

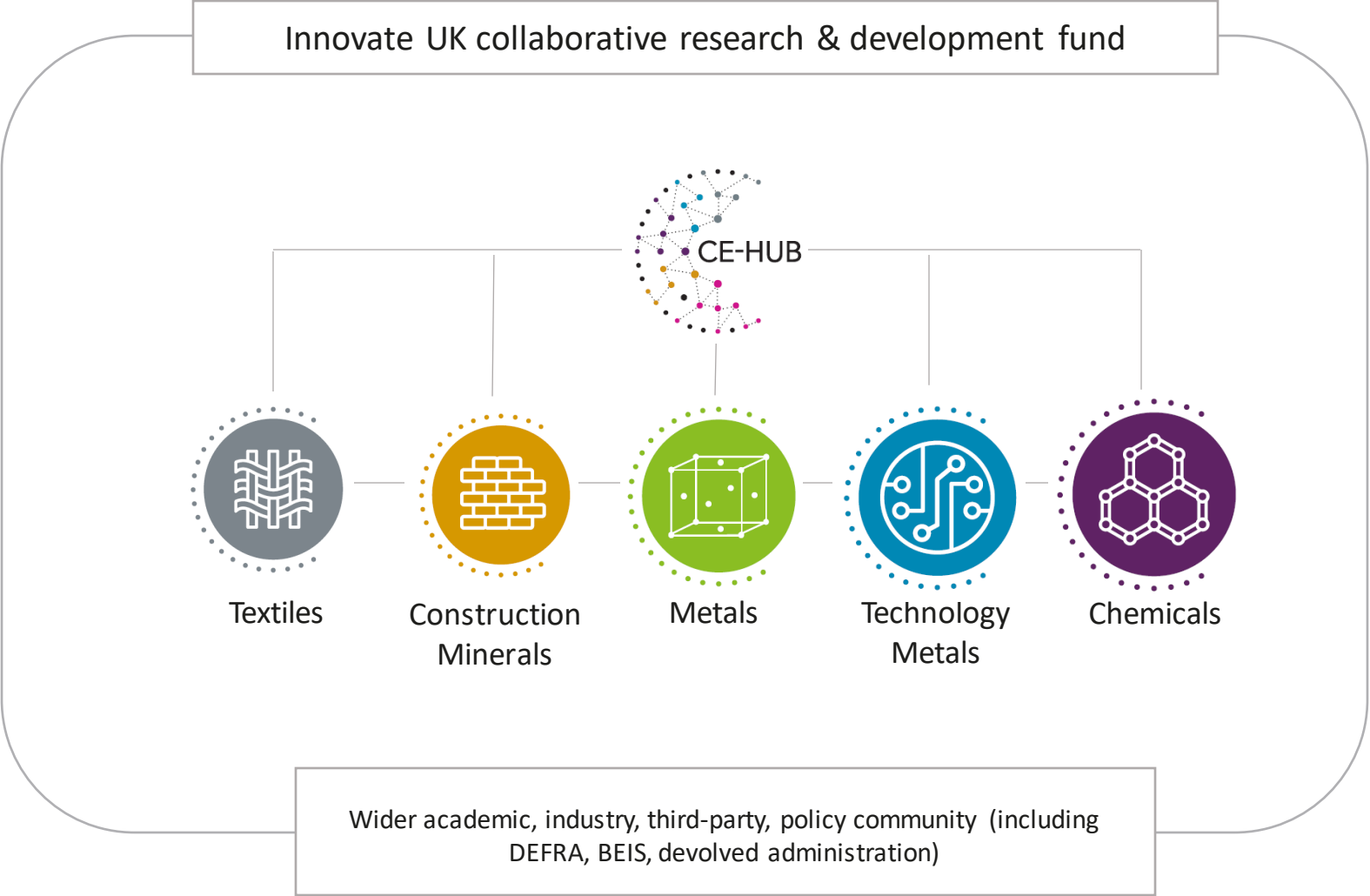
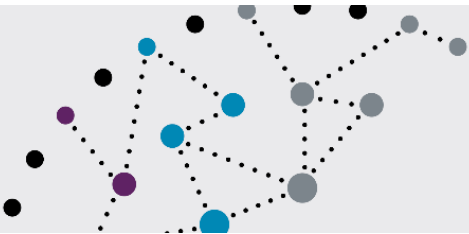
CE Hub Feasibility Study Call 3:
Proposals Webinar
Fiona Charnley & Katie Cooke
Monday 20th March 1-2pm

