Research Tools or Technology Platforms

UK DRI Group Leaders and Associate Members are invited to propose Research Tools or Technology Platforms that will enrich and advance the work of our researchers. Research Tools might include new model systems, specific high value reagents, vectors, or specialised bespoke equipment. Technology Platforms might include specialist expertise, technical facilities or new pipeline processes or techniques. In all cases we are interested in delivering to the UK DRI (and beyond) important new resources and opportunities that are currently rate limiting or unavailable, and of likely high value to UK DRI researchers across multiple centres.

The ideal proposal would have the following characteristics:
- Establishes a tool or platform for which there is both local and national enthusiasm.
- Is a resource for which a specialised, dedicated technologist would add significant value.
- Presents a business plan to make the resource financially viable over many years including how user fees (if any) will contribute, and how it will be updated (where applicable).
- Leverages local resources. (You may want to apply centre, university or other external funds to the proposal).
- Introduces a valuable new technology to the UK DRI or significantly upgrades or expands an existing critical technology.
- Each new resource will have a scientific leader (or co-leaders) who is a UK DRI Group Leader or Associate Member with relevant expertise in this area. The scientific leader will be able to demonstrate interest in the platform from researchers across the UK DRI including Associate Members and strategically relevant external collaborators.

Support:
- A Research Tools and Technology Platforms Manager (expected April 2020) will work across UK DRI centres to support the initiation and development of new resources.
- High-level specialist technologists may be hired to oversee, support and upgrade resources as required.

Proposals are welcomed throughout the year and are not currently subject to a deadline.

The scientific lead should develop a short (maximum 2-3 page) proposal outlining:
1. Rationale behind the proposed new resource.
2. Names of UK DRI Group Leaders, Associate Members and/or external collaborators who have expressed interest in using the resource.
3. Approximate budget and justification for requested resources (equipment, staffing, consumables).
4. Brief business plan including leveraging local funds, user fees, etc.
5. A letter of support from the appropriate Centre Director.

Review and evaluation
1. Proposals for new Research Tools or Technology Platforms will be assessed by the UK DRI Directors with input from the Operational Board. Feedback will be provided and if appropriate, a more detailed proposal requested.
2. The revised proposal will be assessed by an internal panel and, for more costly programmes, an *ad hoc* external review panel.
3. Proposals that garner positive reviews will be presented to the UK DRI Board of Trustees for further review and confirmation.

For questions and to discuss Research Tools or Technology Platforms ideas, please contact Aoife a.kiely@ukdri.ucl.ac.uk

Version	Date	Prepared by	Approved by	Notes
1.0	Jan 20 2020	Aoife Kiely	UK DRI Directors	First version of official guidance
2.0	Feb 17 2020	Aoife Kiely	UK DRI Directors	Revised guidelines