

Forecasting Tipping Points: Phase 2

Call for proposals

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SECTION 1: Programme Thesis and Overview.....	3
Programme thesis, simply stated.....	3
Programme evolution.....	4
SECTION 2: Programme Objectives.....	7
SECTION 3: What are we looking for.....	7
What we expect to fund.....	7
Efforts that are likely out of scope.....	10
Who should apply.....	11
SECTION 4: Programme Milestones.....	12
Programme-wide milestones and measures (M= technical, T = translation).....	13
SECTION 5: Programme Duration and Project Management.....	14
Project Milestones.....	14
Programme & Project Management.....	16
SECTION 6: Eligibility & Application process.....	19
Eligibility.....	19
Finding potential collaborators and teaming.....	19
Application Process.....	20
Use of NERC facilities.....	21
Non-UK funding.....	22
SECTION 7: Timelines.....	22
SECTION 8: Evaluation Criteria.....	23
Concept Paper and Proposal Evaluation Principles.....	23
Proposal evaluation process and criteria.....	24
Proposal Feedback.....	26
SECTION 9: How to apply.....	27
Appendix.....	37
Example module-level technical measures.....	37

SECTION 1: Programme Thesis and Overview

Note: links are made throughout this section to external materials that provide additional context for the call and the Forecasting Tipping Points programme. We recommend that applicants read all linked materials before preparing their application.

Programme thesis, simply stated

Tipping points are potentially abrupt, self-reinforcing shifts in the Earth system that could have profound consequences for human and ecological systems. The Forecasting Tipping Points programme core [thesis](#) is that calibrated observations and validated physics- and AI-driven models can be united into an affordable, sustainable and justified early warning system (EWS) for climate tipping points.

The North Atlantic Subpolar Gyre is a chronically under-observed ocean system whose state influences regional climate, marine ecosystems, and the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation. Its close coupling with freshwater input from Greenland and the prospect that its tipping point could be crossed on decision-relevant timescales makes it a strong test case for whether calibrated observations and models can provide trustworthy warning.

The Forecasting Tipping Points programme seeks to test the core thesis by building a trustworthy early warning system minimum viable product (MVP) that warns of changes in the North Atlantic Subpolar Gyre, taking Greenland freshwater forcing as a critical input. Our goal is to build an ethical and equitable public-good system that integrates sustained observations from an adaptive sensing network to uncertainty-aware state estimation. That state estimate will then feed tipping point signal detection and interannual-to-decadal forecasting activities to produce decision-facing impacts products that test whether changing risks and decision windows can be identified early enough to support proportionate response options.

We are seeking ambitious, interdisciplinary teams that can fill specific gaps in [our portfolio](#) as we build an end-to-end system: in adaptive ocean observation, state-estimate-linked forecasting, impacts and response, and independent systems integration. We welcome climate and ocean scientists alongside experts in autonomous systems, sensing, metrology, AI, data assimilation, decision science, risk, product development and systems engineering, especially where they embed in their teams prospective users from fisheries and marine management, finance, or climate security.

Programme evolution

Forecasting Tipping Points has already established promising capabilities across sensing, observation, modelling, signal detection, calibration and data infrastructure. We now need to turn those capabilities into a coherent, decision-relevant system. We are not making a broad call for standalone research into SPG tipping dynamics or processes; we are seeking proposals that specifically fill defined gaps in the existing portfolio and make a material contribution to the end-to-end chain from observation to decision.

The Forecasting Tipping Points programme was deliberately structured in two phases: Phase 1 would test and de-risk early stage observational and modelling approaches; Phase 2 would use the body of evidence to select, deploy and integrate the capabilities into an EWS. Phase 1 of the programme, running since April 2025 (more details available in the [prior solicitation document](#)), has delivered field-ready observational technologies, compiled new datasets and modelling capabilities, created stronger methods for signal detection, and formed the partnerships needed to quantify uncertainties. Many projects from Phase 1 will continue and evolve to meet the needs of the programme Phase 2.

Based on our [learnings in Phase 1](#), we have expanded our ambition and budget for Phase 2, accelerating delivery of an integrated EWS minimum viable product (MVP) that can build trust with end users. Given the faster dynamics of the system, the MVP will be focused on the North Atlantic Subpolar Gyre (SPG) as the core tipping system, with the Greenland ice sheet as an important source of fresh meltwater that can change ocean dynamics.

How have we evolved?	Phase 1 (April 2025 - Feb 2027)	Phase 2 (Feb 2027 - Mar 2030)
Goal	Establish the research foundation for an EWS	Demonstrate a EWS
Tipping system target(s)	Greenland ice sheet and sub polar gyre	Subpolar gyre, taking Greenland meltwater as a key forcing function
Programme structure	Technical areas and cross-cutting themes	Inter-connected modules and dedicated system integration and assurance.

The present document therefore moves beyond the original thesis and sets out how Phase 2 will iterate an MVP with defined prospective users in sectors where credible foresight about changing SPG conditions could inform preparedness, investment and risk-management decisions. Phase 1 engagement and co-design suggests stakeholder interest exists across

fisheries, finance and climate security, including but not limited to energy, water and food security (excluding defence). In Phase 2, the goal is to embed end users within project teams to bring user discovery and co-design directly into the programme research activity.

A new modular programme design is envisaged (Fig. 1) to underpin the MVP delivery target. It draws on the World Meteorological Organisation [four pillars of early warning](#): risk knowledge; detection, observation, monitoring and forecasting; warning dissemination; and preparedness and response. Reflections of the Forecasting Tipping Points programme team on these pillars in the context of tipping point early warning can be found [here](#).

Within the modular design, ocean and meltwater observations will feed an uncertainty-qualified state estimate. That estimate will support two linked functions: detecting physically meaningful changes in system stability, and predicting plausible interannual-to-decadal trajectories. The addition of the Interannual-to-Decadal module is important not only for building trust in the overall system, but also for improved assessment of nearer term risks than tipping points that can also be built from our observation networks. Examples include, but are not limited to, marine heatwaves, prolonged drought, and severe storms, or support of planning for marine access, coastal operations, and community resilience in Greenland. The new Impacts and Response module will translate the combined evidence into anticipated consequences, define affected decision windows, and create proportionate options for specific users in an ethical framework.

The modular system will operate as a closed loop, with aligned milestones across the programme enabling a coherent, trustworthy and decision-relevant operation. Decision requirements will shape forecast and warning specifications, defining both state-estimation and observation needs. Observations will update the state estimate, while models and observing-system experiments will identify where new measurements could add the most information value. Each module must deliver an uncertainty-qualified product to the next and demonstrate downstream value. Interfaces between modules will be defined and streamlined by an independent systems integration team. The output of the EWS MVP should reveal how risks and decision windows are changing in reality for specific end users and define appropriate response options within those windows.

