

Quick Reference

Please note that you must read the full Call document for guidance before submitting your proposal

Establishing a NetworkPlus in Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Closing date: 16:00, 6 December 2018

Funding Available: Up to £1.7 million is available for this call, to support one single NetworkPlus.

How to apply: Full proposal submission

Assessment Process: Full proposal followed by an interview panel

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Call Published	4 September 2018
Webinar registration deadline	17:00, 17 October 2018
Webinar	14:30, 18 October 2018
Call Deadline	16:00, 6 December 2018
Interview	February 2019
Decision communicated	March 2019

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Establishing a NetworkPlus in Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Closing date: 16:00, 6 December 2018

Related themes: Digital Economy, Global Uncertainties, ICT

Summary

The EPSRC would like to establish a NetworkPlus to develop and build on industry-academic relationships in Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security (TIPS). This network will bring together relevant parts of the TIPS community and a variety of stakeholders, including the CyberInvest members and other users, to identify the key opportunities where industry-academic collaboration is needed, build collaborations and grow the area of research and innovation for the benefit of the UK.

It must involve a broad range of disciplines relevant to TIPS, including those beyond the purely technical elements, such as psychology, politics, legal and ethical studies among others. Non-academic stakeholders, including CyberInvest partners, will be essential participants. The NetworkPlus could undertake a variety of activities including workshops, events, feasibility studies, secondments and horizon scanning. Applicants are encouraged to be innovative in their approach.

We envisage supporting a single NetworkPlus that is UK-wide and from a consortium of Research Organisations, the main aim being to ensure the team has the appropriate depth, expertise and coverage across the full spectrum of the topic.

Up to £1.7 million (at 80% FEC) is available for this call, to support one single NetworkPlus.

There will be a webinar on 18 October at 14:30 which will feature a presentation from EPSRC contacts and an opportunity to ask any questions. More information on how to register for this will be listed on the webpage associated with this call.

Background

EPSRC has supported a strong portfolio of academic research in cyber security and beyond. This includes EPSRC working in conjunction with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), to recognise Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research¹ (ACEs-CSR) and establish four Research Institutes².

¹ <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/centres/acecybersecurity/>

² <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/research-institutes>

Together, these represent. EPSRC has also supported a number of projects as part of the Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security (TIPS) priority^{3,4} which have a broad, interdisciplinary scope, alongside the interdisciplinary PETRAS Research Hub⁵ into the cyber security of the Internet of Things (IoT).

NCSC and EPSRC have also established CyberInvest⁶ as a partnership that brings together key players from government and industry to invest and support the development of cutting-edge cyber security research across the UK's academic sector.

CyberInvest's vision is:

- to encourage and promote industry investment in cyber security research within UK universities
- to create a community of industry, government and academia committed to cyber security research in the UK

These initiatives have identified academic research excellence, kick-started new Communities of Interest around specific research themes and have facilitated academic-industry relationships in key areas. However, there remains a need to further bolster UK capacity and capability in TIPS research and innovation by, for example: harnessing the knowledge and skills of those who are not currently part of any of the aforementioned communities and may not consider themselves part of the landscape; exploring nascent ideas for future research and collaboration; improving problem-sharing or application of research in real-world environments by building communities.

EPSRC has built up a considerable track record of supporting various NetworkPluses; for example the Digital Economy Theme previously funded four NetworkPlus grants (and there have been others across other areas of EPSRC and ESRC since). The NetworkPlus will naturally call on the expertise, relationships and structures already established but should not be constrained by them, and should be innovative in promoting and finding new ways to explore TIPS challenges with the widest possible participation.

A particular focus of the NetworkPlus should be to stimulate new partnerships, engagement and tangible pre-competitive research projects between academics and non-academic stakeholders, including the CyberInvest partners.

When the DE Theme networks finished in 2016, a light-touch review was undertaken by EPSRC. These networks developed a rich body of outputs, including new collaborations, grant proposals, new research methods, feasibility studies, reports, policy briefings, films, and even led to some spin-out companies and patents. Lessons learned from the previous activities include:

- A clear, well-defined topic for the network is needed to focus plans and activities;

³ <http://gow.epsrc.ac.uk/NGBOVViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-37PAUA&RankingListId=1-37PAXB>

⁴ <http://gow.epsrc.ac.uk/NGBOVViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-51D2IJ&RankingListId=1-51D2IQ>

⁵ <https://www.petrashub.org/about/>

⁶ <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/articles/cyber-invest>

- Administrative and Host-University support for the network is vital, in order to support activities such as feasibility studies and dissemination activities;
- Different scales of feasibility study funding are appropriate for different research topics or disciplines;
- Expectation and arrangements for Full Economic Costing of network activities need to be clear across all parties;
- Long-term plans for the legacy and/or sustainability of the network need to be considered early on;
- Any future networks should consider increased interactions with Catapults⁷ and wider use of social media.

