Access to High Performance Computing facilities: Autumn 2024

UKRI community webinar (Q&A) 7th November 2024

Question	Answer
What is a CU or a NH, as in *"proposals requesting <=300k CU, <=300k NH: two sides of A4"*?	CU - Compute Unit, for ARCHER2 requests. NH - Node Hour, for Isambard3 requests.
Can you clarify this sentence: *"You can only be a project lead or co-lead on a maximum of one application to each service. Each proposal you are included for as a project lead or co-lead must be a unique and distinct project."* Does this mean you can be involved in two different applications (as lead/co-lead), as long as they are for ARCHER2 and CIRRUS, respectively?	Yes, but Cirrus is not available for this opportunity, only ARCHER2 and Isambard3.
Why is there no GPU system resource for this call?	Currently there is no UKRI support for the GPU Tier 2 services after March 2025, so unfortunately, they cannot be included in this opportunity.
Could you send us the slides after the presentation?	Yes, we will make them available on the Funding finder page at https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/access-to-high-performance-computing-facilities-autumn-2024/.
Will involvement of PhD student(s) satisfy the "early career" researcher preference?	If you are a student looking to access the HPC resources through this application route, you must seek an eligible project lead to apply on your behalf.
About the deadline on 28th November, is it a first cut? will there be other deadlines after this? Or is it a one-time call?	This is a one-stage opportunity, the timeline can be found on the Funding finder page at https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/access-to-high-performance-computing-facilities-autumn-2024/.
To follow up, does that mean a single individual *cannot* be a lead for one project and a co-lead for another, if both projects are for ARCHER2? This is for completely distinct projects with no overlap.	Yes.
Are there any restrictions on continuation of projects that received time from a previous call?	No. We would suggest that if your application is part of a larger research effort, then it might make more sense to apply through responsive mode, where you can apply for resource longer than 12

	months, see https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-standard-research-grant-nov-2023-responsive-mode/.
What is the success rate of these calls?	This varies according to demand but was around 70% for the last opportunity.
Are there expected deliverables after using the resources? Research outputs or so?	No specific deliverables expected from this opportunity, but the application process does asks for details on project context, the challenge the project addresses, aims and objectives and the potential applications and benefits.
Is this suitable for a new proposal, or does the project need to have existing funding from UKRI?	Project do not need existing funding from UKRI, but still need to be in EPSRC remit for ARCHER2 applications and in UKRI remit for Isambard 3 applications.
When might the next call be expected? E.g. 6 months or 12 months time?	We hope to continue to provide this opportunity twice a year. The next call should be within the next 6 months.
Are there any intentions to resurrect the Pioneer scheme to fund projects >12 months? I see that Access to HPC is now limited to 12 months.	Not currently, but we are keeping this under review.
You mention that "currently there is no UKRI support for the GPU Tier 2 services after March 2025". Could you elaborate on this and the future of GPU support through UKRI please?	We hope to be able to support some GPU capacity through Tier2 services after March 2025 but this is still subject to the UKRI settlement.
You mentioned service specification documents? Can you please put the links where this is available to download?	This document is available on the Funding finder page (under Additional info) at https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/access-to-high-performance-computing-facilities-autumn-2024/.
Can HPC resources be distributed among the researchers involved in the project after a successful application?	HPC resources can be used by the core team identified on the proposal.
If we already receive funding from HECBioSim is it possible to apply for these resources also	If you are a member of a currently funded HEC consortium, and are applying for ARCHER2 compute, you will need to briefly explain why you are not applying for time through this consortium.
When the HPC support is granted, do we get access to dedicated machines? do we get preference in a common queue? Does it depend on the service?	It will depend on the service you are assigned to, but you are likely to be in a standard priority queue.
So when we get the access. Will we allocate separate fixed resources or does it still follow slurm scheduling.	It is likely to follow normal slurm/fair share scheduling.

If we are successful with this round and get ARCHER access, will there be any limitations as project lead for applying to similar access calls next year?	No.
If you work across multiple universities, can all teams use the resources?	HPC resources can be used by the core team identified on the proposal.
In the Service Specification document for Isambard 3 you mention that applications should demonstrate that the codes have run on Arm-based platform. What sort of evidence could this look like? Would a statement of where it has been run before be sufficient, or does it need something more concrete?	This is a point best discussed with the relevant service, via their helpdesk.
To follow up on the continuation, what is the responsive mode and where do I find more information? We had received computation time for our project last year on CSD3 and when we applied in the next call as a continuation in April, our project was marked as ineligible, but we never understood why that happened? Can the same lead not apply twice in a row?	The standard mode grant process can be found at https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-standard-research-grant-nov-2023-responsive-mode/. Please contact us separately regarding your ineligible project.
I may have missed this, but if there are no technical assessments, do we need to justify why our chosen service/resource is most suitable for our project in the main application? Or do we submit more documents at a later date?	In the 'Computing resources and justification' section of your application you will need to provide justification of the resources requested and why you are requesting the specific system.
Could we get a link to the Isambard 3 documentation? It seems to be not as easy to find as ARCHER…	The service specification document is available on the Funding finder page (under Additional info) at https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/access-to-high-performance-computing-facilities-autumn-2024/. Also https://docs.isambard.ac.uk/specs/#system-specifications-isambard-3-grace.
What is the earliest date to have allocation?	We aim to have successful projects allocated to services in early January.
Are multi-institution submissions allowed?	Yes.
Is there going to be support to port software or only software proved to work on ARM can be used?	Service helpdesks may be able to offer some limited support for porting, but this opportunity only provides compute time.