End-to-End Early Warning System

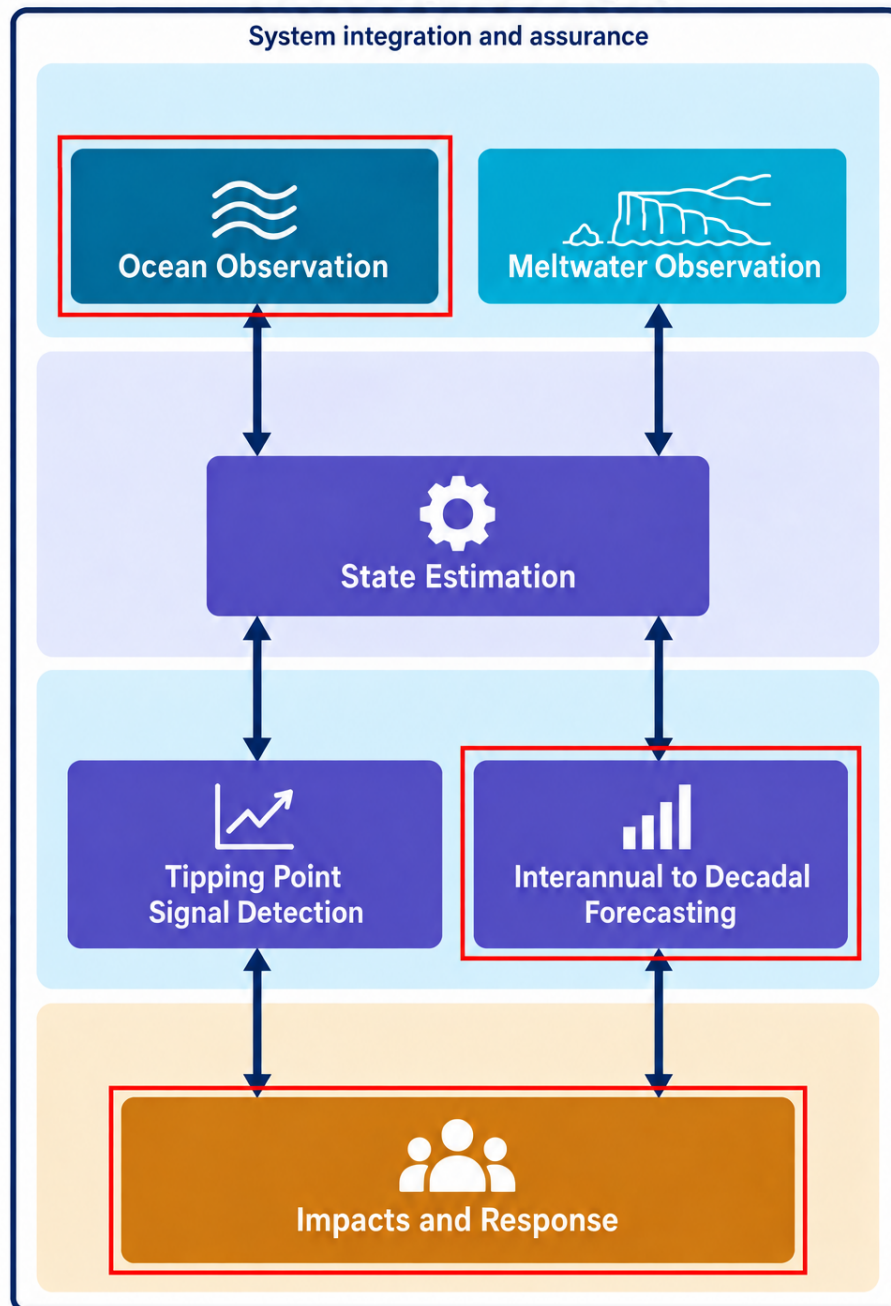


Fig 1: A modular architecture for an early warning system (EWS) minimum viable product (MVP). The EWS contains six connected modules: A sustained and adaptive ocean observing network (**Ocean Observation**); Measurement of freshwater flowing from the Greenland ice sheet into the North Atlantic (**Meltwater Observation**); Continuously updated estimates of the state of the ocean (**State Estimation**); Detection of physically meaningful

early warning signals (**Tipping Point Signal Detection**); Interannual to decadal forecasts of plausible ocean change (**Interannual to Decadal Forecasting**); And translation of those forecasts into potential impacts and proportionate response options (**Impacts and Response**). Underpinning all of these modules is the definition of a named producer, consumer and acceptance test with explicit product-level ownership and uncertainty traceability achieved with independent external partnerships (**Systems Integration and Assurance**). The modules we are actively soliciting for are bounded by red boxes.

SECTION 2: Programme Objectives

Phase 2 aims to establish whether a trustworthy, decision-relevant prototype EWS can be built for the SPG, with freshwater forcing from Greenland ice sheet meltwater as a key input. The Forecasting Tipping Points objective is not to guarantee prediction of a tipping threshold being crossed, but to show whether the evolving Earth system can be sufficiently well characterised to provide useful evidence about changing risks and decision windows. We therefore test explicitly whether the relevant SPG state can be sufficiently constrained, whether warning and forecasting methods are robust, and whether the resulting information can support a credible response, through three repeated learning cycles that aim to achieve the following programme-wide objectives:

1. **Demonstrate and improve an observing-to-decision chain.**
2. **Improve evidence on SPG state and freshwater forcing.**
3. **Deliver trustworthy warning and foresight.**
4. **Use evidence to improve observing and response decisions.**
5. **Leave an adoptable service.**

SECTION 3: What are we looking for

No individual project is expected to deliver the entire EWS: successful projects will contribute to a shared, interoperable system. We welcome proposals spanning more than one module where this is necessary to close an interface or deliver a coherent product. Every proposal should identify its relevant module(s); its expected inputs and outputs; its named downstream consumer; the acceptance test for its outputs to be verified; and how uncertainty, validation and data provenance will be managed.

What we expect to fund

We want to see ambitious proposals in four particularly important areas (with indicative budgets for the whole module):

An ocean observing network (£18.5m):

An EWS requires greater capability to observe the SPG as a continuously evolving system. We are seeking creative approaches that combine established international observing infrastructure with lower-cost, autonomous and adaptive technologies to create sustained, calibrated and year-round coverage of decision-critical ocean processes.

Priority gaps include observing freshwater distribution, ocean-atmosphere exchange, stratification, deep convection, circulation and mixing; deployment of new moorings with timely readout; and approaches that use observing-system experiments, state estimation and forecasts to target measurements where they reduce the most important uncertainties.

We are interested in sustained networks, rather than isolated instruments or short field campaigns. We favour rapid initial deployment with gradual expansion in capability and coverage over the course of the 3 year Phase 2. Proposals should explain how new observations will directly connect to and build upon existing infrastructure beyond the programme (including Greenlandic infrastructure, where applicable). Proposals should also detail how they will provide quality-controlled public-good data streams. Networks should output clear information on uncertainty, coverage, latency and continuity, for use in state estimation and forecasting. We may co-fund efforts in this module with a third-party organisation. Additional co-funding and partnership with other observing initiatives put forward by applicants is strongly encouraged.

