



UKRI Interdisciplinary Circular Economy calls

Webinar – 22 October 2019

Webinar introduction

- The webinars (and these slides) will cover topics such as a background to the calls, the vision and objectives, eligibility and funding restrictions and assessment criteria
- The call documents contain the definitive details of both calls
- All questions received have been answered in a Q&A document on both call pages. The webinars have not been recorded
- Both webinars were identical, and questions from both are in the Q&As. These slides are from the second webinar and have been updated in places to answer questions from the first webinar

Webinar introduction

- For administrative reasons, the calls (and these webinars) are hosted by EPSRC – but applications are welcome from across UK Research & Innovation remit, and there are no expectations on disciplinary balance
- Questions (on both calls) are welcome via email to circular.economy@epsrc.ukri.org , or by phone (see call documents)

Background

- This £30m UKRI programme (developed by AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, NERC and Innovate UK, with DEFRA and BEIS) will build an **interdisciplinary circular economy research and innovation community** that will provide the underpinning research understanding to enable the transition to a more circular economy.
- This will support policymakers and industry with frameworks to make more effective evidence-based decisions, and develop clear implementation pathways.
- The programme will also accelerate innovative solutions needed to enable change, and support strong national leadership and coordination facilitating cross-sector stakeholder engagement.

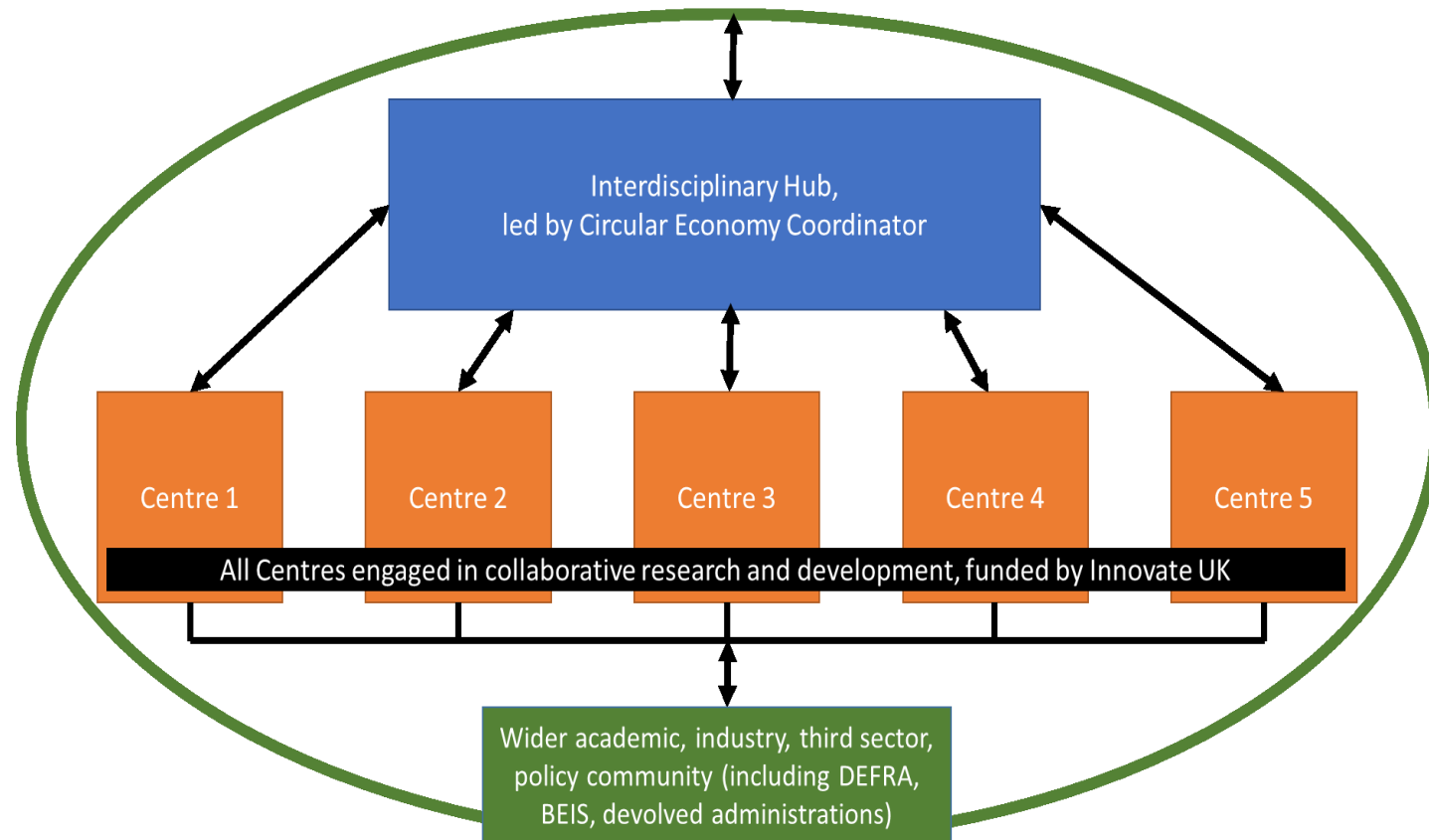
Background

The programme has three key objectives, to:

