SUPERGEN ENERGY NETWORKS

Flexible Funding Call

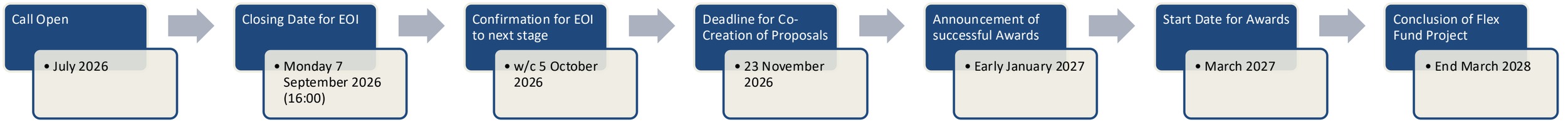
Call Documents

July 2026

Contents

Call Overview and Timeline

1. A total fund of **£200k** is available. **Maximum value for any individual project = £125k** (at 100% cost)
2. **80% of the full economic cost** (FEC) is available (£100k from SEN)
3. Two stage review process (see timeline)
4. Project leads (PI) must be based at a UK Higher Education Institute (Find out if you can apply for funding – UKRI)
5. Maximum 12 Month project duration (March 2027 - March 2028)
6. Outputs will include a final report and presentation at the Supergen Energy Networks Conference in March 2028



Scope for Funding:

- This funding call seeks to support projects that directly align with and support the SEN Research Missions and Sprints and build upon existing SEN research activities.
- The call is aimed at researchers who are not currently affiliated with SEN, to encourage broadening participation and to bring new expertise into the community.
- Applicants should articulate how their proposed research aligns with current industry challenges, identifying the most relevant industrial partners and explaining the potential for impact, adoption, and future collaboration.
- We will prioritise applications which are clearly co-created with relevant industrial and sector partners. We encourage Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to be shared with your Industry partners to help shape the proposals and encourage co-development opportunities. We expect to see evidence of industrial engagement at EOI stage.
- Proposals should clearly articulate the scientific, industrial, and societal benefits of the work, demonstrating how the project will contribute to SEN objectives, enhance collaboration opportunities, and deliver measurable outcomes within the available project period.

Guidance for Applicants: Anonymous Review Process

To ensure a fair and equitable assessment, all proposals will be reviewed anonymously.

Prior to review, applicants are encouraged to prepare their proposal documents in a way that minimises identifying information wherever possible.

For example, you should make the following details anonymous within the main body of the proposal when preparing your application:

- Applicant names
- Team member names
- Institutional names/affiliations
- References that clearly identify your organisation/department/research group/or previous projects

Consider whether references to unique facilities, programmes, or partnerships could make your identity obvious and, where possible, describe these more generically.

The SEN team will check and will take reasonable additional steps to anonymise submissions prior to sending to reviewers. However, complete anonymisation cannot always be guaranteed if identifying details are embedded throughout the application. Proposals that are written in a more neutral and anonymised manner may have a great advantage in the review process (compared to heavily redacted ones which will be harder to follow).

The assessment panel will evaluate proposals solely against the published assessment criteria, without consideration of applicant identity, institution, or affiliation.

Applicants who are successful will be subject to a due diligence process. This is intended to confirm that the information provided within the application is accurate and can be substantiated. Applicants should therefore ensure that all statements, claims, and details included in their submission are complete, accurate, and up to date.

SEN

Expression of Interest (EOI)

We will be running a two-stage process for this flexible funding round. Applicants are requested to **submit an EOI** via Microsoft form by **7 Sept**.
We would expect PI's to have engaged with Industry colleagues about this call, at this stage.

Flexible Fund Opens
July 2026

Submission of EOI
7 September 2026

Review of EOI by Management Team

Confirmation of EOI
w/c 5 October 2026

Microsoft Form includes:

- Title
- Name of PI/Email
- Problem Statement/Motivation **(100 words)**
- Brief Description of Proposed Project, include high level summary of outputs **(200 words)**
- Skills statement for proposed Team **(300 words per team)**

Skills statements should be written as generic text. The statement should include knowledge, experience and competencies of each team member, written in a way to ensure your team remains anonymous to the reviewers. Examples of generic skills statements as below:

Skills Statement – Academia

Research leader with experience managing large-scale power systems projects, collaborating on portfolios exceeding £1M and involving 10+ academic and industry partners. Specialist in AI- and machine-learning-enabled power system stability analysis, with particular expertise in dynamic security assessment, oscillation monitoring, and decision support for low-carbon electricity networks. Proven record of securing £500k research funding as PI, publishing 30+ journal and conference papers, and supervising doctoral and postdoctoral researchers.

Skills Statement – Industry

Senior industry leader with over 15 years' experience delivering business change programmes that enable power system decarbonisation, network modernisation, and net-zero objectives. Proven ability to lead large multidisciplinary teams and coordinate programmes involving 20+ stakeholders across industry, academia, regulators, and supply chains. Extensive experience (10+ years) working with leading universities and research consortia to accelerate the adoption of innovative technologies and analytical approaches.