Interannual to decadal forecasting (£5-7m):

The programme has existing capability in long-term (multi-decadal timescale) projection and tipping-point analysis. The missing capability is an interannual-to-decadal forecasting system that is initialised and constrained by the evolving state of the SPG, produces useful information on interannual-to-decadal timescales, and can be tested and improved through repeated use.

We are seeking physics-based and AI-native approaches that connect directly to the programme's state-estimation outputs; make uncertainty, assumptions and failure modes explicit; and produce physically consistent forecasts or storylines of timing, magnitude and geography of changes. Proposals should include a credible evaluation strategy, including comparison with relevant external baselines (e.g. the Decadal Climate Predictions Project models) and matched no-new-data analyses where appropriate.

Adding this module helps to bridge the gap between seasonal climate information and longer-term projections, while retaining the programme's focus on ocean-system change and tipping-relevant dynamics. Success will require forecasts that can be tested, compared and improved – not simply long-term projections that cannot be easily verified. We also expect serendipitous opportunities for translation to arise from the availability of data and forecasts on near-term timescales; any envisaged opportunities of this nature should be identified by applicants.

Impacts and response (£3-5m):

Scientific information becomes useful, usable and used when it is framed around a decision. Vital to delivery of the EWS MVP are teams that can turn uncertainty-qualified evidence about changing ocean-system risks into information that changes real decisions. We are seeking teams with embedded user communities, sector expertise and product-development capability to co-design, test and refine decision-facing outputs. Proposals should begin with a named prospective user or trusted intermediary and specify:

- the decision, current workflow and planning horizon;
- the value proposition: what is done today, why this is materially better, and what evidence would demonstrate actual adoption rather than simply usefulness;
- the relevant geography, variables, update cadence and delivery format;
- the required lead time, acceptable uncertainty and consequences of false reassurance or false alarm;
- the point at which waiting closes, narrows or substantially increases the cost of an option; and
- the authority, finance and operational capacity required to respond.

Stakeholder interest or participation alone is not evidence of demand. Strong proposals will show a credible route to testing outputs in real workflows aligned with the timeframes of specified programmatic milestones and to gaining progressively stronger institutional, operational or financial commitment.

Independent systems integration and assurance (£5.8m):

We are explicitly seeking proposals for independent systems integration to create and maintain the shared EWS MVP. Systems integration will connect data, models, analytical tools and teams across the modular architecture; manage module interfaces and dependencies; establish integration cycles, acceptance tests, provenance and release processes; and ensure that uncertainty and fallbacks remain visible through the system.

Systems integration will work with programme-wide data sharing infrastructure and alongside assurance and quality functions, including those delivered in partnership with Earthmover PBC and the National Physical Laboratory. It will be accountable for assembling the shared MVP and connecting it with external infrastructure, but will not automatically own downstream products or become the long-term operator of the system.

Other modules and portfolio fit

Meltwater observation, state estimation and tipping point signal detection remain essential elements of the programme and will be integrated into the Phase 2 portfolio through existing programme capability. While this solicitation is not intended to duplicate existing capability in these areas, new proposals may enter these modules where they address a clearly evidenced, decision-critical gap and have a defined upstream or downstream role.

The Forecasting Tipping Points programme team will be actively undertaking discovery in the next 12 months to define the shape of a trustworthy institution for early warning of climate tipping points. While the output EWS acts as a public-good, there are tensions in establishing an institutional home, for example, building a financially sustainable institution that maintains transparency, and is ethical and equitable. Our goal is to identify an appropriate institutional architecture for long-term operation, exploring suitability of existing models and organisations as well as potential new approaches. The discovery process should clarify: who is expected to own the customer-facing product(s), how technical integration evolves into long-term operation, and what incentives will enable continued funding beyond ARIA. We are open to receiving proposals from teams who believe that they can aid this discovery process.

Efforts that are likely out of scope

We are unlikely to support:

- isolated sensors, short field campaigns or observational datasets without a credible route into state estimation or forecasting;
- standalone modelling or AI approaches that do not connect to observations, end-user requirements and prospective validation;
- generic dashboards, data platforms or communication products without a defined decision, user workflow and route to use;
- stakeholder engagement that does not include co-design, testing or progress towards operational adoption;

- proposals that seek to work in Greenland with insufficient Greenland engagement*;
or
- competing end-to-end EWSs developed independently of the programme's shared interfaces and integration process.

**If you need support with this, please reach out to clarifications@aria.org.uk*

Who should apply

Participation in the programme will require a significant time commitment from all those involved, we therefore encourage proposals that allocate the majority of each team member's time to the programme, wherever possible. Some applicants may already be part of the Forecasting Tipping Points programme and see an opportunity to extend or combine their work. Others may be entirely new to climate tipping points but have a technology, method or way of thinking that could change what is possible. We will help to build teams through the concept paper stage that can push beyond the state of the art while working as part of a coordinated programme.

We are keen to engage teams across sectors, enabling synergies between commercial and academic activities. We are excited to attract entrepreneurs from across the startup landscape to infuse an enterprising spirit into the programme cycles as we develop an MVP. To support deep collaboration across the programme, we are open to funding early career scientists and entrepreneurs as project leads or funding larger proportions of senior leads' time so that they can focus fully on their ARIA project. We have an active early career researcher community that benefits from a programme wide training programme. We welcome projects that contribute to this community, either through recruitment of early career researchers or by offering opportunities to develop the careers of those in our existing community. Stipend support for PhD students can extend beyond the maximum duration of the project if required to account for recruitment timescales.

Climate and ocean scientists will be central to this work, but they cannot build an EWS alone. We are looking to fund people working across a range of related areas, such as autonomous systems, robotics, sensing, metrology, data assimilation, probabilistic forecasting, AI, economics, decision science, risk, public policy, product development and systems engineering. We are interested in established teams, emerging organisations, and unconventional partnerships that can bring a missing capability into the programme.

We want to ensure that end users help shape, test and ultimately use the system. We have recruited [a diverse range of Fellows](#) representing a range of end-user groups that will be engaged in providing feedback at the concept paper stage. The Fellowship includes people working across fisheries and marine management, financial services, and climate security. Other high-value use cases are encouraged where applicants can evidence the need and route to adoption. We expect that proposals to the Impacts and Response module would align with these same end user groups. Co-design efforts likely require engagement with external initiatives across government, considering national resilience, long-term infrastructure investments, humanitarian responses and climate adaptation. We want to see proposals that include co-design partnerships, helping those specific teams as well as the entire programme define the decisions, lead times, uncertainty thresholds and outputs that would make early warning genuinely useful.

We particularly wish to encourage applications led by (or including):

- Researchers who have not previously worked in climate science, for example, technologists, engineers, computer scientists, mathematicians, economists, etc.
- Underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Those returning to science after a career break.
- Greenlandic researchers, institutions and communities. Note that if you are based outside of Greenland and are planning to establish a partnership with researchers in Greenland, please ensure that you give as much notice as possible and establish a mutually respectful partnership, aligned with the principles of our Greenlandic engagement laid out on our [website](#). If you need support with this, please reach out to clarifications@aria.org.uk

Greenlandic researchers, institutions and communities are especially important partners. Greenland is not simply a location for collecting data: local expertise and priorities must inform what is observed, how research is conducted, how data are governed, and what useful climate information looks like for the people living closest to these changes. To support this, we have established an [Oversight Committee](#) with majority Greenlandic membership to help ensure that research conducted in Greenland champions the [Greenland Research Strategy](#) and meets high standards of ethical engagement.