- Accelerate understanding and solutions to enable circularity of specific resource flows (including related waste streams and uses, and within sector contexts)
- Provide national leadership, coordinate and drive knowledge exchange across the programme as a whole and with policy, consumer, third sector and business stakeholders
- Ensure research is embedded with stakeholders by involving businesses, policymakers, consumers and society, the third sector, and other affected groups and communities at every part of the programme – including provision of funding to enable SME involvement.

Background

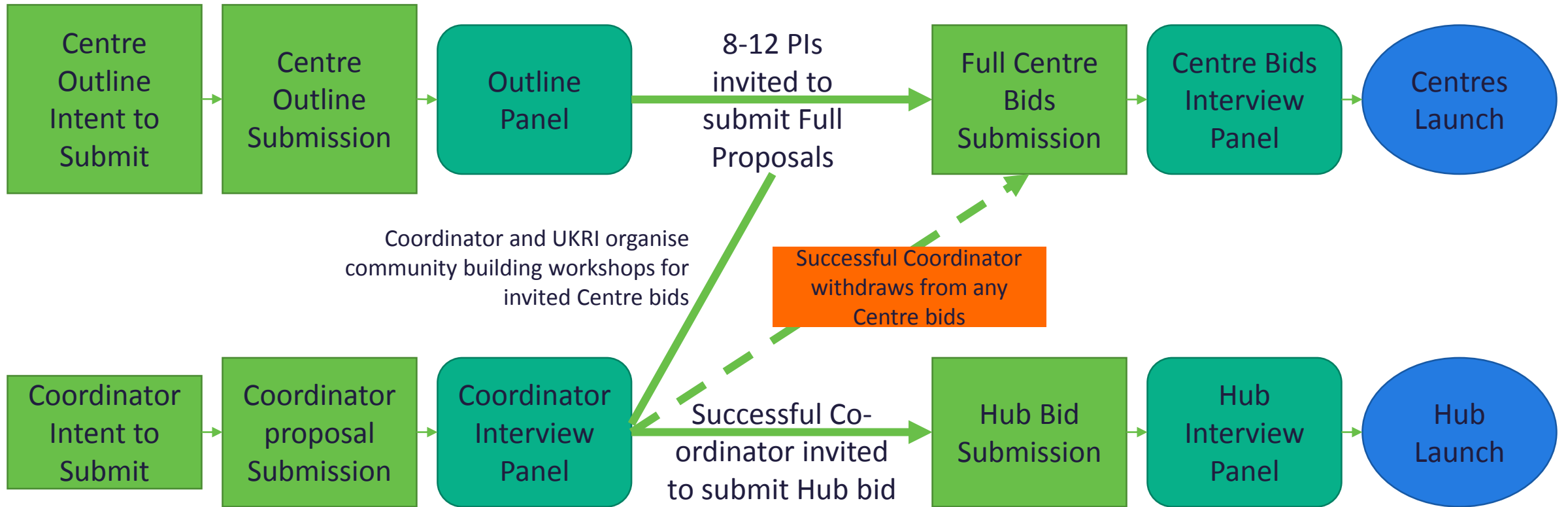
The programme objectives will be progressed by £30m of funding for up to five interdisciplinary Centres and an integration Hub led by a Coordinator.



Current calls

- Up to **£22.5M** available (alongside **£2.5M of future funding** to enable small and medium enterprise involvement with Centres) to support **up to five interdisciplinary Centres** of up to 48 months, expected to be from October 2020.
 - Intent to Submit deadline: 16.00 19 November 2019
 - Outline closing date: 16.00 05 December 2019
- Up to **£150,000** for **one grant of up to 11 months**, leading to a second stage with a single proposal submission for an **Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Hub**, with up to **£3.3m** available for up to 43 Months expected to start January 2021.
 - Intent to Submit deadline: 16.00 31 October 2019
 - Outline closing date: 16.00 19 November 2019

Current calls



Current calls

Centre
Outline
Inter
St

UKRI is not imposing any restrictions on applying to be an Investigator on both calls at this stage – BUT the successful Coordinator must stand down from any Centre proposal. Neither panel will be aware if an investigator has also applied to the other call.

Centres
Launch

Coor
Inter
Submit

There are no UKRI limits on the number of applications you can be an Investigator on.

