Impact Roadshow 2020: How to handle impact in EPSRC proposals

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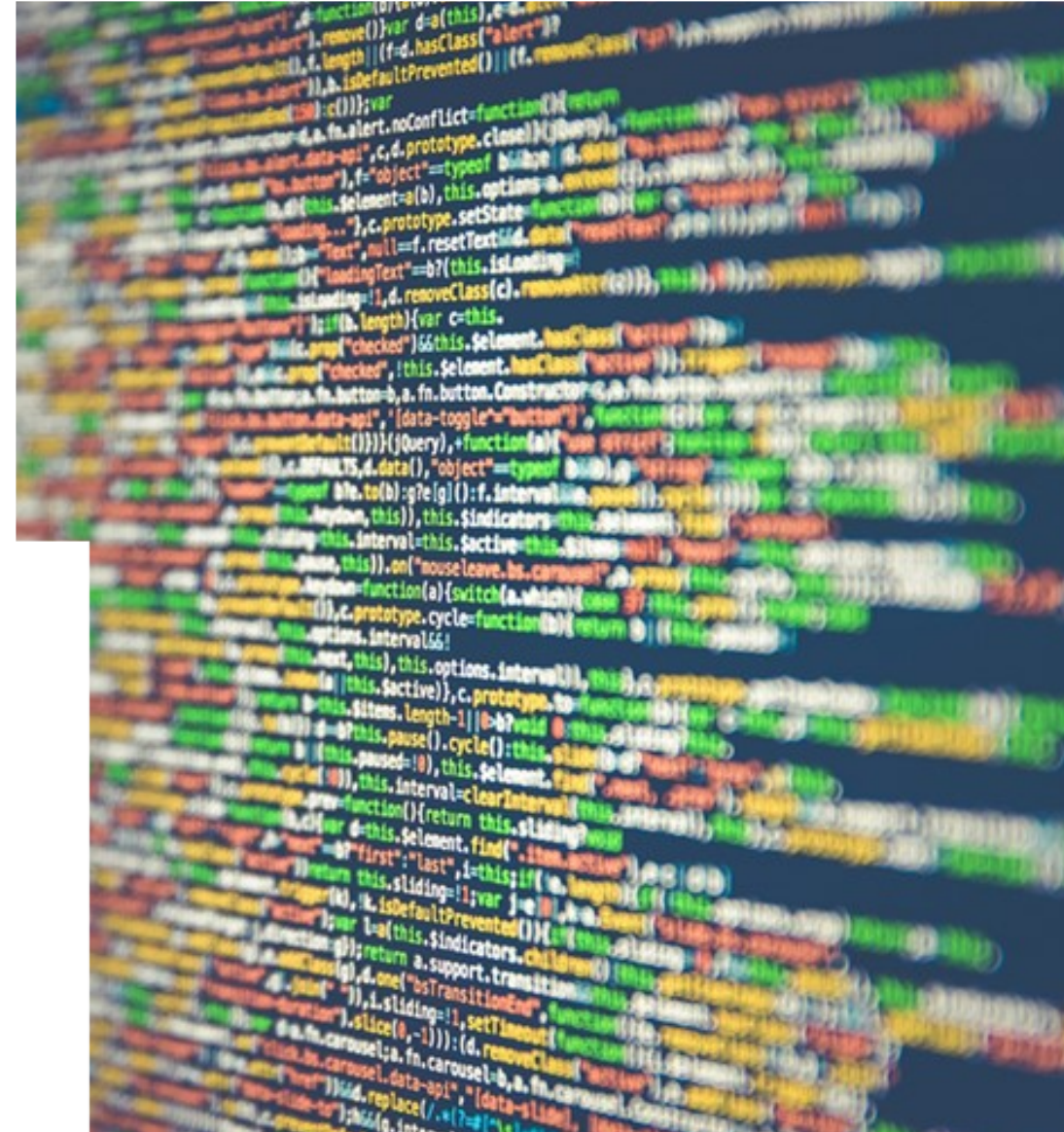
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Welcome!