SECTION 4: Programme Milestones

Phase 2 will be managed through repeated end-to-end learning cycles against programme-wide objectives (Section 2). The first cycle ("Cycle 1" in the table below) will

create an end-to-end MVP that is tested with at least one prospective end user. Two subsequent cycles ("Cycle 2" and "Cycle 3" in the table below) will evolve and improve that initial MVP. The goal of each cycle is to build from observations into uncertainty-qualified state estimates, detection and forecast outputs, and at least one decision-relevant product. End user requirements and residual uncertainty can flow back through the system to change the observing, modelling or product choices in the next cycle.

Programme-wide milestones and measures (M= technical, T = translation)

Programme-wide milestones are detailed here to aid applicants in defining the timeframes for their aligned project milestones. Together with the programme team, the portfolio of projects will be working collectively to deliver on these milestones.

Date	Milestone	Measures of success
2/2027	M0	Phase 2 portfolio and systems-integration capability are selected. Every module has named data producers, consumers, interfaces and dependencies (+ fallbacks).
	T0	At least three candidate translation pathways are identified with a provisional target customer and associated value proposition and route to sustained operation.
6/2027	M0.5	Current technical capability and uncertainty baselines are identified. The Cycle 1 user context, decision and product requirements are confirmed with end-users.
	T0.5	Initial options for a long-term operational institutional home are identified. Priority use cases for Cycle 1 are defined.
11/2027	M1	The Cycle 1 MVP integrates observations, models and analytical capabilities. Each module passes an uncertainty-qualified product to the next and demonstrates an improvement from its M0.5 baseline. The Cycle 1 MVP is tested with a prospective user through an interpretation and response exercise, and learning informs the M2 measures. Outcomes can be disseminated for feedback in the wider climate community (e.g. at COP32 or the UK G20).
	T1	Priority pathways have been tested in real user workflows, with at least one paid or materially co-funded pilot secured and an anchor-funding proposition agreed to underpin the institutional home.
12/2028	M2	Cycle 2 demonstrates that new observations and models demonstrate independently tested added value against the strongest relevant external baseline and a matched no-new-data analysis. Products that do not meet their module milestones perform diagnostics and risk termination. End-user requirements are

	T2	used to revise observing, modelling or product choice and define M3 measures. At least two independent end user translation pathways have secured external funding, paid pilots or conditional multi-year commitments. Pathways without sufficient commitment are stopped, redirected or retained only where their public-good value justifies continued support.
12/2029	M3	Cycle 3 demonstrates improved information value and robust decision pathways in at least two end user settings over M2 system and baselines. The end-to-end system operates as a maintained, independently assured prototype.
	T3	Committed customers and next-stage funders for the institutional home identified that, where appropriate, cover an agreed proportion of the future operating costs of the products proposed to continue.
3/2030	T4	A named successor arrangement has accepted a costed operating, governance, data-access and transition plan for the elements intended to continue beyond ARIA funding.

SECTION 5: Programme Duration and Project Management

The maximum duration for projects is 3 years. Teams selected at the full proposal stage will enter into a contracting phase with ARIA where the specific scope of work and allocated budget will be finalised. Projects should commence as soon as possible after the contracting phase is complete.

Project Milestones

As outlined in Section 4, the programme will be running iterative cycles annually with associated technical and translational milestones used to track ongoing progress. Funded activities should directly align with these programme-wide efforts through the separate modules. To track ongoing progress across the programme, each project should define milestones with associated technical measures (see examples in Appendix) to ensure delivery of the module-level objectives outlined below:

Module	Phase 2 objective	Product delivered downstream	Provisional measures of success*
Ocean observation	Create a sustained, calibrated and adaptive SPG observing network targeting freshwater	Quality-controlled observations with uncertainty and complete lifecycle	Year-round coverage; monthly data transfer; calibration/uncertainty metadata for 100% of released data;

	distribution, stratification, convection, circulation and mixing.	cost information for state estimation.	priority locations, variables, coverage and latency thresholds to be confirmed at M1.
Meltwater observation	Quantify Greenland meltwater production, storage, routing, discharge, fjord exchange and export towards the SPG.	Quality-controlled observations with uncertainty and complete lifecycle cost information for state estimation.	Year-round coverage across priority source-to-fjord pathways; monthly data transfer; calibration/uncertainty metadata for 100% of released data; seasonal peak-melt capture; quantified uncertainty for production, discharge and export estimates.
State estimation	Combine heterogeneous observations with physical and data-driven models into a coherent, regularly updated estimate of SPG state. Estimate state estimation uncertainty reduction per unit cost of observation design.	State variables and uncertainty distributions for signal detection, forecasts and observation targeting.	Deliver a versioned, uncertainty-calibrated state estimate on a monthly cycle. State estimates must include observation influence and heat/freshwater/transport budgets.
Tipping-signal detection	Test for physically meaningful changes in stability while distinguishing them from noise, variability and short-lived extremes.	Calibrated, interpretable indicators with explicit null tests and limitations.	Pre-registered indicator suite and null tests; routine assessment of false-alarm and missed-detection rates; detection thresholds linked to physical mechanisms; clear confidence classification for alerts.
Interannual-to-decadal forecasting	Predict plausible ocean trajectories at horizons that can be tested and can alter adaptation and preparedness decisions.	Forecast distributions and storylines describing timing, magnitude, geography and uncertainty.	Probabilistic forecasts issued on an agreed schedule; skill assessed against hindcasts and persistence/reference models; calibrated uncertainty and regional storylines; defined lead times for priority decisions.
Impacts and response	Translate warning and forecast evidence into consequences and, closing decision windows and identifying proportionate response options with identified end users.	User-specific products with named decisions, lead times, acceptance criteria and response pathways.	Co-produced products for named end users; priority decisions and decision windows documented; acceptance criteria and response options agreed; exercises or pilots demonstrating usability.
System integration	Connect data, models, tools and teams into reliable	A maintained EWS MVP, interface	End-to-end MVP operating on a

and assurance	end-to-end releases with traceable uncertainty and clear fallbacks.	controls, integration tests, provenance and release decisions.	defined release cadence; automated integration, data-quality and provenance checks; traceable uncertainty through each product.
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** Provisional measures of success will be confirmed, evidenced and, where appropriate, strengthened at M1 (June 2027), once priority diagnostics, observing designs, comparators, validation data and detectable-effect analyses have been agreed.*

Programme & Project Management

Each project's progress will be monitored using the defined milestones. These will be defined by the applicant prior to the start of a project, be agreed upon by ARIA during the negotiation phase, and should be designed to easily convey progress to a third party. In order to do this, milestones should:

- Include details on methods used to achieve each milestone.
- Be defined on a quarterly cadence and where relevant, timed to align with programme-wide milestones.
- Include major "Go / No-Go" decision points aligned with the delivery of programme wide milestones (including translation milestones).
- Be aligned with a specified programme module (see [Table](#)) and detail: the output they will deliver, its intended downstream consumer, and its acceptance test.
- Where relevant, specify how performance will be compared with a relevant baseline or counterfactual
- Where relevant, specify how results will inform an observing, modelling, warning, forecast or decision-product choice in a subsequent cycle.