Hub
Launch

Eligibility

- Standard UKRI eligibility rules apply to both the status of individuals applying to be investigators and the status of organisations
- Investigators from **all disciplines supported by UKRI** are welcomed and encouraged to apply. Multi- or single institution applications are welcomed
- The only eligible organisations are Higher Education Institutes, Research Institutes and Research Organisations that can apply for funding from UKRI Research Councils. A list of eligible organisations to apply to UKRI is provided at: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/> . Certain Public Sector Research Establishments are also eligible – please contact UKRI for details

Centres call – vision and objectives

- Centres should each focus on a **nationally important “resource flow”**, defined broadly as processes involved in how a resource (materials, material systems, products and/or services) transforms between states as it flows through the system.
 - The focus should be broad enough to cover a whole-systems approach, but narrow enough to constitute one “resource flow” (which can include multiple materials/products/ services if interlinked within one resource flow)
- The research should take a whole-systems approach, considering related waste streams, uses and re-uses of resources, and multiple sector contexts
- Outline proposals must highlight why the proposed resource flow is **nationally important** and how **interdisciplinary investigation** would enable the implementation of effective, evidence-backed solutions (including pathways to impact, beyond fundamental research)

Centres call – vision and objectives

- Applicants should consider:
 - The size of the opportunity associated with their current/emerging resource flow – its long-term economic, environmental and social impacts to the UK
 - How the Centre can contribute to UK government commitments on resource efficiency, reducing embodied greenhouse gas emissions, and achieving climate change commitments
 - The extent to which interdisciplinary research could have a significant impact on the resource flow, increasing circularity and resource efficiency to a) reduce costs and material use, b) reduce pollution and emissions, and c) improve quality of life
 - The benefits, risks and trade-offs of transitioning to a more circular approach – and actionable solutions to deliver benefits

Centres call – further information

- At outline stage, applicants should have identified the majority of the core interdisciplinary team but it is not expected that consortia will be fully formed
- Budgets are not required at outline stage (but consider the £4.5m expected size)
- No Project Partner details are needed at outline stage. Centres have a target of £2m in contributions (cash/in-kind) **over their lifetime** to meet a programme requirement for £10m of business leverage. Host institution contributions **do not** count towards this £2m; Project Partners need not all be UK-based
- UKRI will subsequently run competitions worth up to £2.5m for SMEs to engage in collaborative research and development linked to the Centres

Centres call – assessment

- Applicants must submit a four-page Case for Support (under three headings), and 2 page management track record (reflecting the breadth of the team)
- An interdisciplinary panel will assess outlines against three (equal) criteria:
 - Strategic national need for the proposed resource flow
 - Potential for impact of proposed research and innovation
 - Vision & approach for convening the interdisciplinary research, innovation and expertise needed (inc. user engagement; equality, diversity & inclusion)UKRI will consider the balance of the portfolio when shortlisting outlines
- Outcomes are expected w/c 20 January 2020, with feedback shortly after. Workshops will be held in February-March (discussed later in this webinar)

Coordinator call – vision and objectives

- The Coordinator will act as thought leader, ambassador, and consensus builder for developing an interdisciplinary circular economy community, facilitating the development of circular economy strategies and approaches.
- The Coordinator will initially receive up to **£150,000 for up to 11 months** from February 2020 to:
 - Convene an interdisciplinary community to write a proposal for an Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Hub, with up to **£3.3m** available for up to 43 months from January 2021.
 - Engage in relevant knowledge exchange and coordination activities across the Centre applicants and the broader community.

Coordinator call – link to Centres proposals

- The Coordinator will be expected to liaise with Centre applicants as they complete their full proposals – noting that the overlap is limited (February – April 2020)
- This includes organisation of community building and networking events, with help from UKRI (the call document provides full details of planned events)
- The Coordinator will then be expected to work with Centres once running, providing cross-cutting knowledge exchange, advice and support

Coordinator call – further information

- Funds can be requested for the Coordinator's time*, and to fund networking activities, workshops and general admin support during this period
- UKRI welcomes and encourages applications led by and involving **any discipline**
- Applications are welcome from academics that job share, have a part time contract or those currently committed to other large existing grants (centres, hubs, programme grants, Centres for Doctoral Training, etc.) which are due to end with enough time to enable the applicant to be able to fulfil the Coordinator role.
- Applications are also welcome for **two Co-Coordiators**, with distinct roles.

Second stage of calls

- Details of the full Centres call will be published in January
- Details of the Hub call will be provided to the Coordinator in spring 2020, following consultation on the Hub's structure. Future opportunities to join Coordinator's Hub consortium/bid for Hub funds
- Community building workshops will be open to applicants whose Centre applications are unsuccessful at outline stage, as well as the wider community



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Questions?



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Thank you

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