Open Call to Host the Autumn 2027 Network Meeting

Towards Applied Neuromorphic Technology

Funding available	**Up to £20,000**
Meeting scale	Approximately 50 participants over 2–2.5 days
Application deadline	**17:00 GMT, Friday 8 January 2027**
Submission	Email one PDF to info@neumat.co.uk

1. Purpose of this call

The NeuMat Network invites proposals from eligible UK research organisations to host its Autumn 2027 Network Meeting. Hosted meetings allow NeuMat members to shape the network's scientific agenda around timely and emerging opportunities in neuromorphic materials, devices, circuits, systems and algorithms.

The meeting theme is **"Towards Applied Neuromorphic Technology"**. The meeting should examine where neuromorphic approaches offer genuine competitive advantage, how they should be benchmarked against conventional AI and computing approaches, and what is required to translate promising research into useful technologies.

> **Proposals must engage meaningfully with at least two tiers of the NeuMat stack.** The meeting should not be a narrowly siloed event. Proposals are particularly encouraged to connect materials and devices with circuits, systems, algorithms, applications, benchmarking or industrial translation.

2. Who may apply

- A proposal must be led by an applicant based at a UK university or other UK research organisation eligible to receive EPSRC funding.
- The lead does not need to be a member of the NeuMat Core Team or a NeuMat committee, but should demonstrate a clear connection to the NeuMat community and its aims.
- Joint proposals involving more than one eligible research organisation are welcome, provided that one organisation is identified as the accountable host.
- Industrial organisations are strongly encouraged to collaborate, contribute to programme development, provide speakers or sponsorship, and support translation. However, the NeuMat award must be made to the eligible UK research organisation and cannot be paid directly to an ineligible organisation such as a private company.
- Preference will be given to strong proposals hosted outside London and South East England, supporting NeuMat's UK-wide reach. Location will be considered alongside scientific quality, accessibility, value and deliverability.

3. Meeting scale and format

- Approximately 50 participants.
- 2 to 2.5 days in Autumn 2027.
- A focused scientific programme rather than a general survey of the field.
- A balance of invited and contributed talks, posters, structured discussion and opportunities for interaction.
- Meaningful provision for students and early-career researchers (ECRs).
- Hybrid participation is not required.
- Recording of talks is strongly encouraged, subject to the permission of individual speakers. Applicants should identify available recording facilities and associated costs.

4. Funding available and eligible costs

NeuMat will provide up to £20,000 for the meeting. The application must present a realistic, itemised budget and demonstrate value for money. Match funding is not required and will not be scored, although additional cash or in-kind support may be described.

Required provision

- A minimum of £2,000 must be reserved for student and ECR travel bursaries and accessibility support.
- The budget may include up to two nights of participant accommodation where this is appropriate and cost-effective.
- Approximately 5% contingency may be included and must be justified.

Eligible costs

- Venue hire and essential audio-visual or technical support.
- Catering and reasonable meeting hospitality.
- Participant accommodation, normally for no more than two nights.
- Invited-speaker travel and accommodation.
- Student and ECR travel bursaries and accessibility measures.
- Recording or dissemination costs.
- Reasonable administrative staff costs directly attributable to organising and delivering the meeting.
- Other essential delivery costs that are clearly justified in the proposal.

Financial conditions

- Expenditure will normally be reimbursed against receipts and the approved budget.
- Partial pre-payment may be considered where the host demonstrates a genuine cash-flow requirement.
- The host may move expenditure between approved budget lines by up to 10% without prior approval, provided that the total award is not exceeded and the minimum bursary provision is maintained. Larger changes require written approval from NeuMat.
- VAT must be included wherever it is an irrecoverable cost to the host.
- **Alcohol is not an eligible cost.**

- Any external sponsorship must be declared. Sponsorship may increase the overall meeting budget but must not compromise the scientific independence or accessibility of the event.

5. What to submit

Submit one PDF comprising a proposal of no more than four A4 pages, excluding the completed budget table and brief host-team details. Use a legible font of at least 10 pt and normal margins. The proposal must include:

Section	Required content	Guide
1. Title and summary	Meeting title and a summary of no more than 200 words.	½ page
2. Topic, rationale and timeliness	What the meeting will address, why it is needed now, and the expected scientific or technological value.	½ page
3. Theme and NeuMat fit	Fit with "Towards Applied Neuromorphic Technology"; engagement with at least two tiers of the NeuMat stack; communities likely to attend.	½ page
4. Programme and format	Outline programme, balance of talks/posters/discussion, proposed or approached speakers, and how interaction will be supported.	1 page
5. ECR, accessibility, EDI and RRI	Bursaries, accessibility, inclusive participation, EDI measures, and provision for responsible research and innovation.	½ page
6. Industry engagement and translation	How industrial perspectives, application needs, benchmarking or routes to translation will be incorporated.	¼ page
7. Venue, delivery and risk	Proposed venue and dates, capacity, transport, accommodation, recording capability, delivery team, risks and contingencies.	½ page
8. Evaluation and legacy	How outcomes, attendance, feedback and wider benefit to NeuMat will be captured and reported.	¼ page
Annex: Budget	Completed budget table using the headings supplied in this call.	Excluded
Annex: Host team	Lead applicant, organising team, roles and relevant event-delivery experience.	Excluded

