

Susan Stepney: So our collaboration is between computer science, electronic engineering and chemistry. But when the call came out, we all got together and thought, "Can we now take what we've been doing to the next level?" This now gives us an opportunity to take the ideas to the next level and to produce a bigger solution to the problem. To do cross disciplinary work, you need a good relationship with your teammates, you need respect and trust in your teammates.

And what it's worth doing is building the relationship through smaller projects first. So don't go big bang trying to do a 5 million pound project from the start. Start small, maybe co-supervise some students, do some small feasibility studies, find out if you can work together.

Find out if the idea that you've co-created actually has wings, work out how it's going to go, and then gradually build up and then get the bigger proposals in. Those proposals will then have more gravitas and be more likely to be perceived to be a sensible proposal.