What we will cover today…

1. **Impact in the brave new world**
   a) Recent changes
   b) UKRI perspective / EPSRC's new philosophy
2. **Handling Impact in applications to EPSRC**
   a) Planning new activities with Impact in mind
   b) At application stage
   c) Enabling impact whist carrying out research
3. **Final remarks**
4. Q&A

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Impact is important

The changes should enable you to…

- …streamline proposals at the point of application
- …be more creativity in integrating impact activities into research programmes
- …be free to include the impact activities appropriate to the project and discipline
- ...think about impact across the full lifecycle of research

What Has Changed

Impact is now a **core consideration throughout the grant application** process and showing how the applicant(s) will **maximise the impact** of the proposed research should therefore be **intrinsic to the proposal** itself in a way that is **appropriate** to the nature and scope of the research being proposed.

For example:

- A **discovery research** proposal may focus principally on the generation of new knowledge

- Proposals with significant elements of **applied research** may have impacts related to economic and societal benefits
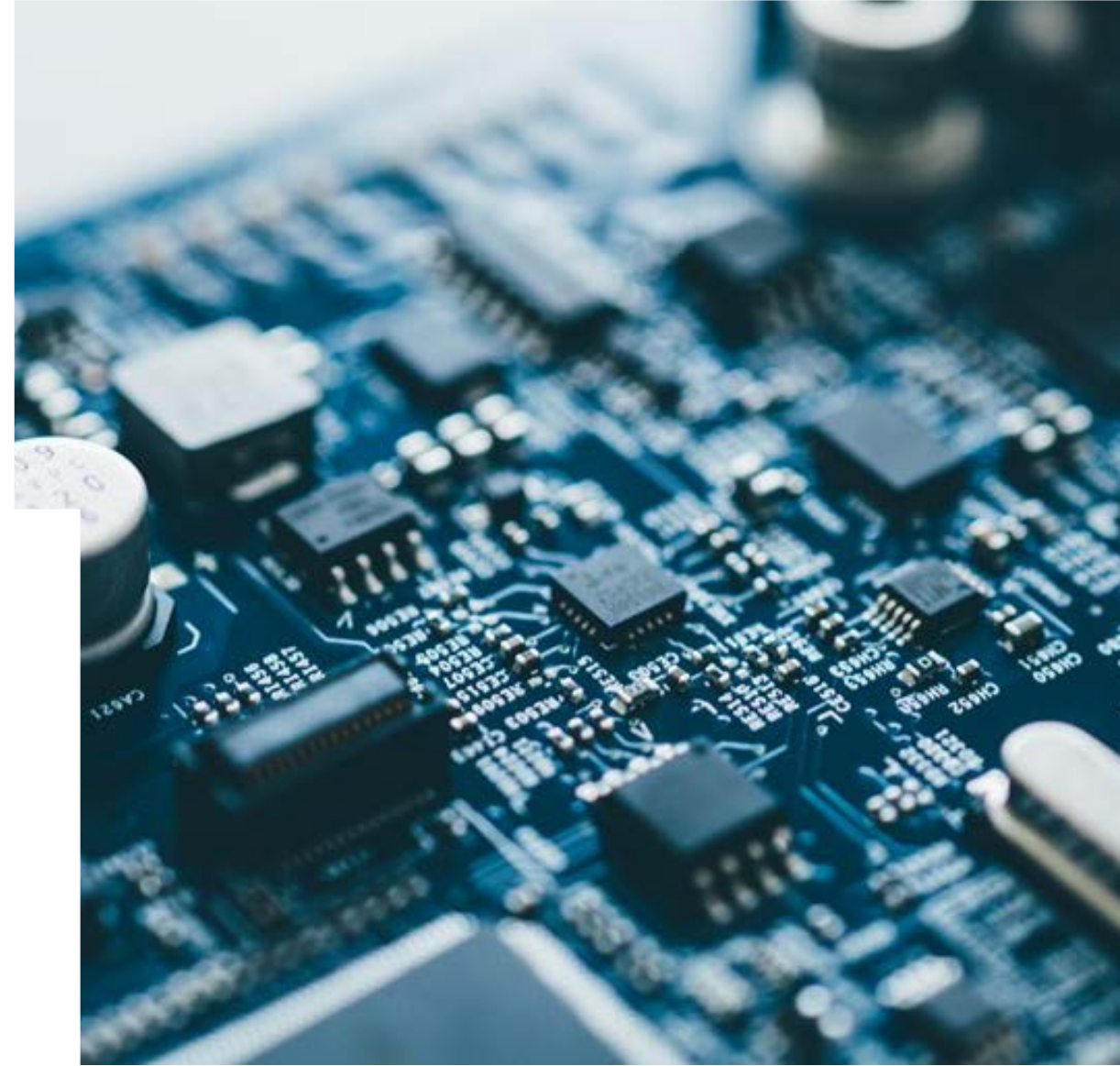
Impact beyond EPSRC

