

Announcement of Opportunity

The Changing Water Cycle

Programme Advisory Group

(Date issued: Wednesday 21st January; Closing date: Friday 13th February)

Summary

1. This document defines the recruitment process and the role of the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) of The Changing Water Cycle Programme. The initial role will be as a writing group for the programme Science Plan and the group will evolve into a full advisory panel, reporting to the Programme Executive Board. The PAG can be added to throughout the lifetime of the programme in order to maintain representation of all relevant stakeholder groups. Applications expressing interest in joining the PAG are being invited (deadline Friday 13th February 2009) in the format outlined in this document and the first meeting of the writing group will be 25/26th March 2009.

A. Programme Background

2. The Changing Water Cycle Programme directly relates to delivery of the NERC Strategy (in particular Climate System, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Natural Hazards Science Themes) and UK Governments Strategic Goals with respect to the adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change.
3. It is proposed that this Research Programme will run initially for four years with NERC funding of £10.1 million (£5million from the Climate System Theme; £2.3M from Natural Hazards Theme, £2.8M from SUNR Theme). It is anticipated that this Research Programme will make a significant contribution to the *Living With Environmental Change* programme. The programme will have global dimensions and dimensions that focus specifically on the UK/European region and certain overseas regions and take advantage of international collaboration opportunities. The programme will be fully multidisciplinary aiming to bring science understanding across the three themes in an integrated way.
4. The programme will develop an integrated, quantitative understanding of the changes taking place in the global water cycle, involving all components of the earth system, improving predictions for the next few decades of regional precipitation, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, hydrological storage and fluxes. The programme will work to understand how local to regional scale hydrological and biogeochemical processes are responding and will respond to changing climate and land use, together with their consequent impacts on the sustainable use of soil and water and investigate the consequences of the changing water cycle for water-related natural hazards, including floods and droughts, improving prediction

and mitigation of these hazards. This programme will address the urgent needs to understand the changes taking place now; predict changes that will take place over the next few decades; and, through LWEC, work with partners to build resilience, mitigate problems, and develop adaptive solutions.

B. Specification

5. A meeting to identify user needs, science challenges and opportunities will be held on 5th February 2009: <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/themes/news/090205/> . A wide range of policy and decision makers and international scientists concerned with responding to changes in the water cycle, including relevant LWEC partners, have been invited.
6. NERC will appoint a Programme Advisory Group (PAG) to develop a detailed science plan for a major Research Programme, including specific collaborative elements developed with LWEC partners. This plan will be submitted for international peer review to refine its detailed content prior to implementation.
7. The Programme Advisory Group membership will include representatives from the academic community and relevant stakeholders, including any co-funders and user groups. The PAG will be appointed via an open call for (self-)nominations with representation including but not limited to the following groups: the UK and international academic community (covering all programme's remit), relevant government departments and development agencies, NERC research and collaborative centres, UK and international water industry, Water aid charities, independent consultants.
8. The final decision for the composition of the advisory group lies with the Programme Executive Board (PEB).
9. A writing group (sub-set of the eventual PAG) will be appointed following the Launch Event via the above call for nominations and meet initially on 25/26th March 2009; thus nominees must be able to attend on these dates. The writing group will evolve into the full PAG which can be added to throughout the duration of the programme. Terms of Reference for the PAG will include the following clauses:
 - Advise on setting out of programme objectives in the Science and Implementation Plan and how to ensure their execution;
 - Advise on the strategic direction of the programme, including specification of the scientific content of published announcements of opportunity;
 - Advise on the development of international collaborative activities including emerging and future opportunities;
 - Advise on the development of user engagement;
 - Report as required to the PEB

10. The Programme Executive Board will reserve the right to appoint members to the PAG to achieve the balance of representation required and the PAG membership can be updated by the PEB throughout the duration of the programme.

11. Key Milestones:

- Programme Launch Meeting held on 5th February 2009
- Appointment (via open AO in January 2009 with closing date following programme kick-off meeting) of the PAG, including identification of members of a Writing Group/sub-set of Programme Advisory Group that will draft the Research Programme's Science and Implementation Plans.
- First Meeting of the Programme Advisory Group/Writing Group – 25/26th March 2009
- First Meeting of the Programme Executive Board – Q4 2008/09
- Approval and publication of the Science and Implementation Plans – Q2 2009/10

C. Guidance for applicants

Eligibility

12. This consultancy activity may be provided by any research organisation or company with a good knowledge of NERC science and UK stakeholders in this research area.

13. We welcome UK-based applicants from all research backgrounds who are ready to make the necessary commitment to the Changing Water Cycle Programme. We are looking for members from both the public and private sectors who have experience of a range of activities that have given them a good understanding of how NERC science. We wish to avoid over-representation from any single department or establishment.

Finances

14. NERC will cover all reasonable travel and subsistence costs incurred through advisory group membership responsibilities.

Governance & Performance Management

15. Management, reporting and monitoring procedures will be in line with NERC policy. The advisory group will report to the Programme Executive Board.

Assessment criteria

16. The final choice of PAG membership will be made by the Programme Executive Board and will be based on the following criteria (not in priority order):

- balance of representation across academic, stakeholder, international and co-funder communities;
- relevant expertise;

- cross-community knowledge,
- contacts and links;
- track record.

The Programme Executive Board will reserve the right to appoint members to the PAG to achieve the balance of representation required.

Assessment Timetable

17. The timetable is as follows:

- i. An open announcement of opportunity calling for (self-)nominations published 21st January 2009 defining the role of the PAG and writing group, requirements and eligibility.
- ii. Closing date (13th February 2009) following the programme launch meeting (5th February 2009)
- iii. PAG members will be invited by 27th February 2009 and list of membership published by 13th March 2009.

Application Format

18. The application includes sections on expertise, relevance and relationship to the Changing Waters Cycle Programme aims, current and past membership of professional bodies, experience of NERC operations, recent publications and qualities and value nominee would bring to the PAG.

19. The application will consist of completion of the application form in 12 point Times New Roman or Arial.

20. Applicants may attach a brief CV (no more than 2 sides A4) in support of their application.

How to Submit

21. Applications must be submitted as email attachments to Sasha Leigh (snbl@nerc.ac.uk) by **4pm on Friday 13th February 2009**.

Initial queries should be directed to:

Sasha Leigh
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01793 442634