Skills Statement – Third Sector

Experienced leader in energy policy and consumer advocacy, with a career spanning the national energy regulator and leading consumer-focused charities. Directed programmes and campaigns reaching thousands of households, managed 10+ stakeholder-engagement initiatives, and represented consumer interests in more than 15 regulatory consultations and industry forums. Track record of commissioning large-scale consumer research with academic and industry partners, and influencing policy developments relating to affordability, fuel poverty, vulnerability, and the net-zero transition.

Full Proposal:

Full Proposals will be submitted via **MS Form** by **23 November 2026**

Invitation to Stage 2: Full Proposal
w/c 5 October 2026

Submission of Full Proposal
23 November 2026

Review of Full Proposals by Impact Advisory Committee

Confirmation of Full Proposal Status
w/c Early January 2027

Please ensure you submit ALL documents as below:

1) **Microsoft Form includes**:
   - Case for Support – to include motivation, objectives, activities within the programme of work, and simple workplan image **(1000 words)**
   - Justification of Resources (JoR) including full costing details and justifying how the resources will help maximise successful project outcomes **(400 words)**
   - Team skills, competencies, track record and alignment with project objectives (to include UKHEI investigators and external partners) **(600 words)**
   - Data Management Plan and alignment with Trusted Research and Open Research agendas **(300 words)**

2) **Supporting Documents***
- Letters of Support (up to a maximum of 5) – **used in review process** to assess strength of partnerships.
- CV's and Track Records – **not used in review process** but used in due diligence process for successful applications.

*Supporting documents will need to be emailed to supergenen@bath.ac.uk when submitting your proposal.

Applicants may include in their proposal (where applicable):
- Funding to attend conferences and visits to other institutes if this supports the project outcomes
- Ethical considerations – PI's should ensure they receive ethical approval from their institution prior to submitting final proposal
- ED&I considerations/activities

To note:
- For all eligible costs please visit Costs you can apply for – EPSRC – UKRI
- Costings should be based on EPSRC rules

Costs and Financial Process

01
The SEN Hub will fund 80% FEC

02
Successful awardees will receive a collaboration agreement between the PI institution and the University of Bath*, which will need to be signed and returned before commencement of the project

03
Project funds will be paid quarterly on receipt of invoice from the PI institution

04
The project must be completed by 31 March 2028 with final invoices to be paid within a month of the project's end date.

05
Full costing of the research project will be required at the submission stage

*University of Bath being the host of the Supergen Energy Networks Impact Hub

Assessment Process

Submission of EOI
7 September 2026

Review of EOI by Management Team

Confirmation of EOI
w/c 5 October 2026

Invitation to Stage 2: Full Proposal
w/c 5 October 2026

Submission of Full Proposal
23 November 2026

Review of Full Proposals by Impact Advisory Committee

Confirmation of Full Proposal Status
w/c Early January 2027

- Project proposals will be reviewed by the SEN Management Team at EOI stage, out of scope proposals will not be taken forward to full project proposal stage

Applicants invited to submit full project proposals will have their proposals assessed by members of the Impact Advisory Committee who will review, make comments, and score the proposal against set criteria which will include:

- Overall quality and fit with the call outline and fit with the SEN Hub
- Appropriateness of the methods and approaches proposed
- Value for money for the expected research outcomes
- The strength of the research team, including non-academic partners
- The fit to real-world challenges
- ED&I considerations embedded within your proposal

- Individuals may submit **one proposal as Principal Investigator**, and up to two submissions in total (including as a Co-Investigator) to this call.
- Written feedback will be available on request following the assessment process.
- Successful applicants will be paired with a SEN Co-Investigator (Co-I) who will provide guidance and mentoring to help facilitate integration with relevant SEN activities from EOI stage through to project completion. The SEN Co-I **will not** become a project investigator.

About the SEN Impact Hub

The **Supergen Energy Networks (SEN) Hub** is a £9 million research initiative funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The hub brings together collaborative teams from Industry, Academia, Government and Civil Society to carry out highly impactful, interdisciplinary research, to enable energy networks to become a driving force towards a rapid, safe and just transition to net zero.

The Hub is a multidisciplinary team comprising engineers, physical scientists, computer scientists, social scientists, and professional services. Together, they undertake research into the planning, operation, regulation, and resilience of energy networks.

The Hub explores energy systems from a multi-vector perspective, examining how electricity, gas, heat, and hydrogen systems interact, and how their integration can lead to more efficient, flexible, and resilient networks. Areas of research include understanding cascading failures and interdependencies, addressing the regulatory and policy frameworks that govern networks, and examining the societal and environmental impacts of future energy systems.

Equal Opportunities:
The SEN Hub seeks to act as a beacon for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion such that it enables all to realise their full potential by recognising the contribution of everyone and recognising and harnessing the benefits that differences can bring. Accordingly, no eligible funding applicant will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, race, colour, nationality, ethnicity or national origins, religion, or similar philosophical belief, spent criminal conviction, age, disability, career breaks, paternity/maternity or adoption leave breaks.
Proposals will be assessed on their merits, in accordance with the criteria, aims and objectives set for the call.

