

CURRENT OPPORTUNITY SNAPSHOT

Always open. Still unforgiving.

NERC uses an always-open model. The current application link still has a transition cut-off, and a non-compliant pack may not come back for amendment.

CURRENT LINK CUT-OFF

22 September 2026 at 4:00pm UK time

UKRI says a successor link opens on 23 September 2026. Eligibility, scope, and assessment remain the same, but the exact link must be re-checked.

PRE-REVIEW RISK

NERC says a non-compliant application may be rejected and not returned for amendment.

SIX CHECKS FROM THE EXACT OPPORTUNITY

- 01

Funding

Ordinary full economic cost is up to £950,000. Seek prior approval above it.
- 02

Project lead

List exactly one project lead. Confirm role and lead-organisation eligibility.
- 03

Attachments

Do not attach letters of support. Use only material requested in the live form.
- 04

Approvals

Confirm NSF, facility, ship-time, or marine approval when that route applies.
- 05

Images

Keep each image below 5MB and place its caption or legend immediately below it.
- 06

Field limits

Re-check every live field. Summary 550; Vision 1,100; Approach 2,750 words.

SOURCE LOCK

Re-check the exact opportunity after 23 September 2026. This brief is a dated source snapshot, not an eligibility decision.

Official sources: [Exact opportunity](#) | [NERC rejection guidance](#)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT, CLEARLY BOUNDED

606 applications. 112 awards.

NERC's analysis covered four Pushing the Frontiers rounds in January and July 2023 and 2024. This is a historical benchmark, not a current forecast or your personal odds.

18.5%

112 / 606 HISTORICAL RATIO

Do not convert this aggregate ratio into an individual's probability. It does not identify which unsuccessful applications failed for preventable reasons.

THE FINAL 72-HOUR PASS

- 01

Freeze the live rule source
Save the exact opportunity URL, checked time, and application-link identity.
- 02

Inventory the final pack
Confirm file names, versions, required fields, and every conditional approval.
- 03

Reconcile the facts
Compare people, costs, dates, facilities, partners, milestones, and work packages.
- 04

Inspect what is visible
Check images, captions, tables, scanned pages, and text that may not extract.
- 05

Record unresolved decisions
Name the owner and deadline for every uncertainty. A silent unknown is not a pass.

A MISMATCH WORTH FINDING
The work plan promises technician support. The budget omits the technician, while the host letter assumes the support exists. Three plausible files now tell different stories.

Official sources: [Always-open guidance](#) | [Historical analysis](#)