NI  **ER** PROGRAMME

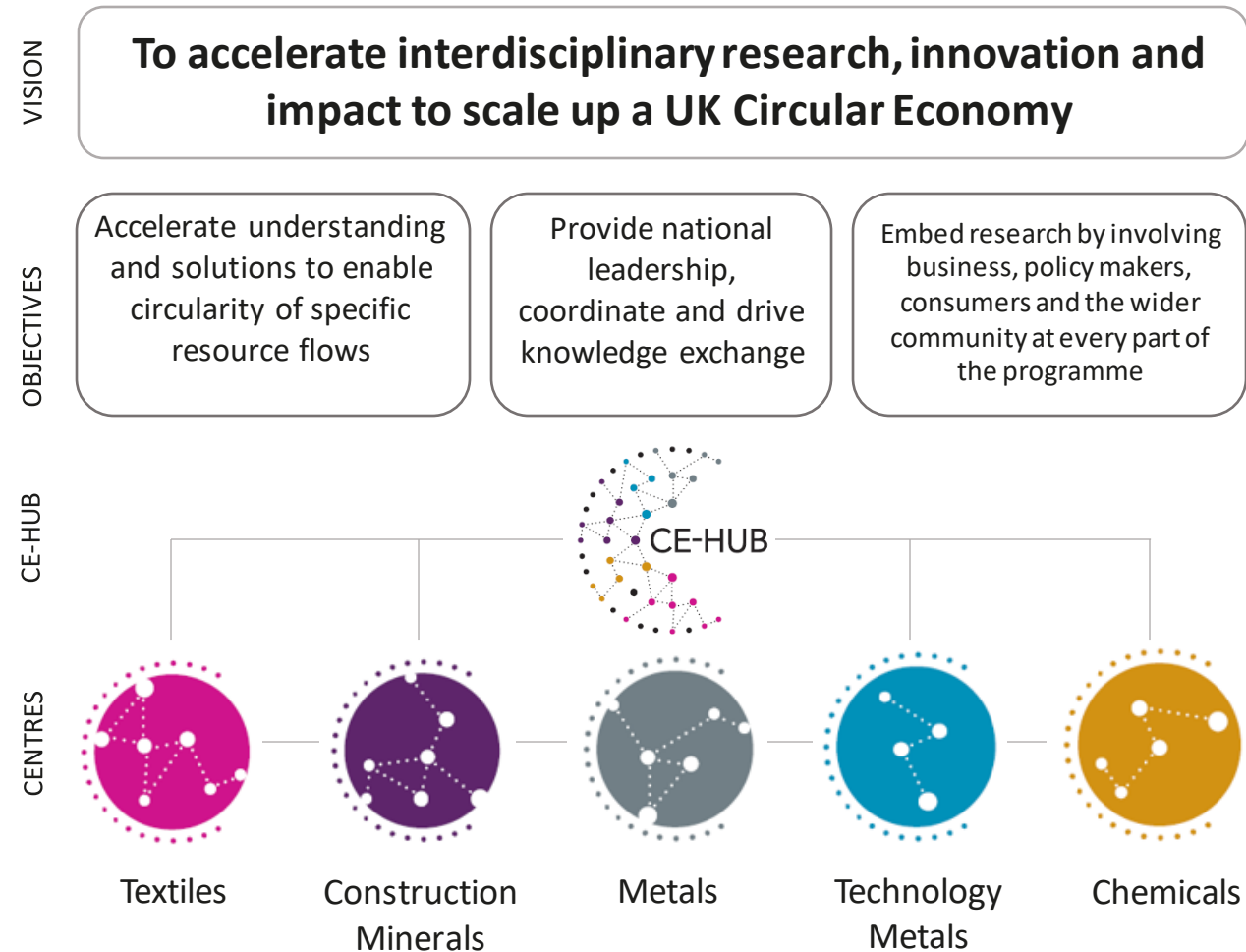
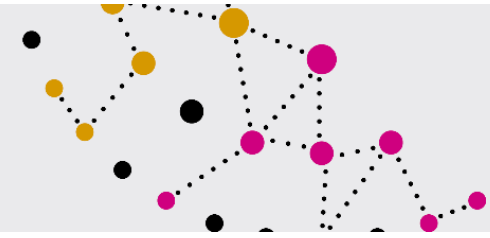


