# Digitally Enhanced Advanced Services (DEAS) Network Plus Call

**Call for proposals for DEAS Network Plus Covid-19 Charity/Voluntary Sector Projects 2020**

**Closing date for applications: 19th June 2020**

## Key dates

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| Item | Deadline |
| Issue date | 22nd May 2020 |
| Call webinar | 15:00 28th May 2020 |
| Closing date | 19th June 2020 |
| Notification to applicants | 3rd July 2020 |
| Projects started between | 1st August - 1st September 2020 |
| Projects completed | 31st January 2021 – 1st March 2021 |

***Call Overview***

The DEAS network+ is inviting small proposals for DEAS based research addressing challenges related to Covid-19 with the potential for rapid impact in the charity and voluntary sector. Some suggested areas of relevance include, but are not limited to: mental health, domestic violence, social care, and wellbeing. We are aiming to fund a number of small proposals up to £5k (FEC) lasting 6 months or less and starting as soon as practical. The proposal should clearly reflect DEAS principles of using data to improve charitable outcomes for their beneficiaries. Proposals should be innovative, distinctive and capable of demonstrating impact in the short to medium term. We consider that it would be advantageous to have a charity involved in the proposal but this is not necessary. The EPSRC prosperity outcomes that are relevant include: Healthy Nation, Productive Nation and Connected Nation.

We will be hosting a webinar on 28th May 2020 at 15.00 to provide further details about the call and respond to any queries.

We welcome applications from ECR’s.

Full details of the call, how to apply, and the accompanying webinar will be found on our web site at [https://www.deas.ac.uk/news-events](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.deas.ac.uk%2Fnews-events&data=02%7C01%7CP.J.Godsiff%40exeter.ac.uk%7Cddd4e0ab79a74c3db0c608d7fd7e2a8f%7C912a5d77fb984eeeaf321334d8f04a53%7C0%7C0%7C637256590623869554&sdata=cv2Bgj4CTHsDNYgCm%2BYgNqwz2lAPz7qVPRicAgEKdoA%3D&reserved=0)

***The Network***

The Digitally Enhanced Advanced Services (DEAS) Network Plus focuses on how products or services are used rather than how they are produced. Increasingly, people and organisations are moving from buying conventional products and services, and instead are seeking to buy the ‘outcomes’ that these enable (e.g., rather than ‘buying an engine’ customers want to buy ‘thrust’, rather than ‘buying a car’ they want ‘mobility’, rather than ‘buying insurance’ they want ‘reassurance’). In this way the world of ‘selling things’ is giving way to the experience of ‘outcomes’, and this is paving the way for new and innovative business models that exploit digital innovations to create Digitally Enhanced Advanced Services. DEAS represent a major change in how firms earn money (e.g.: payment-per-use, availability or outcome) and is an area where the UK has the potential to excel.

We aim to create a community of researchers and practitioners working collectively across various disciplines (computer science, engineering and business) and sectors (manufacturing, transport, finance services and charity / voluntary) to co-create a comprehensive research agenda that accelerates the development of DEAS. The activities of the network will be guided by the principal research question of *how can transformative digital technologies accelerate the innovation of DEAS.* This call focuses on the charity sectors.

## Call Summary

Applicants are invited to apply for up to £5,000 (FEC with 80% funded by the grant) to undertake a project that £5k (FEC) lasting 6 months or less and starting as soon as practical. Projects should be specific to the charity sector.

Projects must cover the application of DEAS principles to the charitable and voluntary sector and be related to reducing the impact of Covid-19 in the short to medium term, with the potential for longer term impact on society. Proposals may come from any discipline. Organisational support from a relevant charity or voluntary organization is encouraged but is not essential.

Each project should result in a detailed report (template will be provided) and an academic paper, which can be submitted to a special issue of a journal after the project has finished[[1]](#footnote-1).

## Notes

## The following notes are applicable to all projects.

* An explanatory webinar will take place on 28th May 2020, where members of the network leadership team will be able to answer questions related to the call.
* Workshop participants from industry or government are welcome to bring their own relevant data and challenge ideas.
* Projects are expected to last approximately six months or less.
* Each individual can be Principal Investigator (PI) on one project only. Submissions led by Early Career Researchers, as defined by EPSRC[[2]](#footnote-2), are encouraged.
* When considering impact activities, applicants should consider how they will contribute to the formation of the DEAS scientific community and how they might contribute to the DEAS website (e.g., articles they can offer for the website).