For more information about EPSRC's portfolio and strategies, see our website: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/>

Aim and scope of the call

EPSRC would like to establish a NetworkPlus to develop and build on industry-academic relationships in the TIPS area. The aims will be to:

- Bring together experts from across all relevant research disciplines and non-academic stakeholders and kick-start new collaborations including with those working in disciplines who would not yet consider themselves part of the cyber security landscape, for example Economics, Law, Sociology, Behavioural Sciences, Management Studies or the Arts;
- Facilitate conversations aimed at breaking down and lowering barriers between industry and academia – for example holding workshops on Intellectual Property management or responsible innovation;
- Consolidate what UK industries' pre-competitive research problems are in cyber-security and start solving them
- Act as a focal point for tackling and developing new aspects of research and innovation in TIPS

The network should undertake a variety of activities to bring together relevant TIPS stakeholders to identify the key research opportunities, build collaborations and grow the area of research and innovation, ultimately leading to academic, social, economic, policy or cultural impact. Activities could include workshops, events, feasibility studies, secondments or horizon scanning. For example a NetworkPlus could facilitate a workshop on different approaches to Intellectual Property management, support secondments between industry and academia and feasibility projects between academia and industry. Applicants are encouraged to be innovative in their approach.

The NetworkPlus should involve a broad range of disciplines, beyond those considered to be "core" cybersecurity. It is essential that CyberInvest partners and other non-academic stakeholders are included, to provide the expertise

⁷ <https://catapult.org.uk/>

required to co-create and implement novel, user-inspired solutions which incorporate legal and ethical considerations. Network activities should be UK-wide, and open to all relevant researchers.

NetworkPlus proposals should complement current research activities and existing networks, for example the London Office for Rapid Cybersecurity Advancement (LORCA)⁸. We are not looking to provide continuation funding for existing networks, but this should build on new opportunities highlighted by previous networking activities.

Any work in this area will help address the socio-technical and interdisciplinary challenges around TIPS/cyber security including societal, ethical, philosophical, legal and regulatory implications, opportunities, issues and risks. Consideration of these is essential to ensure that the technological research carried out is considered within a societal context and that any such issues that are raised are fully explored as the research develops. The NetworkPlus should promote this with the community it supports by building the capacity to discuss and consider social and ethical questions.

We recognise that this is a very broad area with many challenges. We expect the NetworkPlus to broadly cover the whole area, helping to catalyse change by bringing new people together to co-create new ideas that lead to future research projects or innovation. It will not be able to solve all the research problems in TIPS, but it will enable the UK to make a step change in the way academia and industry engage and interact. It will break down barriers, improve knowledge exchange, catalyse an increase in trust and communication between parties and facilitate the identification of challenges and the co-creation of ideas. It will also enable the support of first steps to test ideas and develop them further.

Funding available

The EPSRC wishes to support one single NetworkPlus, and there is up to £1.7M available in total (at 80% FEC).

An award will be made for between 48-60 months' duration. This is to ensure that funding for feasibility studies can be allocated and spent during the lifetime of the award.

Bids should be from a consortium of Research Organisations, the main aim being to ensure the team has the appropriate depth, expertise and coverage across the full spectrum of the topic. The PI of the proposal should have a collaborative mind-set alongside excellent leadership and management abilities. There should also be comprehensive administrative support requested as this is essential to ensure the NetworkPlus works in practise.

Funding requested under the Directly Allocated cost heading may include:

Investigators' salaries - The Principal Investigator (PI) and up to four Co-Investigators (Co-Is) can request funds to cover their salary costs for the time spent on setting up and leading the NetworkPlus. The salary costs of NetworkPlus participants should not be included in the proposal and we would not expect these individuals to be Co-Investigators.

⁸ <https://www.lorca.co.uk/>

Funding requested under the Directly Incurred cost heading may include:

Travel and subsistence - Travel and subsistence enabling members of the NetworkPlus to meet together to exchange ideas and expertise. This may include visits by or to experts overseas. This may also include travel and subsistence costs to support secondments. Where possible collaborators should meet their own travel costs.

Administrative support – A sufficient level of administrative support should be requested to ensure the co-ordination, management and smooth running of the NetworkPlus. Reasonable costs for monitoring and dissemination of the network's output can also be included.

Organisation of Activities - Funding can be requested for costs involved in running activities such as networking events, expert working groups, debates, online discussion forums, lectures, seminars, problem-solving workshops etc. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about the range of activities that could support the delivery of the NetworkPlus goals.