**UK Research
and Innovation**

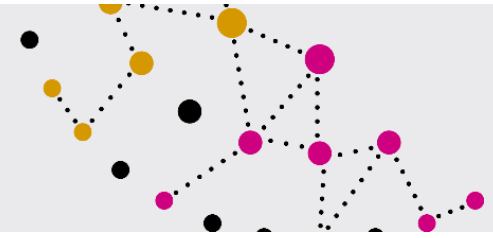
National Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Research Programme



NICER Programme Vision



CE Hub Feasibility Study Funding Call

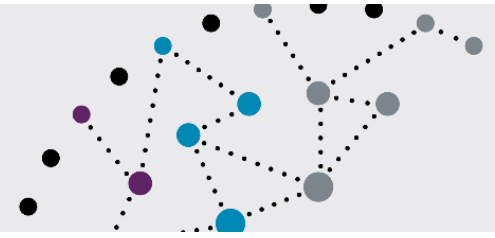


The CE-Hub will fund its third round of Feasibility Studies to accelerate Circular Economy research, innovation and implementation.

What is the aim of the funding?

- To provide the wider Circular Economy community with the opportunity to undertake interdisciplinary, cross-value chain, foresight, speculative and potentially high-impact research to accelerate innovative solutions in collaboration with the NICER Programme.
- Proposals that consider different scales (including regional and place-based research), new collaborations between sectors and disciplines, and involve and / or led by **early career researchers** will all be encouraged. [*See UKRI ECR Definition](#)
- Projects will be expected to involve **collaboration with industry and / or policy** partner(s), providing direct or in-kind support

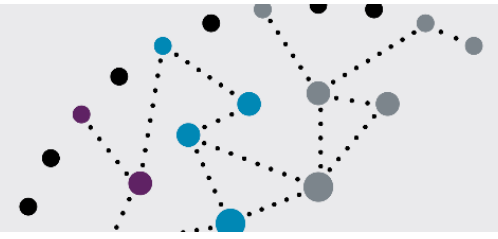
CE Hub Feasibility Study Funding Call



Research into specific enablers or barriers that are common to the NICER Programme CECs resource flows and / or sectors are also encouraged and could include, but are not limited to:

- Public understanding of the Circular Economy and Net Zero;
- The role of the Circular Economy in addressing complex societal challenges, such as healthcare, cost of living crisis, inequality;
- The role of the media and public opinion in scaling Circular Economy solutions;
- User behaviour and circular business models;
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;
- Analysis, measurement and demonstration of the social benefits of a Circular Economy,
- Changes in behaviour and / or mindset; and
- Organisational behaviour.

Expectations for delivery



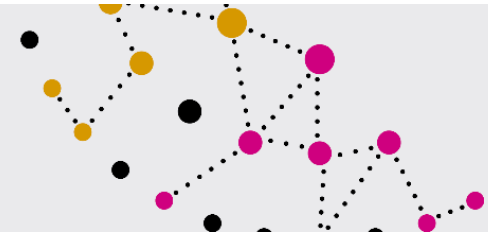
Funded projects will be expected to deliver a tangible piece of work that would achieve a specific output such as:

- **Early-stage concept development**
- **decision making tools and methods or**
- **demonstrator projects focussing on evidencing the transferability of Circular Economy principles across scales, disciplines and industrial sectors.**

We are keen to support collaborations of all sorts that would otherwise not happen, and welcome applications with leading participation from people drawn from all parts of the Circular Economy community.