SEN Research Missions and Sprints

Mission 1 – Energy networks solutions for net-zero whole system futures: Our aim is to support impactful whole energy system research that makes a rapid, fair transition to Net Zero a reality. We are focused on leveraging synergies across all energy networks (i.e. electricity, gas, hydrogen, heat and cooling) as one integrated system and using this holistic perspective to guide investment and operational decisions on energy systems.
Our ongoing work includes the development of a whole energy systems of systems architecture that maps key players and processes involved in the planning and operation of multi-energy networks, enhancing multi-vector energy systems situational awareness through advanced measurements combined with machine learning techniques, a vision for a future experience across energy network planning and operation with feasible operating region maps, and the repurposing and rebalancing of electricity, gas, heating networks.
Our aim is to provide evidence-based recommendations for coordinated actions and decisions at all levels of multi-energy networks, as well as the necessary technologies for a just and expedited transition.

Mission 2: Our mission is to develop transformative **Energy Network Solutions for Large-Scale Net Zero Energy Systems**, fasting track the integration and utilisation of large-scale renewable, low-carbon energy conversion and system-spread flexibility.
We develop holistic network investment through developing deep insights the changing network needs from integration of large-scale offshore renewable and system-wide flexibility. We also develop reliable and efficient decision-making tools for zero-carbon system operation, able to manage millions of interactive devices for energy and power balance at scale. We bring together technical, commercial, digital and social solutions across multiple energy systems. The solutions we are delivering are to ensure the tens of billions of pounds of investment in gas and electricity transmission networks is optimal in the face of deep uncertainties and rising complexity.

Mission 3 – Energy Networks for Regional and Local Low Carbon Energy Systems: To transform regional and local energy networks into active drivers of the Net Zero transition which integrate local energy sources and users, facilitate rapid behavioural and technological changes, and empower active energy communities. Local and regional networks are defined as a bounded system within a specific geographical area, with energy quantifiable energy flows into and out of the system. Example local systems might be a building, a university campus, or an industrial site, while regional systems could be a DNO license area or combined authority. Local and regional systems can either be viewed from an internal perspective, in which they are the focus and the wider system is abstracted, or as an aggregated, controllable element of a larger system.
The possibilities of greater integration of planning and operation of electricity, gas and heat-networks at local and regional levels face several significant challenges: access and sharing of appropriate data across energy vectors; questions of governance, investment and operational control; how to manage the tension of differing complex views of future local energy systems.
Across all these challenge areas it is increasingly understood that having access to appropriately detailed, timely and clean data across different energy vectors provides multiple advantages. This mission has data surfacing and coordination of local resources as core elements, with additional areas of focus on the possibilities and challenges of a Regional Energy Systems Operator.

SEN Research Sprints

Sprint: Identification of Modelling, Simulation and Analysis Needs for Net Zero Power Networks

The transition to Net Zero is driving profound changes in the operation and planning of power systems. Increasing penetration of inverter-based resources, reduced system inertia, and more complex dynamics mean that existing modelling, simulation, and analysis tools are no longer sufficient. This sprint will assess the state of the art in modelling, simulation, and analysis methodologies and tools for inverter-dominated Net Zero power systems, identify key technical gaps and emerging challenges, and develop strategic recommendations to inform future research priorities and the technical roadmap for next-generation power system analysis.

Sprint: Open Source GB Network Dataset for Benchmarking Resilience

Everyone wants resilient energy networks, but there is no clear consensus on which metrics and methodologies should be used. The aim of this sprint, is to create open source GB network models covering different geographic scales and energy vectors that can be used to act as a benchmark for different resilience quantification techniques. This will allow interested stakeholders to compare different methods and metrics in a fair way on networks that are representative of the GB system.

Sprint: State of the Nation on Flexibility

To establish a ‘source of truth’ for evidence on state of nation on DSO flexibility sector. Evaluate the current DSO flexibility landscape, benchmarking progress and identifying similarities and differences in flexibility market designs, operation, performance across different DSOs and regions. Opportunities and options for domestic, industry, commercial, public to take greater participation

SEN

Upcoming Opportunities

11 September

Energyz Black

Start, grow and thrive in Energy & Sustainability

UKERC Engineering & Energy Hackathon 2026

In partnership with

Energyz Black | UKERC UK Energy Research Centre | SUPERGEN ENERGY NETWORKS | SuperAIRE | EDRC Energy Demand Research Centre

DAFNI

DAFNI Conference
10 September
Supergen energy Networks Hub hosting a workshop

SUPERGEN ENERGY NETWORKS

SUPERGEN ENERGY NETWORKS

Early Career Research Seedcorn Funding Call

NOW OPEN

Deadline for applications 7 September 2026

More information

Contact for questions/queries:

Supergen Energy Networks Hub: supergenen@bath.ac.uk
University of Bath

Website: https://supergenen.org/
LinkedIn: Supergen Energy Networks Hub