Research - Research activity to support the research strategy developed within the NetworkPlus. Funds can be requested for PDRA staff, consumables, travel and subsistence and any other costs eligible under 'Directly Incurred' headings. This is likely to include a budget for feasibility studies that can be allocated to researchers at other universities; in this case applicants will need to think carefully about how this budget will be managed. EPSRC would expect some examples of the types of projects at the application stage, but the research challenges should evolve during the course of the network activities and should be co-created and collaborative in nature.

Funding can also be requested for:

- Activities to identify and disseminate key research challenges in the area, for example horizon-scanning studies
- Activities to develop other pathways to impact, such as reports, websites and briefings.
- Secondment support – including scoping of potential opportunities, travel & subsistence, etc
- Feasibility support, including testing out ideas to proof of concept (but not to Demonstrator phase or beyond TRL 4).

Full consideration of the implications of your work is important. Scientific research has the ability to not only produce understanding, knowledge and value, but also unintended impacts, questions, ethical dilemmas and, at times, unexpected transformations in social life. We recognise that we have a duty of care to promote approaches to "responsible innovation" which will initiate ongoing reflection about the potential ethical and societal implications of the research that we sponsor on behalf of the taxpayer and to encourage our research community to do likewise. Our aim is to build capacity within our research community to discuss and consider social and ethical questions. Therefore we expect applicants to work within the Framework for Responsible

Innovation⁹. Applicants could consider requesting support to fund activities run by ORBIT¹⁰, which provides services to promote and support responsible research and innovation.

Guidance on the types of support that may be sought is given on the EPSRC website (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/>).

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The long term strength of the UK research base depends on harnessing all the available talent and the Research Councils have together developed the ambitious UKRI Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/skills/action-plan-edi-2016/> (PDF).

In line with the UKRI Diversity Principles, EPSRC expects that equality and diversity is embedded at all levels and in all aspects of research practice. We are committed to supporting the research community in the diverse ways a research career can be built with our investments. This includes career breaks, support for people with caring responsibilities, flexible working and alternative working patterns. With this in mind, we welcome applications from academics who job share, have a part-time contract, need flexible working arrangements or those currently committed to other longer, large existing grants. Please see our Equality and Diversity webpages at <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/> for further information.

Equipment

Equipment over £10,000 in value (inc. VAT) is not available through this call. Smaller items of equipment (individually under £10,000) should be in the Directly Incurred - Other Costs heading.

For more information on equipment funding, please see: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/>

Eligibility

For information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive EPSRC funding, see the EPSRC Funding Guide: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/>

A list of eligible organisations to apply to EPSRC is provided at: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

How to apply

Submitting an application

You should prepare and submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>).

⁹ <http://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>

¹⁰ <https://www.orbit-rri.org/>

When adding a new proposal, you should select:

- Council 'EPSRC'
- Document type 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme 'Standard'
- On the Project Details page you should select the 'Establishing a Networkplus in Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security' call.

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to EPSRC. Please allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date. EPSRC must receive your application by **16:00 on 6 December 2018**.

Guidance on the types of support that may be sought and advice on the completion of the research proposal forms are given on the EPSRC website (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/>) which should be consulted when preparing all proposals.

Guidance on writing an application

Applicants should include the following information within their application:

- The track record of the team and leadership qualities of the PI - why are these the best people to run the NetworkPlus?
- Any particular areas the NetworkPlus will be focused
- Proposed activities of the NetworkPlus
- Proposed partners and members
- Links to other relevant networks/research/activities
- Potential outputs and outcomes

Applicants should also bear in mind the assessment criteria below.

Applicants should use the Ethical Information section on the Je-S form to demonstrate to peer reviewers that they have fully considered any ethical issues concerning the material they intend to use, the nature and choice, current public perceptions and attitudes towards the subject matter or research area. EPSRC will not fund a project if it believes that there are ethical concerns that have been overlooked or not appropriately accounted for. All relevant parts of the Ethical Information section must be completed. If the research will involve human participation or the use of animals covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 it is recommended that applicants pay particular attention to the guidance highlighted below. EPSRC reserves the right to reject applications prior to peer review if the Ethical Information sections are not completed correctly.

Further guidance on completing the Je-S form can be found at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/EthicalInformation.htm>. Other relevant guidance includes: EPSRC's policy on animal use in

research (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy/>) and the Responsible Innovation Framework (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

Proposals to this call should come from a consortium of Research Organisations which should be submitted as a single proposal submitted by the lead organisation on behalf of all partners. Proposals submitted as multiple forms will not be accepted, and will be rejected without being peer reviewed.