The feasibility study should result in increased confidence in the proof of concept developed, which then has potential to attract further investment.

Funding Available



- Round Three total funding available: £100,000 at Full Economic Cost (fEC) (x2 feasibility studies)
- Feasibility Studies will be funded to a maximum fEC of £50,000
- Funding will be awarded at 80% fEC
- Feasibility Study Duration: 9-12 months and must be completed before Friday 30th August 2024
- Applications where a portion of the project costs are met by industry funding are encouraged

Total funding available: £500,000 (fEC) over 3 calls

- Round One: June 2021
- Round Two: March 2022
- Round Three: Feb 2023



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I)



- **CE-Hub is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.** We particularly welcome applications from teams which are diverse in terms of protected characteristics and disciplinary areas. We want to encourage, support and respect ideas from everyone and ensure our inclusive activities are representative of the diverse circular economy community.
- Upon receipt of a proposal we will ask the PI to (voluntarily) complete an anonymous EDI monitoring form for their team so we can learn how we can support increasing diversity in our activities. We particularly recognise the impact of engaging with activities such as networks and are keen to challenge our own thinking as we deliver our programme.
- We encourage applicants to discuss any specific requirements that will enable participation with the CE-Hub team. We have designed our funding allocation process with an aim to minimise any potential impact of bias at all stages of decision making. We are therefore piloting a new approach in the application process.
- The application form will be in two parts: Part 1 will contain contact details, project team and track record information and Part 2 will be the outline Case for Support, which will be considered anonymously by a shortlisting panel. Please make every effort to ensure that no identifying content is included in Part 2 (e.g. host institution). This will enable proposals to be considered without members of the panel having knowledge of the applicant's identity or affiliations.

Responsible Innovation



Responsible Innovation

- [Responsible Innovation](#) is a process that seeks to promote creativity and opportunities for science and innovation that are socially desirable and undertaken in the public interest.
- Responsible Innovation acknowledges that innovation can raise questions and dilemmas, is often ambiguous in terms of purposes and motivations and unpredictable in terms of impacts, beneficial or otherwise.
- The CE-Hub wants to ensure that any research it funds is undertaken with the values of Responsible Innovation in mind.
- In this case, we expect researchers involved in funded feasibility studies to anticipate, reflect and engage on the wider ethical and societal impacts, implications and value of their work, entering into dialogue with the public and other stakeholders where appropriate, and respecting the views of others.

Application Process



Application Process

- Awards will be made via a short, written application, followed up by a pitch to a multidisciplinary panel including representatives from industry and UKRI.
- Successful applicants will be expected to participate in CE-Hub events and will be required to present project updates at the NICER Programme annual conferences. In addition, there is a requirement that presentations on the successful projects are made at a kick-off meeting to be held online.
- We expect our feasibility study teams to form a core part of the CE-Hub community.

Selection Criteria



Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used by the review panel when assessing proposals:

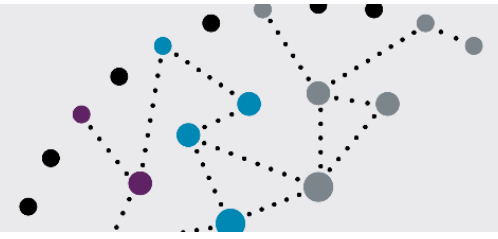
- Multidisciplinary,
- Involvement of Early Career Researchers,
- Involvement of Industry and / or Government Stakeholders,
- Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion,
- Complimenting the work of the NICER programme
- Demonstration of Circular Economy Principles across scales, disciplines and industrial sectors,
- Potential for the development of future funding applications,
- Potential to create strong dissemination materials,
- Pathways to accelerate the impact of the research to ensure rapid transfer to industry, government and other end users.

