

## Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) Programme

### Engagement activity response guidance

#### SECTION ONE

#### INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS

##### 1.1 Who we are

The Met Office is the national meteorological service for the UK. We provide critical weather services and world-leading climate science, helping you make better decisions to stay safe and thrive. The Met Office Hadley Centre, formed in 1990, is one of the UK's foremost climate change research centres. It also represents the UK within the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and plays a prominent role in international meteorology.

The Met Office is a Newton Fund delivery partner on behalf of UK government. The Newton Fund is a consortium of outstanding research and innovation partnerships between the UK and select countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to support economic development and social welfare, tackle global challenges and develop talent and careers. The fund is managed by the UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and delivered by UK and international partners.

The Met Office Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) programme is funded by the Newton Fund. WCSSP comprises projects to develop partnerships harnessing UK scientific expertise to build the basis for strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities to weather and climate variability.

The WCSSP Programme currently includes the following projects:

- [Climate Science for Service Partnership China \(CSSP China\)](#)
- [Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership South Africa \(WCSSP South Africa\)](#)
- [Climate Science for Service Partnership Brazil \(CSSP Brazil\)](#)
- [Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership Southeast Asia \(WCSSP Southeast Asia\)](#)
- [Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership India \(WCSSP India\)](#)

##### 1.2 Purpose of this early engagement guidance

This early engagement guidance document has been produced to provide information to inform any potential responses. In addition, a voiced presentation will be made available and we may conduct subsequent one-to-one meetings. It provides an overview of the key topics for discussion so that suppliers can consider what contributions they can make to inform the Met Office's thinking on sourcing of the required capabilities.

##### 1.3 Purpose of the early engagement activity

The Met Office wishes to understand more about how UK academia and relevant organisations might fulfil the WCSSP aims within a potential phase two of the programme, to inform future science plans in preparation to seek a future Newton Fund allocation from BEIS. We would anticipate a next phase of the WCSSP Programme beginning in April 2021 (subject to continuation of the Newton Fund and the Met Office receiving a Newton Fund allocation).

The information, data, comments, or reactions obtained will be considered when making plans for potential future procurement exercises, but there is no guarantee that any or all proposals will be used or developed.

#### 1.4 Additional information for potential suppliers

In addition to this document, a narrated presentation will be made available to all potential suppliers - the aim of the presentations is to provide suppliers with further background on current WCSSP activity and plans for future work. This will allow suppliers to provide better information in response to this early engagement activity, which will give Met Office valuable feedback on potential solutions and costs, and support the Met Office in developing a plan for the next steps.

This engagement activity is designed for UK organisations, and suppliers are requested not to contact in-country partners when preparing their responses.

The presentations will be available via the Met Office website from 17 June 2020.

We welcome any questions or requests for information in addition to this presentation – these should be submitted in line with 1.5 below.

#### 1.5 Supplier response

Interested suppliers will need to submit further information about their proposed activity ideas. Details of what is required from suppliers is available in Section 3 below.

#### 1.6 Next steps following the supplier response

The Met Office may invite suppliers who respond to one-to-one meetings, providing the opportunity to discuss specific topics in a greater level of detail. The Met Office reserves the right to target the subject areas it wishes to speak about. The planned structure of these meetings will be made available once the Met Office has received and reviewed the supplier responses, but an outline structure is provided below. Any responses and discussions during the one to ones will be confidential between Met Office and the responding company subject to any Freedom of Information requests.

The information gathered during the market engagement will be considered along with Newton Fund country strategies, in-country partner priorities, Newton Fund Delivery Partner activities and overall Newton Fund and WCSSP objectives to aid future planning. This will inform the procurement strategy to recommend the most viable ways of sourcing the required capabilities. The Met Office looks forward to receiving supplier inputs, which will help contribute towards shaping the procurement of the required capabilities.

#### 1.7 Contact and response information

Please submit responses via email to [WCSSPProgrammeOffice@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:WCSSPProgrammeOffice@metoffice.gov.uk) by the deadline specified below. Please reference *Met Office WCSSP Engagement Event Response* in your email title.