At UKRI Level

- Changes at pace
- Working together on common understanding

Stakeholders

- As important to Gov't as ever!
- Other academics / Knowledge Exchange
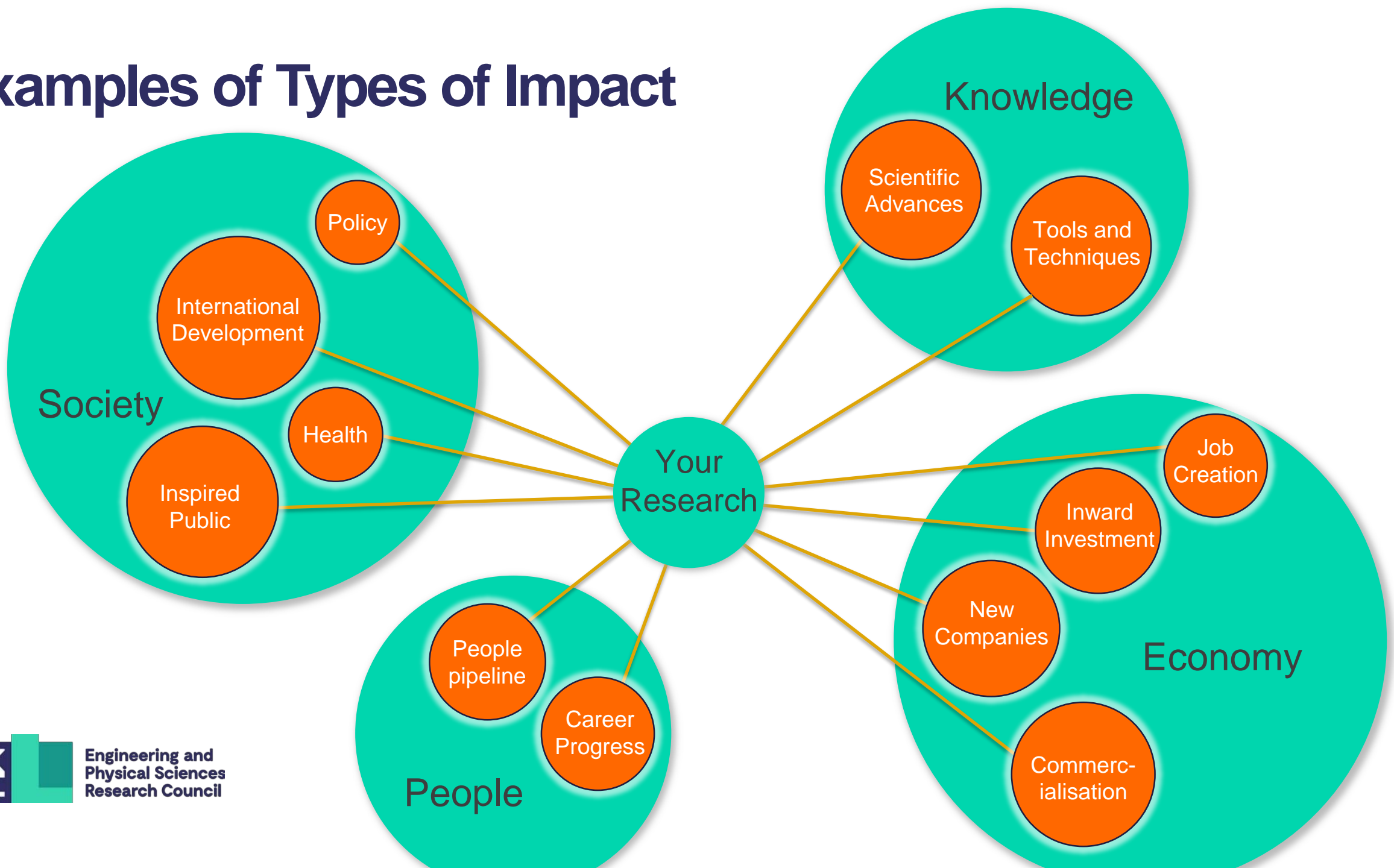- Business / Industrial involvement