CE Hub Flexible Fund: Key Dates



1	Tuesday 28th February 2023	Call goes live	Time
2	Tuesday 7th March 2023	Public Announcement is made via NICER e-Newsletter	
3	Monday 20th March 2023 (1-2pm)	Webinar for interested participants	
4	Friday 28th April 2023	Deadline for submissions (5pm)	(9 weeks to prepare submissions)
5	Monday 5th June 2023	Invitations to Panel Pitch Day issued Unsuccessful proposals advised	
6	Friday 16th June 2023	Panel pitch	
7	Friday 23rd June 2023	Applicants are notified of Panel Pitch outcomes	
8	Friday 1st September 2023	Feasibility studies start	(12 months)
9	Tuesday 12th September 2023	Feasibility studies kick-off meeting	
10	Friday 30th August 2024	Feasibility study completion	





Eligibility

- Guidelines on eligibility can be found [here](#).
- Eligible organisations include all UK Higher Education Institutions that receive grant funding from one of the UK higher education funding bodies, along with research institutes for which the Research Councils have established a long-term involvement as a major funder.
- Other independent research organisations (IROs) may also be eligible and a list of such organisations is available [here](#).

What can the fund be used for?



What can the funding be used for?

- The budget outline for the proposed feasibility studies can include investigator/researcher time, travel and subsistence appropriate to delivery of the project, and consumables.
- As the grant holder, the University of Exeter is responsible for allocating funding to successful proposals and will reimburse subcontracting organisations at 80% full economic costing.
- Academic institutions will be required to itemise bills based on 100% FEC and then invoice at 80% FEC.

1. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part1
2. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part2
3. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part3
(Finance/Budget Form)
4. ED&I form

Project team, including industry partner(s) – DO NOT EXCEED THIS 1 SIDE A4 SHEET
Please indicate which members of the academic team are early career researchers


☐ Please tick here you have any requirements that could potentially require adjustments to enable you to participate in CE Hub activities (e.g. delivery of feasibility study or engagement with events). One of the CE Hub team will then contact you to ensure that any required adjustments can be made.

☐ Please tick here if you have already joined the [CE Hub Mailing List](#)

Flexible Fund Application Forms



1. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part1
2. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part2
3. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part3
(Finance/Budget Form)
4. ED&I form



CE Hub Flexible Fund
Feasibility study proposal
template: Part Two

Case for Support
This proposal must not exceed 5 sheets of A4 and can include up to 5 figures. Any text after page 5 will not be submitted to reviewers. Please make every effort to ensure that no personal identifying content is included. Any references can be in an appendix and are not included in the page count.

Title of Feasibility Study

Context


Aims and objectives

Benefits of the proposed work

Novelty of the proposed work

Office Use Only
(CE URN)

CEHubFlexFund



CE Hub Flexible Fund
Feasibility study proposal
template: Part Two

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion considerations

Outline project plan and deliverables

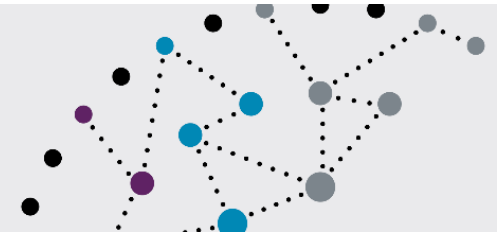
Future funding
How could further funding in this area be obtained?

Please return the completed form to Katie Cooke, CE Hub Project Manager (title of email: CE Hub Feasibility Study Proposal) to ce_hub@exeter.ac.uk by 16:00pm on Thursday 5th May 2022.

