



## Guidance Note – NuSec Science Network PDRA Support Grants

### Background

The STFC [Nuclear Security Science network \(NuSec\)](#) was started in March 2016, and has established an effective program of meetings, workshops and pilot projects to engage with the academic, industrial and government research communities working in Nuclear Security detection. The network has successfully attracted strong support from all these research communities, with network members representing approximately 20 Universities and 30 companies working in this sector. There has also been effective engagement with a large number of government departments who have an interest in Nuclear Security issues, through the network's End User Panel. The network has run two annual technical workshops, in September 2016 and 2017, covering the topics of [Nuclear Detection Systems](#), and [Algorithms and Autonomous Decision Making](#). Both workshops were well attended with approximately over 120 participants, across all sectors of the network membership. In January 2018 the network hosted an invited workshop on [Alternative Technologies for Well Logging](#), with strong participation from leading industries in the oil sector. In terms of research support, the network has promoted small focussed pilot projects which are primarily aimed at undergraduate summer projects. These have been assessed and selected against criteria from the End User Panel stakeholders. In summer [2016 5 awards](#) were made, [with a further 5 in summer 2017](#).

### PDRA Support Grants

NuSec is offering to fund up to **10** short-term "PDRA support grants". These grants will be for a 3 month period with a value of up to **£15k**, and are intended to support the direct salary costs of PDRAs so that they can work 100% (or pro rata) on NuSec-related topics. No FEC or university overhead payments will be made. Applicants are encouraged to provide external matched funding (such as from university Impact Accelerator Accounts) so that the NuSec award could support 50% of a longer 6 month project.

Proposals must support the aims of the NuSec network, to deliver research or impact activities which have clear objectives in Nuclear Security Science. Priority will be given to proposals which support the three main areas of activity covered by the network to date:

- 1. Detection systems for nuclear security**
- 2. Algorithms, data and autonomous decision making**
- 3. Alternative technologies for industrial use of radiation sources**



### **Scope and Eligibility**

Applications are for direct salary costs for a PDRA up to a value of £15k. The period of the award is for 3 months (full time), or for a longer period if other support is provided. The PDRA can either be a new position, or as an extension to an existing post.

The award only covers direct salary costs for the PDRA and will not cover any indirect or FEC costs, nor any other direct costs.

### **Reporting Requirements**

A Project Summary Report (1 side of A4) describing the achievements and outputs will be required upon completion of the project.

Successful awardees will also be expected to attend and potentially discuss their project at the NuSec Science Network Conference, currently planned for 15 & 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019, University of Surrey.

### **Payments**

Awards will be paid upon completion of the Project and submission of a Project Summary Report (described above).

### **Assessment Criteria**

Applications will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:-

1. Suitability of the project in supporting the aims of the Nuclear Security Network.
2. Quality of the outputs and/or impact likely to arise from the project upon completion.
3. The availability of external support to leverage additional value from the NuSec award.
4. Track record of engagement of the PI to date either in NuSec or wider nuclear security activities.

### **Timetable**

Call for NuSec Science Network PDRA Support Grants Applications **1<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

Application deadline **1<sup>st</sup> June 2018**

Decisions announced **1<sup>st</sup> July 2018**.

All projects must be completed by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**.