



SPF CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME

Preparing for Future Clean Air Challenges: Interdisciplinary research and innovation consortia

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

If you have any questions regarding the SPF Clean Air Consortia funding opportunity please contact Boudewijn Dominicus (atmospheric@nerc.ukri.org). This document will be continually updated with responses to commonly received questions.

1. How can those who do not meet the eligibility criteria be involved in the Consortia?

Those who do not meet the eligibility criteria may be involved in the Consortia as part of the bid as a project partner (at their own cost) or there is an option for involvement via a sub-contract but this would need to be clearly justified in the bid.

2. What is the ideal number of participants on a proposal?

There is no limit (minimum or maximum) for participants in a proposal. The guiding principle should be to structure your proposal such that it meets the proposal objectives in the [Announcement of Opportunity](#) document. A proposal should: justify why participants are involved, justify the concomitant requested resources and proposed management structure and how, taken together, this will address the call objectives.

3. Does a SPF Clean Air Consortia require multiple universities on a proposal?

There is no requirement on the number of research organisations involved in a proposal. The guiding principle should be to structure your proposal such that it meets the objectives in the [Announcement of Opportunity](#) document. Thus, a proposal should demonstrate the suitability of the range and involvement of expertise of the proposed team members to meet the call objectives (noting in particular the need to *“propose interdisciplinary approaches and draws appropriate expertise from across diverse academic disciplines and wider stakeholders”*).

4. Should there be/is there an advantage to including successful SPF Clean Air Network awardees on a SPF Clean Air Consortia proposal?

The SPF Clean Air Consortia call is separate from the Networks call.

Although part of the same programme, this is a separate funding opportunity and as such, there is no requirement to be part of a [Clean Air Network](#) to apply to the Consortia call.

Additionally, consortia do not have to align with, or build on the networks, as this is a separate funding opportunity. However, it might be helpful if your Consortia proposal is in a similar area as one of the Clean Air Networks, to talk about how these stakeholder links could be leveraged to enhance the overall impact of your consortia project.

5. Do NERC institutional demand management restrictions apply to this call?

This call is not subject to NERC institutional demand restrictions. However, please do note the following section in the [Announcement of Opportunity](#) document which states: *“Investigators may participate as a Co-I or a PI in a maximum of two proposals submitted to the call, and only one of these as the lead PI.”*



What is the NOI stage for, and can information change between an NOI and submission of a full proposal?

The NOI will not be assessed and will be used to help us to plan the assessment process. The NOI is an obligatory requirement of this call and outline proposals will only be accepted from those teams who submit a completed NOI form prior to the deadline. A table outlining what may or may not change between NOI and full proposal is included below:

PI	May not change
Co-Is (space for up to 10 on the NOI form)	May change – please let NERC (atmospheric@nerc.ukri.org) know if there are significant changes to Co-Is
Project Title	May change – please let NERC (atmospheric@nerc.ukri.org) know if there is any change to your title
Abstract	The spirit of the project detailed in the abstract may not change.
Potential reviewers	Not compulsory to complete.

6. Are joint PIs on Outline or Full Proposals?

Joint PIs are not allowed for this call.

Each Outline proposal should have one identified (lead) PI.

If you are invited to submit a Full proposal and your application comprises ‘component grants’ in support of the overall proposal, additional investigators will be named as the PI on these components. However, there will remain only one identified lead PI for the ‘main’ proposal.

More specifically, the [Announcement of Opportunity](#) states: *“One outline proposal submission is required for each proposed project; this should be submitted by the lead Principal Investigator and cover all consortium components. If [the Outline is] successful, some of the Co-Investigators would then become the Principal or Co- Investigators on the component grant proposals and not be named on the lead grant proposal.”*