Office Use Only
(CE URN)

CEHubFlexFund

Flexible Fund Application Forms



1. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part1
2. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part2
3. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part3
(Finance/Budget Form)
4. ED&I form

	A	B	C
1			
2	Budget Form: Part 3		
3			
4	Project title		
5			
6			
7	Directly incurred costs		
8	DI Staff	£0.00	
9	DI Travel and Subsistence	£0.00	
10	DI Other	£2,000.00	
11			
12	Directly allocated costs		
13	DA Investigators	£28,046.00	
14	DA Estates	£5,696.00	
15	DA Infrastructure	£705.00	
16	DA Other	£0.00	
17			
18	Indirect costs		
19	Indirect costs	£22,834.00	
20			
21	Total costs	£59,281.00	
22	Industry contribution	£0.00	
23	Total costs minus Industry contribution	£59,281.00	
24	To claim 80%	£47,424.80	
25			
26	Please annotate your budget to justify costs.		
27	NOTE: claim cannot exceed £48,000		
28			
29	Office use only (CE URN)	CEHUBFLEXFUND01	
30			
31			
32			
33			

Flexible Fund Application Forms



- 1. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part1
- 2. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part2
- 3. CEHub_FLEXFUND_Part3 (Finance/Budget Form)
- 4. ED&I form

EDI Questionnaire

The CE Hub has a strong commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I), in line with the UKRI's ED&I commitment, and strives to ensure that all of our NICER Programme activities are open and accessible to all. To this end, we are ensuring that all activities are reviewed for diversity amongst protected characteristics as identified in the Equality Act 2010, through asking participants to complete the following (optional and confidential) ED&I monitoring form. We would be grateful if you could complete the following questions:

Please tick the appropriate box.

Are you...?

Female		Male		Prefer not to say	
--------	--	------	--	-------------------	--

Does your gender differ from your birth sex?

Yes		No		Prefer not to say	
-----	--	----	--	-------------------	--

Age

Under 24		25-29		30-44	
45-59		60-64		65-74	
75 and over				Prefer not to say	

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes		No		Prefer not to say	
-----	--	----	--	-------------------	--

What is your ethnicity?

Arab	Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	
Asian or Asian British: Indian	Asian or Asian British: Chinese	Asian or Asian British: Other	
Black or Black British: African	Black or Black British: Caribbean	Black or Black British: Other	
Mixed: White and Black African	Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	Mixed: White and Asian	
Mixed: Other	White: British	White: Irish	
White: Other	Any other ethnic background	Prefer not to say	

Do you have any caring responsibilities? There may be funds available to support participation in network activities for those with caring responsibilities, e.g. those caring for older people, children or those with disabilities.

Yes		No		Prefer not to say	
-----	--	----	--	-------------------	--

Privacy Notice

In this instance the University of Exeter's (UoE) legal basis for processing your personal data is "necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller" UoE stated in its application for funding to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) that we would implement structures to monitor equality, diversity and inclusion (ED&I) data so we can learn if we are being effective in how we are managing the project through ways that promote ED&I. In the ED&I monitoring form we process personal and special categories of data including ethnicity or race, health, sex life or sexuality. This form is voluntary and data subjects have the option to state "prefer not to say". The stored form will be pseudonymised in as much that it will have a reference number on it so it could be tracked to an individual / application. Only limited authorised personnel will have access to the reference number and be able to match it to the data subject.

All published data will be anonymised and will be used for the following purposes: Reports to the project board, advisory group, funder (UKRI, EPSRC). Anonymised data may be used for another purpose at a later date such as reporting our learning in an EPSRC blog.

Information will be retained for 7 years, in line with EPSRC grant conditions. The source of personal data will be from the data subject. In accordance with our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and as part of our public task we process personal data to monitor ED&I, so we can learn if we are being effective in how we are managing the project through ways that promote equality, diversity and inclusion. No automated decision making or profiling is considered as part of this data processing.

For office use only:

Date received:	
Reference number:	CEHUB001

Submitting proposals



Submitting Proposals

Feasibility study applications should be submitted, using the application form provided, via email to:

Katie Cooke, CE-Hub Project Manager at the CE Hub:
Title 'CE Hub Feasibility Study Proposal'
ce_hub@exeter.ac.uk

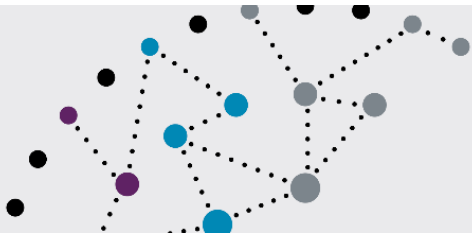
The application forms are available on the [CE-Hub Website](#)