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EPSRC new philosophy to maximise impact

Making the most of the Impact journey

(3) Appropriate activities

(1) The lifecycle of research
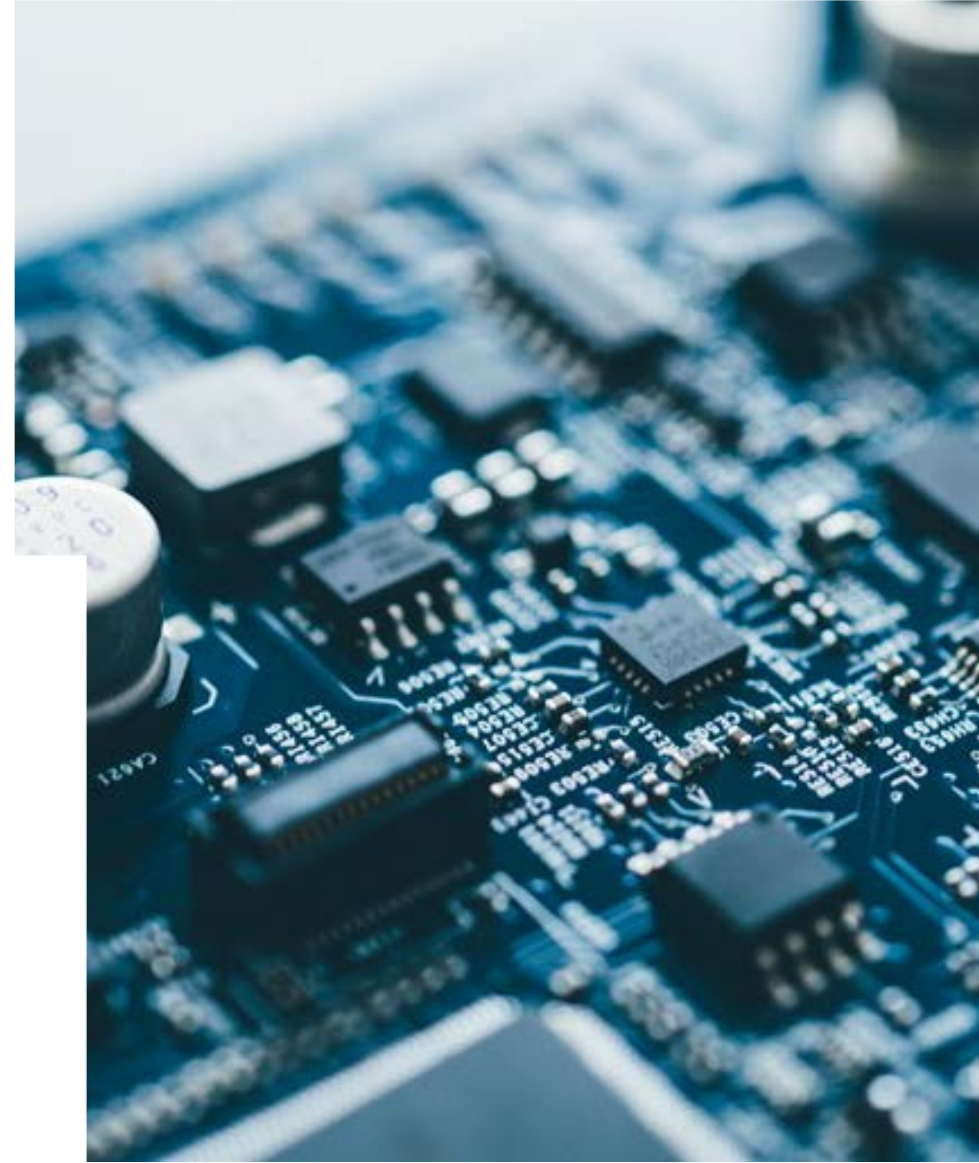
(4) Communication of research success