Teams may propose milestones that contribute to more than one module. It may be necessary for additional milestones to be added by the programme team that will be shared across all teams within a module, reflecting the collective progress needed to achieve that module's objectives.

Alongside our standard project management requirements (quarterly reporting on progress towards milestones and cost information more information can be found [here](#)), the programme team expects to meet our Creators regularly to review progress, discuss whether the initial project goals and milestones remain realistic, and decide whether it is necessary to change course or pivot. Creators will receive both written and verbal feedback on quarterly reports. On an ongoing basis, the Programme Directors will continue to shape and

manage the project with you with the aim of achieving outputs most beneficial to the overall programme. Success/pivot/closure criteria for each project will be determined by the applicant's ability to meet their agreed-upon milestones and the Programme Directors will work with Creators throughout their project to refine and pivot as required.

Forecasting Tipping Points Independent Oversight Committee

Forecasting Tipping Points has an independent, Greenland-led [Oversight Committee](#), responsible for providing oversight and governance for all research within the programme. The Committee is currently developing Programme Engagement Guidelines that will apply to all funded projects. The Guidelines will be shared with funded teams. While the Committee is independently developing the Guidelines, we anticipate that adhering to them will include preparing an Engagement Plan where relevant to project activities, reporting engagement activity through the programme's regular reporting arrangements, responding constructively to Committee recommendations, and amending project plans or activities where appropriate.

Cross-programme collaboration

Collaboration across the programme and within modules is not only expected, it is vital to the success of the programme. Collaboration will be facilitated through annual in-person programme workshops, multiple creator- or partner-led workshops throughout the year, in-person (Cambridge or London) quarterly review meetings, as well as UK- based collaborative activities such as design sprints. Budgeting for in-person collaboration in cost plans is important, but will vary depending on location from which you and your team will be travelling.

All projects will be required to send a representative from their team to an in-person Forecasting Tipping Points Programme workshop in the UK, expected in late February or early March 2027. We also anticipate holding subsequent in-person/hybrid module-specific workshops, which relevant teams will be expected to participate in.

Information and data sharing

To further facilitate collaboration across the programme, all projects will be required to sign a programme-wide cooperation agreement as an early contractual milestone. The agreement will support practical information sharing within and between programme modules. It will set out shared ways of working, including transparency around project milestones and timelines, and expectations for collaboration and data sharing.

The cooperation agreement will not govern intellectual property ownership or rights directly. Where a project requires IP to be shared or licensed, the relevant parties are expected to agree appropriate arrangements separately. See more detail below about IP generated through the programme.

We will pursue a highly open approach to data sharing and will be continuing our work with the Environmental Data Services from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to ensure that best practices in data management are adhered to and that long-term archiving will be assured. Cooperation with the dedicated system integration team and data sharing platform from Earthmover is expected to ensure that appropriate data transfer can occur across module activities and throughout the system. Where appropriate, programme wide data formats, metadata content and sharing mechanism will be standardised.

Creator IP

Creators in this programme will own any new IP generated as a result of the grant/contract. We encourage collaborative sharing of IP between Creator teams throughout the programme (whether pre-existing or created during the course of programme activities). To facilitate collaboration between creators, we would encourage creators to enter into any direct agreements or arrangements necessary to protect confidential information, respect existing IP rights, or manage the co-creation of new IP.

It is a priority for this programme that any IP generated during the course of its activities is put to use. As such where Creators are capable of exploitation they should use all reasonable endeavours to exploit the Foreground IP. If for any reason you choose not to exploit any of the Foreground IP within a reasonable timeframe, Creators are encouraged to discuss the position with ARIA, who may exploit the Foreground IP or assist the Creator with their exploitation.

SECTION 6: Eligibility & Application process

Eligibility

We welcome applications from across the R&D ecosystem, including individuals, universities, research institutions, small, medium and large companies, charities and public sector research organisations.

Our primary focus is on funding those who are based in the UK. For the vast majority of applicants, we therefore require the majority of the project work to be conducted in the UK

(i.e. >50% of project costs and personnel time). However, we can award funding to applicants whose projects will primarily take place outside of the UK, if we believe it can boost the net impact of a programme; for example, demonstrating the value of early warning for Greenland.

In these instances, you must outline any proposed plans or commitments in the UK that will contribute to the programme within the project's duration (note the maximum project duration is 3 years). If you are selected for an award subject to negotiation, these plans will form part of those negotiations and any resultant contract/grant.

Finding potential collaborators and teaming

We have created a teaming request form to facilitate finding potential team members who have registered their interest in this programme. By following the link to the sign up form [here](#) you will be able to register, submit your details, and gain access to a list of other individuals seeking to find/share their expertise. All requests are screened via ARIA's internal team prior to access, after which connections will be made by individual users based on aligned expertise.

In addition, applicants to Phase 2 may wish to collaborate with existing teams within the programme. All projects are listed on our website and you can indicate on the teaming portal if there is a specific project that you would like to be connected with.

The programme team will also use the concept paper review page to facilitate teaming, if you consent to ARIA introducing you to other programme applicants to facilitate potential collaborations.

Application Process

The application process for Phase 2 of the Forecasting Tipping Points programme consists of two stages:

Stage 1 - Concept paper

Concept Papers are designed to make the solicitation process as efficient as possible for applicants. By soliciting short concept papers (no more than three pages) ARIA reviewers are able to gauge the feasibility and relevance of the proposed project and give an initial indication of whether we think a full proposal would be competitive. Based on this feedback you can then decide whether you want to submit a full proposal. You can find out more about ARIA's review process [here](#).

If you miss the deadline for submission of concept papers you can still submit a full proposal. However, we strongly encourage you to submit a concept paper. On average, 64% of applicants awarded funding submitted concept papers.

To ensure the process is quick and open we do not require your organisation's consent prior to submission of a concept paper.

You can find guidance on what to include in a concept paper [here](#).

Following review of concept papers applicants will either be encouraged or discouraged from submitting a full proposal. For more details on the evaluation criteria we'll use, click [here](#).

Stage 2 - Full proposals

This step requires you to submit a detailed proposal including:

- **Project & Technical information** to help us gain a detailed understanding of your proposal
- **Information about the team** to help us learn more about who will be doing the research, their expertise, and why you/the team are motivated to solve the problem
- **Administrative questions** to help ensure we are responsibly funding R&D.
Questions relate to budgets, IP, potential COIs etc

You can find more detailed guidance on what to include in a full proposal [here](#). **You can submit a full proposal even if you did not submit a concept paper.**

For more details on the evaluation criteria we'll use, click [here](#).