# Funding is for academic research teams led by UK Universities and only UK-based academic salary costs will be covered.

# All costings should be confirmed with your university finance team.

* Applications must be made through the DEAS+ application form and must not exceed 4 pages, minimum font size 11 Arial. They must be accompanied by a Gantt chart project plan.
* Applicants must be eligible for EPSRC funding. A list of eligible organisations to apply to EPSRC is provided at: https://[www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/](http://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/). As this call is a targeted funding opportunity provided via EPSRC funding, higher education institutions, and some research council institutes and independent research organisations are eligible to apply. For funding rules, guidelines and guidance on the type of support that may be sought please see: https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/.

We do agree GDPR compliant policies and Data Processing Agreements between the applying institution and the University of Exeter. If these cannot be agreed within a certain timeframe, we reserve the right to abandon the contract process and select another application. If your project will use any data collected from or about a person then you must follow the code of practice and principles of research ethics for human participants set out by your university. Personal data may be any form of data from / concerning a human. If your project will involve human data, directly or indirectly, you will need to obtain relevant ethical approval. If this is relevant, please confirm in your application that you will seek ethical review and approval for your studies from the ethics committee within your own university; you will need to confirm that ethical approval has been obtained to DEAS before commencing your studies

**Assessment**

Proposals will be assessed in according to the assessment criteria that are set out below. Decisions will be made by the DEAS Network Plus Leadership Team. Members of the DEAS Advisory Board will also conduct reviews dependent on their expertise. Marks will be allocated to proposals based on the degree to which they meet each criteria. Marks will be amalgamated to form a prioritised list with the highest ranked projects funded subject to available funds and quality criteria having been met. Each application will receive 2-3 reviews. Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback if they wish.

**Assessment Criteria**

* Suitability for the call: Does the project focus on a positive impact DEAS could have on society in relation to Covid-19? Is it research?
* How will the project advance the adoption of DEAS and therefore benefit the DEAS Network, within the broader charity / voluntary sector?
* Standard EPSRC assessment criteria will also be applied: quality; importance; impact and the applicant’s ability to deliver the proposed project within budget and in time.
* Suitable evidence of a planning and management process for the duration of the project.

## The Management of Successful Projects

*The DEAS Network Plus Project Officer* (Fran Lumbers) at Exeter will be the point of liaison for the successful projects. Each project will be required to keep the investigator team informed of progress, via regular reports, and take part in network activities as appropriate to the project. Each project will be expected to present their project outputs at a DEAS Network event (dates to be confirmed). Projects will need to submit a final report on the activities and outcomes of the projects (a template will be provided), along with their invoice within a month of the end of the project.

Regarding intellectual assets created as part of the funded projects, we will follow the EPSRC guidelines: https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/basics/ip/. It is expected that the outputs of any project will be shared with the DEAS Network Plus investigators team for inclusion in the project web site and other promotional materials to inform the Network as a whole and wider public in an appropriate and timely manner in such a way as to achieve some of the main aims of the funding, that is growing the Network and its associated research base.

The funding will be awarded via a sub-contract with the University of Exeter, which will specify the agreed terms and allow for any issues with respect to background IP to be highlighted.

## Contact

For further information on the DEAS Network Plus [https://www.deas.ac.uk.](https://www.deas.ac.uk/) Please contact Fran Lumbers ([F.Lumbers@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:F.Lumbers@exeter.ac.uk)) with any queries.

To become a member of the DEAS Network Plus please sign up to our mailing list [www.jiscmail.ac.uk/DEAS](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jiscmail.ac.uk%2FDEAS&data=02%7C01%7Cg.holmes%40aston.ac.uk%7Cc4f5309dcda44a5cf05708d682007b0a%7Ca085950c4c2544d5945ab852fa44a221%7C0%7C0%7C636839335910926182&sdata=1yB44699xpxeUJFi%2F%2BGoNUAPugmTUMQhUUQnn4YHpzw%3D&reserved=0).

1. Details on the journal will be released during the project. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://epsrc.ukri.org/skills/fellows/peerreviewprocess/whocanapply/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)