



**Computational Science Centre
for Research Communities**



Funding Opportunity:

NPRAISE for CoSeC Communities

January 2026



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Background

The **National Platform for Research Technical Professionals on AI for Science and Engineering (NPRAISE)** is one of the [UKRI's Strategic Technical Platforms \(STPs\)](#), funded by UKRI through [EPSRC](#) and its central [DRI programme](#), and is designed to improve the skills of Research Technical Professionals (RTPs) on AI for Science and Engineering (AI4SE) in the UK. NPRAISE is run by [STFC Scientific Computing](#), which offers a dynamic and inclusive environment for professional growth.

This funding opportunity aims to grow the skills and expertise of RTPs within the UK's [Collaborative Computational Projects \(CCPs\)](#) and [High-end Computing Consortia \(HECs\)](#), many of whom directly collaborate with [CoSeC](#), covering a diverse set of research disciplines. **For this opportunity, RTPs are individuals at any career stage who provide the technical expertise, innovation and operational excellence that underpin and advance research, working at the intersection of science, technology and software.**

Opportunity

This call is managed by STFC Scientific Computing through CoSeC and with support from its AI for Science Theme and the [Ada Lovelace Centre \(ALC\)](#). It is an RTP-focussed opportunity, and as such, upskilling on AI for Science and Engineering should be the key focus within the research areas covered by the CCPs and HECs.

We intend to fund up to six (6) RTPs, each for at most 12 months (or more based on part-time efforts). The funded RTPs will be working alongside experts at the AI for Science Theme at STFC, and with the individual community. The AI for Science theme will provide mentorship, training, and will aim to upskill the funded RTPs on AI while the community provides domain expertise and applications. While some of the time will be spent on training, the critical part of the upskilling process is working together with experts on addressing a key real-world challenge that is of interest to the community. All RTPs must spend an agreed amount of time on site, either at the [Harwell or Daresbury Innovation Campus](#).

NPRAISE will fund up to £80,000 at 80% FeC per RTP, including travel and subsistence costs, with RTPs starting no later than **September 2026 for up to a year**, or up to **November 2027 at the latest**. We are flexible about part-time applications or RTPs with caring responsibilities. The **closing date for applications is Wednesday 25 February 2026, 4pm**.

Eligibility & Outcomes

The opportunity is supportive of RTPs at any stage of their career and who are part of any CCP or HEC. As this opportunity is aimed at upskilling individuals, the proposal must clearly name an RTP, outlining the expected trajectory of the skills and career path of the RTP with NPRAISE, and also outlining the technical project that they will be focussing on.

NPRAISE can support RTPs through the following three streams:

- **Learn AI:** Those who have little understanding of AI, but want to learn and apply AI on an area of choice.
- **Explore AI:** Those who have some basic understanding of AI, but keen to explore more, especially application of techniques to domain-specific challenges.
- **Excel AI:** Those who have good understanding of AI, but want to understand more on core AI/ML techniques.

It is beneficial to align the named RTP along one of these streams in the proposal and to identify where cross-over between streams is expected.

The funds will support enabling the individual to work with STFC Scientific Computing to gain the necessary AI knowledge to take back to their research community. In Scientific Computing we will offer the individual a diverse range of training and hands-on coaching on various aspects of technical and non-technical aspects of being an RTP, and with access to its AI for Science theme and STFC facilities such as the Central Laser Facility, Diamond Light Source, or ISIS Neutron and Muon Source. There are also opportunities to work with the Department of Energy (DoE) labs in the USA through direct links held by NPRAISE. Being part of NPRAISE, RTPs will be able to:

- Participate in our training programs, workshops, and international engagements to continuously upskill.
- Engage in cutting-edge AI research and developmental efforts, and its application to real-world scientific and engineering research problems.
- Collaborate with facilities, and domain scientists on interdisciplinary projects.
- Develop and apply AI tools and methodologies to enhance the research impact of our facilities or their operational capabilities.
- Access to state-of-the-art computational facilities and resources.
- Access a supportive and inclusive work environment that values diversity and career flexibility.
- Engage with collaborators, including DoE labs in the USA, with us funding associated costs.

In addition to individual skills development, projects are expected to generate reusable assets that can be sustained within their respective community. This may include software (code), AI workflows or pipelines, curated datasets or benchmarks, documentation, or training materials, depending on the nature of the project. At the end of the programme, RTPs and communities are expected to provide a detailed report on these via template, covering their learning experiences, and potential impacts.