(2) Planning for outcomes

Examples of Types of Impact

Planning New Activities with Impact in mind

For each impact related activity consider:

- The objective and potential **benefits**

- Potential **stakeholders**

- Use of **engagement**

- Appropriate **timings**

- **Costs** and **resources** involved

Space is Limited – Make it specific and succinct

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Impact at the Application Stage

Integrate Impact throughout the case for support

- Track record

- Background

- National Importance

- Research Hypothesis and Objectives

- Programme and Methodology

Impact at the Application Stage

Resources and Management

- Who will be responsible for impact activities?

- How much will it cost?

- How are your partners involved?

EPSRC strongly encourage the full costing and request for resources for any relevant impact activities.

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Impact at the Application Stage

Examples of Impact Costs

- Travel costs
- Partnership building
- People exchange / secondments
- Training for researchers
- Engage expert staff
- Onward routes to commercialisation
- Comms
- Knowledge Exchange
- Data management
- Sharing of novel tools/techniques

Impact at the Application Stage

This is new for reviewers too…

- Include Impact activities and milestones in the Gantt chart

- Flag impact activities through the case for support

- If it aligns to activities in a work package include an impact heading

- For activities that don't align to work packages but underpin the overall impact development activities, create a specific section and use it to tie the different areas of impact content together.

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Impact at the Application Stage

Completing reviews and on panels

Impact is covered under the Quality criteria, when assessing:

- Think about what impact activities might be appropriate

- Are activities full costed and itemised?

- Which stakeholders might be involved? Is it obvious how they are engaged

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Enabling impact whist carrying out research

EPSRC interested in the outputs, outcomes and impacts of research

- Case studies or insights
- Short, medium and long term
- The PM or themes you interact with will be interested
- Always sign post your research data outputs on Research Fish

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Enabling impact whist carrying out research

Remember

- EPSRC does not expect applicants to predict the impact of their research.

- Reviewers are not expected to make assumptions about the probability of the benefits being fully delivered.

- There is no expectation for impacts to be realised within the lifetime of the research project.

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Further Help

Guidance Material

https://epsrc.ukri.org/files/funding/calls/case-for-support-guidance/

Contact your **EPSRC Portfolio Manager** (contact details available on our website)

Impact email:
AcceleratingImpact@epsrc.ukri.org

Further Help

University Impact Contacts

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GW4: info@gw4.ac.uk

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Thank you
We will now take a short break and reconvene in 10 minutes for the Q&A

Questions in advance

Is EPSRC welcoming application which budgets external contracting for impact (e.g. a company that runs social media for your project on your behalf)?

What does EPSRC expect to see in End-user engagement strategy (like in the precision manufacturing call). And how does it differ from Pathways to Impact?

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