Additional Information

In addition to the specific outputs outlined in your proposal, each feasibility study project team is required to:

- Successful applicants will be required to attend the panel pitch on Friday 16th June 2023
- Attend a kick-off meeting on Tuesday 12th September 2023.
- Present your work (in progress or completed) at the NICER Programme annual conferences (Oct 2024 date TBC). You will need to include conference expenses in your budget if it is held in-person.
- Provide information and updates for the dedicated project webpage on the CE-Hub website, when requested (e.g., short 10 min Ppt presentation recording). The CE-Hub will also promote its work across the circular economy community, and occasionally project leads might be asked for short quotes or other information to demonstrate the activities that are taking place.
- Work with the CE-Hub Team to produce an information sheet and detailed case study, templates for which will be provided.

Examples of Funded Projects



2022 - THE OLD PANTS PROJECT

The Old Pants Project is an innovative feasibility study that aims to demonstrate whether growing edible mushrooms on textile waste is a viable alternative to the landfill and incineration that is currently used to dispose of over 92 million tonnes of fabric every year.

Image Credit: Timothy Dykes, Unsplash

[SEE MORE](#)



2022 - CIRCULAR CRICKET GEAR

The Circular Cricket Gear (CCG) project will focus on exploring potential strategies to maintain the value of products, components, and materials in the economic and social systems of cricket gear.

Image Credit: Alessandro Boqliari, Unsplash

[SEE MORE](#)



2022 - RECYCLED CARBON BLACK IN PRINTABLE ELECTRONIC AND PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICES

This proof of concept study will assess the potential for recycled carbon black from waste tires to be applied in printable electronic, electrochemical and photovoltaic devices.

Image Credit: Goh Rhy Yan, Unsplash

[SEE MORE](#)



2022 - PLASMA SPRAYED COATINGS USING CEMENT BY-PASS DUST

The proposed research project comprises of processing, characterisation, diagnostics, process optimisation and performance evaluation of a carefully designed feasibility study to carry out plasma spray of ceramic coatings using cement by-pass dust and other industrial wastes.

Image Credit: Andy Makely, Unsplash

[SEE MORE](#)



2022 - DIGITAL DECARBONISATION

The 'Digital Decarbonisation: Data Recovery, Recycling, Reuse, and Remaining Useful Life for Digital Circularity' study will build the foundations of a 'metal decarbonisation dashboard' to enable organisations to evaluate their metal digital carbon footprint.

Image Credit: Alina Grubnyak, Unsplash

[SEE MORE](#)



2022 - CIRCULAR MASS TIMBER FOR CONSTRUCTION

The project aims to unlock the circularity of mass timber by developing an adhesive-free approach to joining. The possibility of Linear Friction Welding (LFW) of recycled timber is being investigated as a potential joining technology.

Image Credit: Alexandre Jaquetoni, Unsplash

[SEE MORE](#)

Further Information

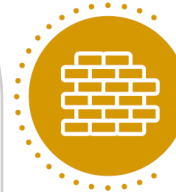


If you have any questions regarding this call for proposals, please contact the CE-Hub Project Manager, Katie Cooke stating '**CE Feasibility Study Enquiry**': ce_hub@exeter.ac.uk

For more information on the CE Hub Flexible Fund please find it on the CE Hub website here:
<https://ce-hub.org/flexible-fund-2023/>

More information on the CECs can be found on our website here:
<https://ce-hub.org/ce-centres/>

Sign up to the CE-Hub Newsletter to be kept up to date with our activities including future funding calls: UKRI National Circular Economy Hub: ce_hub@exeter.ac.uk



CEC Email addresses:

Construction Minerals:
icec-mcm@ucl.ac.uk

Circular Chemical:
circular.chemical@lboro.ac.uk

Textiles:
Tcc@rca.ac.uk

Met4Tech:
Met4Tech@exeter.ac.uk

Circular Metals:
circularmetal@brunel.ac.uk



THANK YOU!