Use of NERC facilities

If you are planning to use NERC facilities, you should contact the [NERC facility](#), service and/or High Performance Computing (HPC) consortia lead to notify them of a potential dependency before submitting your concept paper. If applicable you should also notify Marine Planning via marineplanning@nerc.ukri.org directly if your proposal requires use of NERC's marine facilities. For facilities relating to Arctic services please contact arctic@bas.ac.uk. In submitting your concept paper, you must note potential use of the facility by detailing the relevant facility(ies) in the concept paper application portal. Please note this includes NERC's [Environmental Data Service](#). Details and facility costs do not have to be included at concept paper stage.

If encouraged to submit a full application, you should contact the NERC facility, service or HPC consortia lead as soon as possible to discuss your research proposal, and where applicable to complete any necessary HPC or facility form/application process as requested by the facility/marine planning, following the facility's normal access request procedures. As part of this process, NERC will provide a costed quotation for the services. In submitting your full proposal you should:

- Note the potential use of the NERC facilities in your proposal by completing the specific question included in the full proposal application portal. You can find guidance on what to include in a full proposal [here](#).
- For proposals that are assessed as compliant and in scope (in accordance with our project review process) you will be asked to submit a quotation from the HPC Consortia lead or facility, indicating prior agreement from the facility that your request is feasible and deliverable in the timeline indicated in your proposal.

Further discussion may be needed with any successful projects requiring marine or polar facilities in order to determine the most effective usage for delivery of the fieldwork aspects of the programme.

Non-UK funding

Our primary focus is on funding those who are based in the UK. However, funding will be awarded to organisations outside the UK if we believe it can boost the net impact of a programme in the UK. In these instances, you must outline your proposed plans or commitments that will contribute to the programme in the UK within the project's duration (note the maximum project duration is 3 years).

Engaging researchers, local communities and government in Greenland is vital to the success of the programme. The programme will benefit substantially from the scientific knowledge and lived experience of researchers in Greenland. Their involvement is also crucial from the outset in co-design and co-delivery of any fieldwork, to ensure field campaigns are conducted in a manner respectful of, and in compliance with, local frameworks and legislation. As such applicants from Greenland are strongly encouraged to apply and will not be required to meet the criteria to demonstrate how their work benefits the UK and will not be required to meet the criteria to demonstrate how their work benefits the UK.

If you are successfully selected for an award subject to negotiations this proposal will form part of those negotiations and any resultant contract/grant.

More information on the evaluation criteria we will use to assess your answers can be found later in the document [here](#).

We have provided some additional guidance on non-UK funding in our [FAQs](#) including available visa options.

SECTION 7: Timelines

This call for proposals will be open for applications as follows (we may update timelines based on the volume of responses we receive):

Applications open	18 September 2026
Concept paper submission deadline	09 October 2026 (14:00 BST)
Concept paper review & notification of encouraged/not encouraged to submit full proposal sent	10 October 2026 - 29 October 2026
At this stage and based on your concept paper, you will either be encouraged/discouraged to submit a full proposal. If you receive feedback indicating that you are not encouraged to submit a full proposal you can still choose to submit a full proposal. You should note that this preliminary assessment/encouragement provides no guarantee of any full proposal being selected for award of funding.	
Full proposal submission deadline	02 December 2026 (14:00 GMT)
Full proposal review	03 December 2026 - 20 January 2027
As part of our review we may invite applicants to meet with the Programme Director to discuss any critical questions/concerns prior to final selection — this discussion can happen virtually or we may seek clarification on certain aspects of your proposal via email.	
Successful/Unsuccessful applicants notified	20 January 2027
At this stage you will be notified if you have or have not been selected for an award subject to due diligence and negotiation. If you have been selected for an award (subject	

to negotiations) we expect a 30 min initial call to take place between ARIAs PD and your lead researcher within 10 working days of being notified.

We expect contract/grant signature to be no later than 6 weeks from successful/ unsuccessful notifications. During this period the following activity will take place:

- Due diligence will be carried out
- The PD and the applicant will discuss, negotiate and agree the project activities, milestones and budget details
- Agreement to the set Terms and Conditions of the Grant/Contract. Please note ARIA does not negotiate these terms. You can find a copy of our funding agreements [here](#)

Please note, for those applicants not selected for shortlisting or award we will not provide feedback.

SECTION 8: Evaluation Criteria

Concept Paper and Proposal Evaluation Principles

To build a programme at ARIA, each Programme Director directs the review, selection, and funding of a portfolio of projects, whose collective aim is to unlock breakthroughs that impact society. As such, we empower Programme Directors to make robust selection decisions in service of their programme's objectives ensuring they justify their selection recommendations internally for consistency of process and fairness prior to final selection.

We take a criteria-led approach to evaluation, as such all proposals are evaluated against the criteria outlined below. We expect proposals to spike against our criteria and have different strengths and weaknesses. Expert technical reviewers (both internal and external to ARIA) evaluate proposals to provide independent views, stimulate discussion and inform decision-making. Final selection will be based on an assessment of the programme portfolio as a whole, its alignment with the overall programme goals and objectives and the diversity of applicants across the programme.

Further information on ARIAs proposal review process can be found [here](#).

Proposal evaluation process and criteria

Proposals will pass through an initial screening and compliance review to ensure proposals conform to the format guidance and they are within the scope of the solicitation. At this stage we will also carry out some checks to verify your identity, review any national security risks and check for any conflicts of interest. Prior to review of applications Programme Directors and all other reviewers are required to recuse themselves from decision making related to any party that represents a real or perceived conflict.

Where it is clear that a proposal is not compliant, outside the scope and/or does not pass a quality assurance review, these proposals will be rejected prior to a full review on the basis they are not compliant or non-eligible.

Proposals that pass through the initial screening and compliance review will then proceed to full review by the Programme Director and expert technical reviewers.

In conducting a full review of the proposal we'll consider the following criteria:

1. **Worth Shooting For:**

- a. The proposed project uniquely contributes to the overall portfolio of approaches needed to advance the programme goals and objectives, as outlined in this document.
- b. It has the potential to be transformative and/or address critical challenges within and/or meaningfully contribute to the programme objectives. That means demonstrating alignment with the defined modules and associated objectives as outlined in this document.

2. **Differentiated** – The proposed approach is innovative and differentiated from commercial or emerging technologies being funded or developed elsewhere.

3. **Well defined** – The proposed project clearly identifies what R&D will be done to advance the programme Phase 2 objectives and what metrics or measures will be used to evaluate progress. The project should be ambitious but feasible and supported by data and/or strong scientific rationale aligned with the programme. The composition and planned coordination and management of the team is clearly defined and reasonable. Task descriptions

and associated technical elements provided are complete and in a logical sequence with all proposed stage-gates and deliverables clearly defined. The costs and timelines proposed are reasonable/realistic. Collaborations with existing programme projects are clearly identified along with interfaces to other programme modules.