Application Process

This funding opportunity is specifically for researchers and organisations directly involved in the working consortium for existing funded CCPs and HECs, if you have received this document from a source other than the CoSeC email address or from the Project Lead of your community then please do not submit a proposal without first checking eligibility through CoSeC@stfc.ac.uk.

How to apply: please submit a proposal via the application form below before the call deadline of **4pm on Wednesday 25 February 2026**. Completed forms should be emailed to CoSeC@stfc.ac.uk, copied to damian.jones@stfc.ac.uk.

Assessment Process: proposals will undergo a single stage peer review by a panel convened by NPRAISE. There are two potential outcomes of the panel process: funded or not funded. In the case of a proposal being identified as not funded there will be no option for revision or resubmission.

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Value to the RTP and Upskilling Trajectory: The clarity of the RTP's chosen learning stream (Learn, Explore, or Excel), the identification of current skill gaps, and the potential impact of this funding on the RTP's career development and technical expertise.
2. Scientific and Technical Merit: The suitability of the proposed activities to meet the funding objectives, specifically the relevance of the real-world challenge that the relevant community faces, and the appropriateness of the AI/ML techniques proposed to solve it.
3. Impact and Sustainability: The potential for the project to generate reusable digital assets (code, workflows, datasets, and benchmarks) and the plan for sustaining these assets within the CCP or HEC community after the project concludes.

4. Feasibility and Resources: The appropriateness of the resources requested to complete the work proposed, the realism of the timeline (including the balance of training vs. project work), and the commitment to the required on-site presence.
5. Environment and Support: The strength of the support from the specific CCP or HEC to provide domain expertise, and the alignment with UKRI's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion principles outlined below.

Key Dates:

Call for proposals opens:	Monday 12 January 2026
Deadline for proposals:	4pm Wednesday 25 February 2026
Selection panel meeting:	w/c Monday 6 April 2026
Panel decision confirmed:	w/c Monday 20 April 2026
Funding start date:	1 September 2026

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

UKRI embeds Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) into every aspect of its work and expects those that it funds to understand and champion its [published principles](#). All proposals are expected to have read and apply the [UKRI strategy](#) around EDI, considering the four objectives that it sets out:

1. Foster a world-class research and innovation system, 'by everyone, for everyone'.
2. Include and support a diversity of people and ideas through our funding and partnerships.
3. Create a more inclusive and fair organisational culture, where everyone can contribute and participate, and feels valued and respected.
4. Advance and grow knowledge and capability to support a thriving research and innovation system by being a creative, evidence-based and evidence-informed organisation.

NPRAISE, CoSeC and STFC will ensure that these principles are considered throughout all engagements we have with your community. STFC has a robust policy in place to ensure fairness and equality relating to its use of the peer review panel process and that will be applied while considering all proposals received through this invited call.

Questions and Information

Any questions or requests for further information should be sent to CoSeC@stfc.ac.uk in the first instance.

Jeyan Thiyagalingam
UKRI-STFC
Principal Investigator, NPRAISE

Stephen Longshaw
UKRI-STFC
Director, CoSeC

APPLICATION FORM (all fields are mandatory)

1. Full Name

2. Affiliation

3. Email

4. Name of community (CCP/HEC)

5. Organisation(s) that will be the ultimate beneficiary

6. Requested funding amount (in GBP)

A total of £480,000 is available across the proposals received to fund up to six RTPs, with an upper limit of £80,000 per proposal to be requested from STFC (see Question 12 for eligible contribution rates).

7. Define how you will utilise this funding within the timescales of the project – from 1 September 2026 for a period of 12 months (Maximum 250 words)

8. Proposal title

9. Proposal overview (Maximum 500 words)

This should provide a concise overview of the proposed work.

10. Workplan (*Maximum 500 words*)

A plan of work should be provided, this should include the objectives, milestones and deliverables proposed. This may be presented in a form that is most useful, including using diagrams, tables and images.

11. Justification of resources (*Maximum 500 words*)

This should provide a justification for the funding requested in section 12 (here below), where salary costs are requested a plan for delivery should be defined.

12. Finances

	FEC (£)			STFC Contribution (£)			% FEC
	net	Indexation	Total	net	Indexation	Total	
DI - Staff							80
DI - T&S							80
DI - Other Costs							80
DA - Investigators							80
DA - Estate Costs							80
DA - Other Directly Allocated							100
Indirect - Indirect Costs							80
Total Value							