



Quotation Request

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) invites you to submit a quotation for the services as outlined below.

CS21032 – NERC Chemicals Catalyst

Requirement

Expertise to inform environmentally sustainable chemical lifecycle research priorities

UKRI NERC is seeking expert input on current knowledge, gaps and research priorities for environmental chemical lifecycle management and, in particular, opportunities for short-term environmental science advances to contribute to a wider interdisciplinary systems approach.

This is a short-term, immediate opportunity to contribute robust information that will inform NERC about current knowledge and gaps in environmental chemical lifecycle management. We will use this knowledge to identify research priorities that will provide the evidence required to enable a transformative change in how we manage chemicals against their potential harmful effects. This is primarily a desk-based exercise, but you will have the opportunity to hold discussions with stakeholders and NERC-funded scientists in this area through participating in a virtual workshop(s).

As an expert in environmental chemical research and innovation, who has an understanding of the UK chemicals research, policy and industry, you will describe and provide evidence for the following areas:

1. Capture the current UK environmental chemical research and innovation landscape, setting out the context and current activity including and beyond NERC and UKRI, based around the five pillars already identified (see Additional Information below).
2. Identify the key research and innovation requirements, focusing on areas where multi- and inter-disciplinary research is needed and could provide a solution, and the relative importance/potential to be transformative within the five proposed pillars. Questions to address include:
 - What recent advances might future funding in this area build upon?
 - What are the significant gaps in existing knowledge?
 - What unique capabilities does the UK have (e.g. national capability investments)/what contribution can the UK make in the international context?
 - What areas require priority attention, are particularly timely or urgent, and have the potential to lead to rapid and/or transformational change in practice?
3. Highlight the areas where opportunities exist to utilise and enhance environmental science (such as mixtures assessment and novel chemical interactions with legacy pollution)



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and, in particular, short-term environmental science advances that can underpin future interdisciplinary research.

4. Look to where future research on reducing chemical risk to the environment and human health can align with, and augment, current and proposed funding in this space such as:

Emerging Risks of Chemicals in the Environment (ERCITE),
<https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/chemicals/>,

Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) Clean Air,
<https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/clean-air/>,

Digital environment programmes,
<https://digitalenvironment.org/>, and the

SPF Circular Economy Hub),
<https://www.ukri.org/news/circular-economy-centres-to-drive-uk-to-a-sustainable-future/>

5. Explore and articulate how the outcomes of any new research activity, including community building, will support the development and implementation of the UK Chemicals Framework via UK REACH. This should consider how research outcomes will influence how chemical risks are managed in the UK by regulators and policymakers, consumers and business to maximise benefits to society, reduce pollution and contribute to leaving the environment in a better state than we found it within a generation.

You will deliver the following outputs:

- Flash reports via email to NERC of any consultations/key conversations held.
- Regular (at least fortnightly) verbal update to NERC (email update sufficient if schedules do not allow for verbal update).
- Draft of each individual section of the report relating to a specific objective above submitted to NERC for comments, as completed throughout the term of the contract.
- Draft executive summary and short report detailing the objectives above to be submitted by 08/04/21.
- Final report, detailing the objectives above to be submitted by 30/04/21.

This work will be funded by UKRI-NERC via a contract and purchase order. The successful applicant will be expected to submit an invoice that covers 80% of the total cost of the work carried out on this project on initiation. The final 20% will be payable following acceptance of the final report.

Key information

- Project start date 01/03/21
- Project end date 30/04/21
- Must have access to Microsoft software and Zoom/MS Teams. Office space and equipment will not be provided.
- Must attend a start-up video conference meeting w/c 01/03/21
- Attendance at online stakeholder workshop for the Emerging Risks of Chemicals in the Environment programme in March/April 2021 (dates tbc).

Application information and assessment criteria

Please provide a fixed fee quotation and return your proposal to professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk by 12:00 noon on 19/02/21. The proposal is to be limited to 3 sides of A4, any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered.

This is an open competition and the successful candidate will be selected by UKRI based on the strength of your written application. Bids will be reviewed considering the following criteria:

Assessment criteria for NERC Chemicals Catalyst

Proposed approach

- Are suggested approaches clearly defined and appropriate?
- Does the proposed approach show innovation in thought?
- Are suggested approaches able to be completed in the timeframe?
- Is the community engagement plan realistic?

Track record

- Is the level of contribution to knowledge of a high standard?
- Is contribution to the wider research community sufficiently great?
- Does the applicant demonstrate a high contribution to broader society?

The winning bidder will be notified of the outcome within 1 week of the closing date. Interviews will not be conducted. UKRI will monitor application and award data from an EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) perspective to ensure equity of process.

Additional Information

Reducing chemical risk to the environment and human health: an interdisciplinary systems approach

This area will explore how we manage the lifecycle of chemicals to reduce harm to the environment and human health, while maintaining economic and societal benefits of a world-leading chemicals industry. There is a need for a transformative change in how we manage chemicals to drive faster, earlier and more effective mitigation of the potential harmful effects of chemicals via a systems approach by developing and applying a range of interventions from multiple actors across the chemical life cycle. A connected multi- and interdisciplinary

community approach that oversees the full lifecycle of chemicals will maximise benefits of risk-reduction interventions and reduce harmful trade-offs.

This concept relies on five proposed pillars of innovative research:

1. Sustainable design
2. Testing and risk assessment
3. Sustainable use
4. End of life and the circular economy
5. Prioritisation, early warning and risk management

Further scoping of this idea will identify the critical, underpinning research and innovation that is needed to understand where such science can be used to develop new approaches under the five pillars, that will also deliver profit and economic success and net environmental gain.

Price

| Detail of pricing Breakdown | Price (EX VAT) |
|--|----------------|
| Maximum funding available is £10k (excluding VAT) You must provide a breakdown of costs as follows: Staff cost Total cost (excl. VAT) | £ |

Validity Period

This quotation is valid for 60 days

Terms and Conditions

The quotation is subject to UKRI Precedent Supplies Services Terms and Conditions. By submitting a proposal, you are confirming your acceptance of these terms and conditions.

Clarification Questions and return of quotation

The latest clarification questions shall be received is 10/02/21 at 14:00h.

Answers to all clarification questions will be published on Contract Finder by 12/02/21

All questions and correspondence regarding this Quotation request should be directed to UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS) via e-mail to professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk.



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Please include reference number CS21032 in the title of all correspondence.

Any quotations returned directly or copied into the buyer and not via
professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk will be counted as non-compliant and will not be counted.

UK Shared Business Services Ltd for and on behalf of:

UK Research and Innovation

Please return your quotation by 12.00h 19/02/21