4. **Responsible** – The proposal identifies major ethical, legal or regulatory risks and that planned mitigation efforts are clearly defined and feasible. Where relevant, proposals should clearly embed end-users and give evidence of a route to adoption.
5. **Intrinsic motivation** – The individual or team proposed demonstrates deep problem knowledge, have advanced skills in the proposed area and shows intrinsic motivation to work on the project and key individuals are dedicating sufficient time to the project. The proposal brings together disciplines from diverse backgrounds.
6. **Benefit to the UK** – There is a clear case for how the project will benefit the UK. Strong cases for benefit to the UK include proposals that:
 - a. are led by an applicant within the UK who will perform the majority (>50% of project costs spent in the UK) of the project within the UK
 - b. are led by an applicant outside the UK who seeks to establish operations inside the UK and perform a majority (>50% of project costs spent in the UK) of the project inside the UK and present a credible plan for achieving this within the programme duration.

For all other applicants we will evaluate the proposal based on its potential to boost the net impact of the programme in the UK. This could include:

- c. A commitment to providing a direct benefit to the UK economy, scientific innovation, invention, or quality of life, commensurate with the value of the award;
- d. The project's inclusion in the programme significantly boosts the probability of success and/or increases the net benefit of specific UK-based programme elements, for example, by being based in Greenland, or the project represents a small but essential component of the programme for which there is no reasonable, comparably capable UK alternative.

When considering the benefit to the UK, the proposal will be considered on a portfolio basis and with regard to the next best alternative proposal from a UK organisation/individual. Proposals led from Greenland will not be required to meet this criteria. Proposals led from Greenland will not be required to meet this criteria.

Proposal Feedback

At the concept paper stage, applicants will be notified whether or not they are encouraged to submit a full proposal. If you are encouraged to submit a full proposal, we will provide detailed feedback to help inform your full proposal. For those applicants not encouraged to submit full proposals we will not provide feedback.

At the full proposal stage, applicants will be notified whether or not they have been successfully selected for award. For those applicants not selected for award we will not provide feedback.

SECTION 9: How to apply

Before submitting an application we strongly encourage you to read this call in full, as well as the [general ARIA funding FAQs](#).

If you have any questions, please use the chat function on the funding call page for the quickest response. It can guide you to the right information or connect you with the ARIA team if needed.

Any questions or responses containing information relevant to all applicants will be provided to everyone that has started a submission within the application portal. We'll also periodically publish questions and answers [on our website](#).

Please read the portal instructions below and create your account before the application deadline.

If you are disabled or have a long-term health condition, we can offer support to help you engage with ARIA, navigate our funding application process, or carry out your project, you can find more information [here](#).

Application [Portal instructions](#)

APPLY [HERE](#)

Concept Papers Guidelines

How to format your proposal

- Page count: a maximum of 3 pages, including diagrams but excluding references
- Format: single line spacing, standard character spacing (neither expanded nor condensed)
- Font: Arial. Colour: black. Size: 11-point font or larger
- Margins: At least 0.5" margins all around
- File Type: PDF only

Section 1: Technical concept

Applicants are required to provide a concept paper no longer than 3 pages in length that outlines:

- Which module or modules your proposal aligns with
- A brief summary of how your proposed idea / solution supports the specific module objectives and the overall programme objectives.
- A description of the approach or methodology that will be employed to address the module and programme objectives. Including:
 - A description of the idea / solution proposed and why you have not been able to realise it previously.
 - Any data or scientific rationale to support your proposed concept - supporting data, journal articles, blogs, code or other materials may be referenced or linked to in the submission if they directly support your paper, but do not necessarily have to be your own work.
 - Identification of the technical challenges or obstacles that must be overcome to achieve the research goals. This includes potential risks and mitigation strategies.
 - Any links to ongoing work within the Forecasting Tipping Points programme
- An overview of the proposed activity of work, any key metrics and milestones and any dependencies and assumptions. If the proposal covers more than one module of the programme, milestones should be formulated separately for each module.
- An overview of the proposed project team including information about the expertise of the research team, relevant experience, skills, and capabilities.
- Potential additional co-funding and/or partnership with other initiatives.

Section 2: Timeline, Budget and Additional questions

In completing your application you must also provide answers to the following questions. Answers to these questions are not included in the 3 page cap. You should complete these questions in the application portal so there is no need to format these in a specific way.

Budget: How much funding do you need?

Please complete the table below providing an estimate in GBP (inclusive of VAT where applicable and all other costs) of what you consider a reasonable funding amount for your project. It's ok if you're not sure – give your best estimate. Please prepare a separate table for each module of the programme that you are contributing to.

Cost Type	Budget (£ Inc VAT)
Labour	
Materials	
Subcontract	
Equipment & Facilities	
Travel	
Other	
Subtotal	
Indirect Costs	
Total	

Timeline and additional questions:

Question	Guidance
Are you proposing to contribute funding?	<i>Where you or your organisation are proposing to contribute funding to the project please let us know. If yes, tell us how much funding you/your organisation plan to contribute.</i> <i>ARIA will fund 100% of project costs and contribution of funding is not essential however, we welcome proposals that contribute funding in</i>

	<i>cases when such funding will strengthen the potential success. In these cases, this funding contribution will be considered as part of the overall strength of the project proposal.</i>
How many months will you need to work on your proposed project?	<i>There is no minimum length for a proposed project. The maximum length is 36 months.</i>
Do you consent to ARIA introducing you to other programme applicants to facilitate potential collaborations?	<i>The primary goal is to facilitate potential collaborations that can strengthen the applicants proposed projects. Please note that we will not share any information about your proposal. All personal data provided to ARIA will be processed in accordance with UK data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act (2018) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Further information on how we use personal data and how you can exercise your right as a data subject can be found in the ARIA Privacy Policy.</i>
Are you planning to give a portion of the work to external subcontractors?	<i>If yes, let us know what work you plan to give to a subcontractor. Subcontractors are any proposed third parties that you plan to enter into a contract or agreement with for services necessary for the delivery or management of the project.</i>
Are there any conflicts of interest?	<i>Please provide a short description of any potential conflicts of interest.</i>
Are there any other factors or restrictions that might impact your freedom to operate and deliver the project?	<i>Please provide a short description of any import/export restrictions; security, ethical, legal and regulatory restrictions that you are aware of.</i>

Are you proposing to perform the majority of the proposed project outside of the UK?

Our primary focus is on funding those who are based in the UK. For the vast majority of applicants, we therefore require the majority of the project work to be conducted in the UK (i.e. >50% of project costs and personnel time).

However, we can award funding to applicants whose projects will primarily take place outside of the UK, if we believe it can boost the net impact of a programme. In these instances, you must outline any proposed plans or commitments in the UK that will contribute to the programme within the project's duration (note the maximum project duration is 3 years).

Please provide a brief summary of your proposed plans or commitments

Additional questions about you/your organisation that can be found in the application portal.