If you would like to engage with us, but the ongoing COVID-19 situation means you currently are unable, please get in touch stating this, so we are aware of your interest.

Deadline: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

#### 1.8 Terms of use

This early engagement guidance document is provided solely for the purposes of obtaining feedback from interested suppliers. It summarises certain aspects of the potential procurement but does not purport to contain complete descriptions of all such potential arrangements nor does it describe all arrangements that have been or may be entered into in relation to any possible procurement. Any structures and capabilities described in this document are proposals only and should not be taken as final. The recipient of this document (the 'recipient') should note that the information contained in this document is preliminary in nature and is subject to amendment and completion.

No decision has been made as to the form of any procurement and as with all public procurements it is subject to approval. Accordingly, no reliance should be placed on any information contained in this document and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by the Met Office or any of its advisors as to the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of such information within this document.

This document is not intended to form the basis of any investment decision or other evaluation by the recipient and does not constitute and should not be considered as a recommendation by any person in connection with the project.

Each party to whom this document is made available should, at its own cost and expense, make its own independent assessment of the procurement opportunity as it may deem necessary.

This document is written and provided in good faith; Met Office reserves the right to alter any aspect of this document, or to not proceed with the procurement in any way.

## **SECTION TWO**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE NEWTON FUND**

The Newton Fund builds research and innovation partnerships with 17 active partner countries to support their economic development and social welfare, and to develop their research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth. It has a total UK Government investment of £735 million up until 2021, with matched resources from the partner countries.

The Newton Fund is managed by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and delivered through 7 UK delivery partners, which includes UK Research and Innovation (comprising the 7 research councils and Innovate UK), the UK Academies, the British Council and the Met Office.

The Newton Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance commitment. ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee DAC list. The WCSSP Programme has been designed and is managed to comply with Official ODA guidelines.

From 2020-2021, the UK's partnerships with China and India under the Newton Fund will have a renewed focus on delivering global development impact. Through the Newton Fund the UK continues to work in close partnership with these countries on cutting-edge research, with the primary objective of delivering benefit to developing countries around the world, as well as secondary benefits in the UK, China and India.

The Met Office is administering the Newton Fund through under the Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership Programme (WCSSP Programme). The WCSSP Programme is developing a global network of projects that harness the scientific expertise needed to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to weather and climate variability. This network accelerates our scientific understanding of the challenges presented by a changing and changeable climate and strengthens

our shared ability to develop innovative services that reduce, or manage, societies' exposure – creating a 'global community around a shared challenge'.

The current phase of the Newton Fund ends in March 2021. The Met Office understands that BEIS is committed to the continuation of the Newton Fund and the collaboration on priorities with partner countries. However, at this time BEIS, in line with all UK Government departments, is not permitted to commit new funds to programmes that involve spend from April 2021. This is because the UK Government's financial planning process allocates budgets to all departments for spend over a fixed period and the current period ends on 31 March 2021. BEIS will advise further when the process for future UK budget allocations becomes available.

The Met Office is undertaking early engagement with the UK science community to inform future science plans in preparation to seek a future Newton Fund allocation from BEIS once the process for future UK budget allocations becomes available.

## **SECTION THREE**

### **RESPONSE FORMAT AND CONTENT**

#### 3.1 Response instructions

We are seeking ideas of how UK academia and relevant UK organisations can contribute to any future Phase 2 of WCSSP. Respondents should propose ideas using the template provided. This should be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF formats. The template is structured as follows:

A. Introduction Please provide:

1. Organisation name and address;
2. Contact name, phone number, and email address;
3. Which WCSSP project the response relates to.

B. Response

Respondents are asked to outline their proposed activity here.

This should include a description of how the project meets the Newton Fund priorities, particularly how it would achieve impact in-country.

Submissions may indicate an approximate FTE and/or cost for the activity.

Submissions should be a maximum of 2 sides of A4 in length (using a standard font size).

If you wish to propose more than one activity, please use a separate form for each.