6. Submission and timetable

Stage	Date
Call opens	November 2026
Application deadline	**17:00 GMT, Friday 8 January 2027**
Eligibility and completeness check	11 January 2027
Independent assessment	11–15 January 2027
Meetings Committee review	Week commencing 18 January 2027
Applicants notified	End of January 2027
Meeting takes place	Autumn 2027

Email the proposal as a single PDF to info@neumat.co.uk with the subject line **"NeuMat Autumn 2027 Meeting Host Proposal"**. Questions may be sent to the same address before the deadline. There is no separate expression-of-interest stage.

7. Assessment and decision process

Eligible proposals will be assessed by the NeuMat Meetings Committee. Conflicts of interest will be identified and managed before assessment. Proposals will be scored from 0 to 4 against each criterion and combined using the published weights below. **A score of 0 in any criterion will make the proposal ineligible for funding, irrespective of its weighted total.**

Criterion	Weight	What assessors will consider
1. Scientific quality and timeliness	**20%**	Clarity, ambition, relevance and the case for a focused meeting now.
2. Fit with NeuMat and cross-stack breadth	**15%**	Alignment with NeuMat and substantive engagement with at least two tiers of the stack.
3. Programme design and interaction	**15%**	Coherence, balance, speaker strategy and purposeful discussion or networking.
4. Accessibility and ECR support	**15%**	Practical accessibility, bursary use, ECR participation and removal of barriers.
5. EDI and responsible research	**10%**	Inclusive design, diversity, responsible innovation and appropriate training or discussion.
6. Venue, location and delivery capability	**10%**	Venue suitability, UK-wide reach, connectivity, accommodation, risks and delivery team.
7. Budget realism and value for money	**10%**	Credible costs, appropriate use of funds, contingency and value.
8. Industry engagement and translation	**5%**	Meaningful industrial involvement, application pull, benchmarking or routes to translation.

Scoring descriptors

Score	Rating	Descriptor
0	**Not addressed**	Missing, ineligible or fundamentally inadequate. A zero in any criterion makes the proposal ineligible.
1	**Weak**	Major weaknesses or insufficient evidence; unlikely to deliver the intended outcome.
2	**Satisfactory**	Meets the requirement with some limitations or areas needing development.
3	**Strong**	Clear, credible and well-developed response with only minor weaknesses.
4	**Excellent**	Outstanding, compelling and highly deliverable response with clear added value for NeuMat.

The Meetings Committee may seek factual clarification but applicants should not assume that substantive omissions can be corrected after the deadline. NeuMat reserves the right not to make an award if no proposal meets the required standard, and may attach proportionate conditions to an award.

Annex A: Budget pro forma

Replace the illustrative quantities with the proposed costs. The total requested from NeuMat must not exceed £20,000, and at least £2,000 must be reserved for ECR travel bursaries and accessibility support.

Budget line	Requested from NeuMat (£)	Host/other contribution (£)	Basis and notes
Venue hire and AV/technical costs			
Catering and meeting hospitality			
Participant accommodation			
Invited-speaker travel			
Invited-speaker accommodation			
Student/ECR travel bursaries and accessibility			Minimum £2,000
Recording/dissemination			
Administrative staff time			
Other essential costs			
Contingency			Approximately 5%, justified
TOTAL			**NeuMat request ≤ £20,000**

Annex B: Frequently asked questions

Can an industry organisation lead the application?

No. The lead and accountable host must be a UK university or other UK research organisation eligible to receive EPSRC funding. Industry collaboration is strongly encouraged.

May institutions apply jointly?

Yes. One eligible organisation must be identified as the accountable host and award recipient.

Is match funding required?

No. Cash or in-kind support may be described but is not required and will not be scored.

Must the venue already be booked?

No, but the proposal should provide credible evidence of availability, capacity and indicative costs. Early venue holds are encouraged where possible.

Must invited speakers already have accepted?

No. Identify proposed or approached speakers and explain the intended balance of expertise.

What counts as two tiers of the NeuMat stack?

Examples include materials, devices, circuits, systems, algorithms and applications. The proposal should explain the substantive connection between at least two tiers.

Is hybrid delivery required?

No. Applicants may propose hybrid elements where they add value and are affordable.

Must talks be recorded?

Recording is strongly encouraged but remains subject to the permission of each speaker.

Can administrative staff costs be charged?

Yes, where they are reasonable, directly attributable to the meeting and clearly itemised.

Can sponsorship increase the meeting budget?

Yes. Sponsorship must be declared and must not compromise the scientific independence, accessibility or governance of the meeting.

How will conflicts of interest be handled?

Members of the assessment process will declare conflicts and will not assess or influence affected proposals.

What reporting will be required?

The host will provide a short event report, attendance and EDI monitoring data where lawfully collected, participant feedback, a final financial statement and copies of agreed dissemination outputs.