Please note that on submission to EPSRC **all** non-PDF documents uploaded onto Je-S are converted to PDF, the use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document.

For advice on writing proposals see:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/preparing/>

Assessment

Assessment process

Any proposal that does not fit the remit of the call will be rejected prior to peer review.

NetworkPlus proposals will be assessed at interview against the criteria below by an independent panel of TIPS experts, selected to represent a wide range of research and stakeholders. The interview panel will be asked to make a funding recommendation to EPSRC.

A funding decision will be made in March 2019.

Feedback will be provided to all applicants after the panel interview.

Assessment criteria

- Fit to call (Primary)
 - Potential to identify TIPS research opportunities between industry and academia
 - Potential to advance the UK's capabilities in TIPS. What will be different and better as a result of the NetworkPlus funding?
- Quality of the proposed network (Secondary Major)
 - Ambition and adventure
 - Appropriateness of proposed membership and activities
- National Importance (Secondary Major)
 - Contribution of the proposed NetworkPlus to TIPS research, and the success of the UK economy and society
 - New activity that complements existing networks and current research activities in related areas

- Evidence of user engagement, co-creation and support (financial cash or in-kind) and ability to engage with users
- Ability of the applicant team to deliver the NetworkPlus (Secondary)
 - Track record of the Principal Investigator in relevant research, leadership and management of complex activities
 - Evidence of thought leadership, responding to strategic and policy drivers
 - Sufficient support for managing the centre
 - Appropriate range of expertise of core NetworkPlus members
- Resources and management (Secondary)
 - The appropriateness of the requested resources and the effectiveness of the proposed management structure and plans
 - Appropriateness of management of funds for feasibility studies
- Pathways to impact (Secondary)
 - Existence of a clearly thought through and acceptable pathways to impact
 - Appropriate engagement plans with users to accelerate impact
 - Appropriateness of dissemination plans

Guidance for reviewers

Information about the EPSRC peer review process and guidance for reviewers can be found at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/>

Guidance for reviewing standard grants can be found here: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/formsandguidancenotes/standardgrants/>

Additional grant conditions (AGCs)

In addition to the standard Terms and Conditions for grants, successful applicants will be required to appoint an independent advisory board to provide advice on the strategic direction and activities of the network. This advisory board should have a membership (agreed with EPSRC) drawn from the academic, industrial and international scientific community and include a representative from EPSRC. Successful applicants should aim to hold a meeting of this steering group within three months of starting the grant.

Feasibility funding will be awarded as 'flexible funds'. Notwithstanding the standard grant condition concerning the transfer of funds between headings, the sum awarded under the heading of 'flexible funds' can be used to fund both directly incurred and directly allocated costs.

These funds must be reported on the final expenditure statement (FES) as directly incurred and a breakdown of the expenditure must be submitted along with the FES. Normal conditions apply to all other funds awarded on this grant.

Applicants should produce a 2-page annual report to summarise major highlights and key findings. This should be published publicly and EPSRC will provide an indicative template.

Moving forward

Submissions to this call will count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy. Further information about the policy can be found at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/basics/resubpol/rua/>

Key dates

Activity	Date*
Call Published	4 September 2018
Webinar registration deadline	17:00, 17 October 2018
Webinar	14:30, 18 October 2018
Call Deadline	16:00, 6 December 2018
Interview	February 2019
Decision communicated	March 2019

*EPSRC aims to adhere to the key dates as published, however there may be exceptions where the interview meeting may have to change due to panel member availability.

Contacts

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Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Miriam Dowle	22/08/2018	1	N/A

Je-S attachments Check List

Attachment Type	Maximum Page length	Mandatory/Optional	Extra Guidance
Case for Support	8 pages	Mandatory	Comprising up to two A4 sides for a track record, and six A4 sides

			describing proposed research and its context.
Pathways to Impact	2 pages	Mandatory	
Workplan	1 page	Mandatory	
Justification for Resources	2 pages	Mandatory	
CVs	2 pages each	Optional	For named and visiting researchers, and researcher co-investigators only.
Project Partner Letters of Support	No page limits	Optional	Must be included from all named project partners. Must be on headed paper, and be signed and dated within six months of the proposal submission date.
Letters of Support	No page limits	Optional	In exceptional circumstances a maximum of three letters can be submitted.
Proposal Cover Letter	No page limit	Optional	The cover letter can be used to highlight any important information to EPSRC. This attachment type is not seen by reviewers or panel members.
Other Attachment	No page limit	Optional	

Please ensure you adhere to the above attachment requirements when submitting your proposal. Any missing, over length or unnecessary attachments may result in your proposal being rejected.