

Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) Frequently Asked Questions

Version 2 – 06/09/19

Activity co-ordination and programme background information

Can we have details of contacts in country to find out more about data quality and availability?

The in-country Partner organisations in each country are:

- **Brazil:** National Institute for Space Research (INPE), National Institute for Amazon Research (INPA) and the National Centre for Monitoring and Early Warning of Natural Disasters (CEMADEN)
- **China:** China Meteorological Administration (CMA) and the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP)
- **India:** Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- **South Africa:** South Africa Weather Service (SAWS)
- **Southeast Asia:** Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) and the Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency, Badan Meteorologi Klimatologi dan Geofisika Indonesia (BMKG)

Winning bids will be provided with the contacts, if required.

Is background information available regarding the scope and activities (of both the Met Office and the UK partners) of the work packages and scientific progress that I can refer to at this stage?

Background information on WCSSP projects can be found at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/newton>.

A lot of WCSSP projects have global components that could be of benefit to other WCSSP projects. How is this being managed to avoid duplication of effort? How do we join up the external potential future requirements with planned work in the Met Office?

The WCSSP programme has the role of managing and integrating the projects to maximize Value for Money and scientific output. The WCSSP Programme Board and Science Review Panels look across the projects to identify linkages and avoid any duplication. Linkages are also managed organically at project level where further application of the science is identified.

Access to HPC functionality

What is the rationale behind WCSSP partners no longer being able to use Monsoon?

Monsoon is reserved for NERC funded projects and almost at capacity. Access is now restricted to NERC funded-projects only. If access to HPC is required, it is the bidder's responsibility to source this and provide a cost for HPC in the research plan.

While the Met Office supercomputing capability and Monsoon are not available for third party access, alternative platforms include (but are not limited to):

- **ECMWF** – by the end of March 2019 this will have provision for the Unified Model (UM) for users to test and set up model configuration, global atmosphere standard configuration, and regional atmosphere standard configuration. Further details and applications for access can be found at <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/computing/access-computing-facilities>
- **ARCHER** – A small amount of time for new users and communities who would not otherwise be able to gain initial experience on HPC systems. Further details and applications for access can be found at <http://www.archer.ac.uk/access/>

Data storage/analysis is available on request on the JASMIN system (for background info see http://cedadocs.ceda.ac.uk/1177/2/3 - Pritchard_JASMIN_Overview.pdf and <http://www.jasmin.ac.uk/>).

Could you clarify whether HPC costs can be included or not?

To clarify, HPC time can be funded in the awards. If HPC is required, the bidder must source this and provide a cost, if applicable, in the research plan when submitting the bid.

Access to data and models

What are the four different ensemble configurations being run?

RA1-T (the recommended tropical convective-scale configuration), RA1-M (the configuration used operationally over the UK) and two intermediate configurations.

Specifically on the modelling component in Brazil, is it just JULES that should be used or can any other hydrological model or system be used? Does this limit anyone from applying for this research if they do not have access to JULES?

JULES is the UK community model which is widely available and access will be provided to the winning bidder if required. It is expected that organisations requesting JULES have in-house expertise to run the model.

Has CSSP China ever produced a regional re-analysis for China/Asia?

The CSSP China project has produced a downscaled re-analysis for China using 20th century re-analysis for three ensemble members for the period 1851-2012. The downscaled data are at ~25 km spatial resolution and include 120 variables at various time steps. The full data set from downscaled 20CR ensemble member 37 is available via Jasmin (<http://www.jasmin.ac.uk/>), together with the downscaled ERA-Interim reanalysis that was used for evaluation of the downscaled 20CR.

A subset of the data for the first ensemble member (#37) is planned to be made available publicly via Zenodo (<http://help.zenodo.org/>; this also enables a DOI).

Scope of calls and proposal content

Where can I find a list of the open calls and the lots?

Anyone who registered interest at the Expressions of Interest stage will receive message notification when the calls go live via the e-tendering portal. The information will also be made available via the Met Office twitter feed (@MetOfficeww) and the [WCSSP Research Opportunities web page](#).

What is the bridge between the science and the user? Is the aim to provide more tailored service to end users?

It is anticipated that user pull and the requirement for the translation work from science into service will be a focus for the next phase of the projects. Therefore, the current calls do not focus specially on the development of prototype services, however bids should demonstrate how they contribute to this aim.

Can we include examples of other in-country work in e.g. China or Brazil in our bids?

There is a relevant experience section within the bid documents, which is used to capture relevant experiences, in country or elsewhere if available.

Will studentships be considered as part of a bid?

No, the expectation on students is on learning not on delivering so studentships should not be included.

Can we include Met Office scientists in our bids?

No, Met Office staff must not be part of a consortium. However, if the delivery of a bid requires support from the Met Office (i.e. granting access to specific datasets, models or in-country partners) please highlight this requirement using the question function in the Tendering Portal prior to submitting your bid and a support mechanism can then be scoped.

Will the funding include the employment of suitable personnel to work on the project?

The bilateral partnership nature of the Newton Fund means that standard effort by in-country researchers is supported by project in-country partners. However, bidders are welcome to hire a research fellow (at the postdoctoral level) to work on the project in the UK. These will be funded if the research fellow is being salaried at a UK organisation.

Bidding process

Will there be more than one successful bidder per lot? Can there be multiple proposals funded under the same Lot? Will the expectation be a consortium for the whole amount or will smaller bids around one of the required themes (e.g. Tropical Cyclones, land hydrology & flooding) be considered?

Awards will only be one contract per lot. If the winning bid is made up of a consortium, a lead organisation should be nominated to act as the contract lead.

The current call timings allow little time for recruitment. Our university cannot advertise a research position until the contract is signed. Can the start and end dates be pushed back to allow a greater window for recruitment?

Recruitment and academic calendars have been taken into account in scheduling these calls as much as possible. Also winning bidders will be notified as soon as possible to maximise any recruitment requirements. However, the end dates of the grant are based on the funding timescales so will not be extended.

6 weeks to put the bid together is a very short time to form a consortium bid. The call period should not include Dec 20 – Jan 2 when university finance departments close and the bid cannot be progressed.

Every effort has been made to lengthen the call period where possible. The timetable for this round aims to provide the optimum length of research time, while complying with the end date of the funding.

Are we going to be marked down if we propose doing work in a “non-Met Office way”, e.g. we have different ways of generating data through enormously larger ensembles than the Met Office capability?

Bidders are encouraged to submit an innovative submission, which proposes an alternative approach to, or method of, meeting the call's requirement, or some reasonable relaxation of the conditions of the call which might provide better value for money.