urban areas	Professor P. Nathaniel	Nottingham		13,946
Advances in Sea - Circulation Technology for Sustained Green Shipping	Dr. N. Paltalidis	Portsmouth		11,332.12
User Oriented Agricultural Drought Decision-support Insurance Tool (uADDIT)	Dr. E. Black	Reading		13,457
Flood Risk Assessment and Mitigation using Satellite Synthetic Aperture Radar Images	Dr. D. Mason	Reading		13,558
Developing the MAREMAP toolbox to allow the Marine Renewable Energy Sector to access NERC data	Dr. J. Howe	SAMS		14,600
Assessing the feasibility of VineFinder: an online decision support tool for viticulturists.	Dr. K. Parks	Southampton		9,273
Using a UK biomass energy market model to assist business and policy makers	Professor D. Moran	SRUC		14,966