Full Proposal Guidelines

How to Format your proposal

- Page count: 8 pages including 2 pages for figures / diagrams (excluding references)
- Single line spacing, standard character spacing (neither expanded nor condensed)
- Font: Arial. Colour: black. Size: 11-point font or larger
- Margins: At least 0.5" margins all around
- File Type: PDF

Applicants are required to provide a proposal no longer than 8 pages in length that outlines:

Section 1: Programme & Technical

The aim of this section is to gain in-depth, technical information about the project being proposed. This should include:

- A detailed explanation of the proposed idea/solution, how it supports the technical objectives of the chosen pathway.
 - + This should be supported by visual aids, data and/or strong scientific rationale for why what you are proposing would work.
 - + Please include any required technical information, as specified in sections 2 and 3 of the call for proposals document.
 - + Detail the modular alignment of your project.
- A comprehensive list of the known technical risks/unknowns standing in the way of achieving the stated goals.
- How the proposed approach is differentiated, e.g. from commercial or emerging technologies being funded or developed elsewhere.
- A description of the proposed activity of work, key metrics and milestones and any dependencies and assumptions. Milestones should be aligned with programme modules.
- Estimated timelines - applicants should provide a Project Plan and Gantt chart for the lifecycle of the project, showing what you plan to achieve for each period of the project and how that work aligns with the cross-programme milestones and testing cycles.

Section 2: The Team

This section includes information about the proposed individuals or teams that will conduct the research and management structures. This must include:

- Details of the project team - we want to know who will be doing the work (not just the principal investigator or project lead) and what portion of their time will be dedicated to this project. We usually prefer any lead or key researchers to be spending at least 50%, ideally 80%, of their time on the project.
- You could include short bios about each team member (we discourage you from submitting CVs).
- If you intend to collaborate with or rely on any third parties, sub contractors/grantees, who they are and which elements of the project they will support/deliver.
- How you intend to coordinate and manage the teams including any collaborations with third parties.
- Any potential gaps in your core competency which would be required in order to achieve the overall goals. These may be available in the wider programme portfolio.
- We also want to know what motivates you or the team to want to do this project and why you are the right person/team to work on this project.

In addition to the above the following table should be completed and attached as an annex to your proposal.

Individual	Role / expertise	Already in place? If not, how long after project kickoff are they likely to start?	FTE	Total time on project (months, rounded)
<i>Sophia Fleissig</i>	<i>Synthetic biologist, project lead (TA1.2)</i>	<i>Currently assigned to a different project but could transfer to this project with 6 weeks notice</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Expert in plant tissue culture and transformation (TA1.3)</i>	<i>To be recruited, aiming to start within 3 months</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>33</i>

Magnus Formaggio	Plant geneticist advising on synthetic unit design (TA1.1)	Yes	40% during months 1-12, 20% during months 13-36	10
Etc	Etc	Etc	Etc	Etc

Labour table to be completed for all individuals working on the proposed project
(filled here with hypothetical examples).

Section 3: Administrative Response

This section includes information about the budget, intellectual property that you intend to rely on, any perceived conflicts of interest and for non-UK applicants how the proposed project may benefit the UK.

In completing your application you must also provide answers to the following questions. Answers to these questions are not included in the 10 page cap. You should complete these questions in the application portal so there is no need to format these in a specific way.

Application	Guidance
How much funding do you need?	Please provide a cost breakdown by completing the spreadsheet here. The cost breakdown should be provided for each individual module of the Phase 2 work that your project contributes to. Define the costs for each module as a separate work package in the template. In your proposal you may submit your budget using yearly, quarterly, or monthly phasing. Prior to completing this template you should review ARIA's Eligible cost guidance here. If your proposal is successful, prior to

	<i>contract signature when the scope of work has been agreed, you will be required to provide a monthly cost breakdown.</i>
Are you proposing to contribute funding?	<i>If you or your organisation are proposing to contribute funding to the project please let us know how much funding you plan to contribute, who is contributing the funding, is the funding already secured and any other relevant details.</i> <i>ARIA will fund 100% of project costs and contribution of funding is not essential however, we welcome proposals that contribute funding in cases when such funding will strengthen the potential success. In these cases, this funding contribution will be considered as part of the overall strength of the project proposal.</i>
Does your proposal depend on background IP (pre existing)?	<i>If Yes, give us an Indication of: What background IP is required, Whether you currently have rights to that IP.</i>
Have you already secured funding for a similar project or are you currently in the process of seeking support from other funding sources for the same project?	<i>If yes, tell us more about the funding you already have or are applying for.</i>
Any other factors or restrictions that might impact your freedom to operate and deliver the project?	<i>Please provide a detailed description of any perceived conflicts of interest with the programme director, import/export or security restrictions that you are aware of</i>

Are you proposing to perform the majority of the proposed project outside of the UK?	<i>Our primary focus is on funding those who are based in the UK. For the vast majority of applicants, we therefore require the majority of the project work to be conducted in the UK (i.e. >50% of project costs).</i> <i>However, we can award funding to applicants whose projects will primarily take place outside of the UK, if we believe it can boost the net impact of a programme.</i> <i>In these instances, you must outline any proposed plans or commitments in the UK that will contribute to the programme within the project's duration (note the maximum project duration is 3 years).</i> <i>Please provide a detailed description of any proposed plans (including a timeline or commitments).</i>
Has a suitably authorised member of your Organisation approved the submission of this proposal?	<i>In the application portal, please select the option that best describes your situation and provide details where required.</i>
Have you read and understood our funding terms?	<i>Our goal is to ensure your research can get going quickly, so we want to ensure a fast negotiation and award process. We aim to have agreements signed within 6 weeks, which we recognise can be much faster than standard at some organisations. Before proceeding, please confirm that you have read and understand our funding terms. If you are unsure which</i>

	<i>terms apply to you, you can find more guidance here.</i>
Additional questions about you/your organisation that can be found in the application portal.	

Appendix

Example module-level technical measures

Module	Examples of measures applicants may propose
Ocean observation	Decision-relevant coverage, continuity, latency and calibrated uncertainty. Demonstrated reduction in state-estimation uncertainty or information gain per whole-life cost.
Ice-sheet observation	Uncertainty-qualified estimates of meltwater production, routing, discharge and export. Demonstrated value of freshwater forcing in ocean state estimation or forecasting.
State estimation	Regular, coherent and uncertainty-calibrated estimates of SPG state from heterogeneous data and models. Robustness to missing inputs and value for detection, forecasting or observation targeting.
Tipping-point signal detection	Physically interpretable indicators that distinguish changing stability from noise and short-lived extremes. Explicit null tests, hindcast or controlled-test performance, and stated limits.
Interannual-to-decadal forecasting	Forecast skill, reliability or calibration improved (e.g. through better initialisation or forward modelling) against appropriate hindcasting baselines. Physically consistent trajectories or storylines with clear uncertainty and value from state-estimate initialisation.
Impacts and response	A defined user, decision, lead time and product specification. Evidence that users can interpret the output and identify proportionate, feasible response options.
Systems integration and assurance	Functioning module interfaces, acceptance tests, provenance and uncertainty traceability. Integration-test performance, resilient release processes and independently assured system evidence.