

A woman with dark braids and a man in a red sweater are looking at a laptop in an office setting. The woman is pointing at the screen. The background is a blurred office with other people working.

UKCRIC Membership:
Connecting academics in infrastructure
and urban systems across the UK



UKCRIC™

UK COLLABORATORIUM
FOR RESEARCH ON
INFRASTRUCTURE & CITIES
Infrastructure and systems
for a better global future

Join our growing community of UK higher education institutions.

Whether you're a member of the Russell Group or a new university, UKCRIC is the place to connect, influence and create impact.

Benefits tailored to you

Collaborative Research

Collaborate with the UK's best research-active higher education institutions on innovative and impactful research.

Innovation

Take advantage of Higher Technology Readiness Level (TRL) opportunities through UKCRIC Limited, UKCRIC's trading company.

Facilities

Affiliate your facility with UKCRIC's UK-wide network of facilities including infrastructure laboratories, urban observatories and modelling and simulation capabilities.

Network

Engage with national and international academics and practitioners through UKCRIC's Governing Board, Stakeholder Advisory Group and International Advisory Board.

Impact

Work with practitioners, industry and policymakers to address specific research, innovation and development needs.

Skills & Training

Support the next generation of research, knowledge and innovation leaders through UKCRIC's professional and policymaker training programme and our doctoral and postdoctoral skills networks.

Influence

UKCRIC is our members voice to UK policymakers and funders, influencing the debate, shaping the agenda and advocating change.

Events

Learn, share experiences and connect with fellow experts at events hosted by UKCRIC and our partner initiatives across the UK and beyond.

Great academics thrive in the company of their peers

UKCRIC is a membership community for research-led UK higher education institutions creating meaningful connections between experts in infrastructure and urban systems to develop skills and be heard. At a time when great research has never been more important, UKCRIC offers valuable connections, impact and influence.

Who We Are

UKCRIC was established in 2015 as an integrated research capability spanning 12 universities. Initial capital funding of £138M from Government for laboratories and equipment was matched by funding of £138M from the founding universities to underwrite set-up and running costs over an initial five-year period.

With our research facilities now commissioned, UKCRIC provides access to an internationally leading and significant network of infrastructure laboratories, urban observatories and advanced computational and visualisation facilities as well as to an unparalleled network of academic experts in infrastructure and urban systems.

Our scientific missions

UKCRIC's work is underpinned by the belief that all infrastructure and urban systems must align with the following values, which are embodied in our scientific missions:

1.

**INFRASTRUCTURE
AND URBAN
SYSTEMS FOR ONE
PLANET LIVING**

2.

**TRANSFORMATIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND RESILIENT
URBAN SYSTEMS FOR
A CHANGING WORLD**

3.

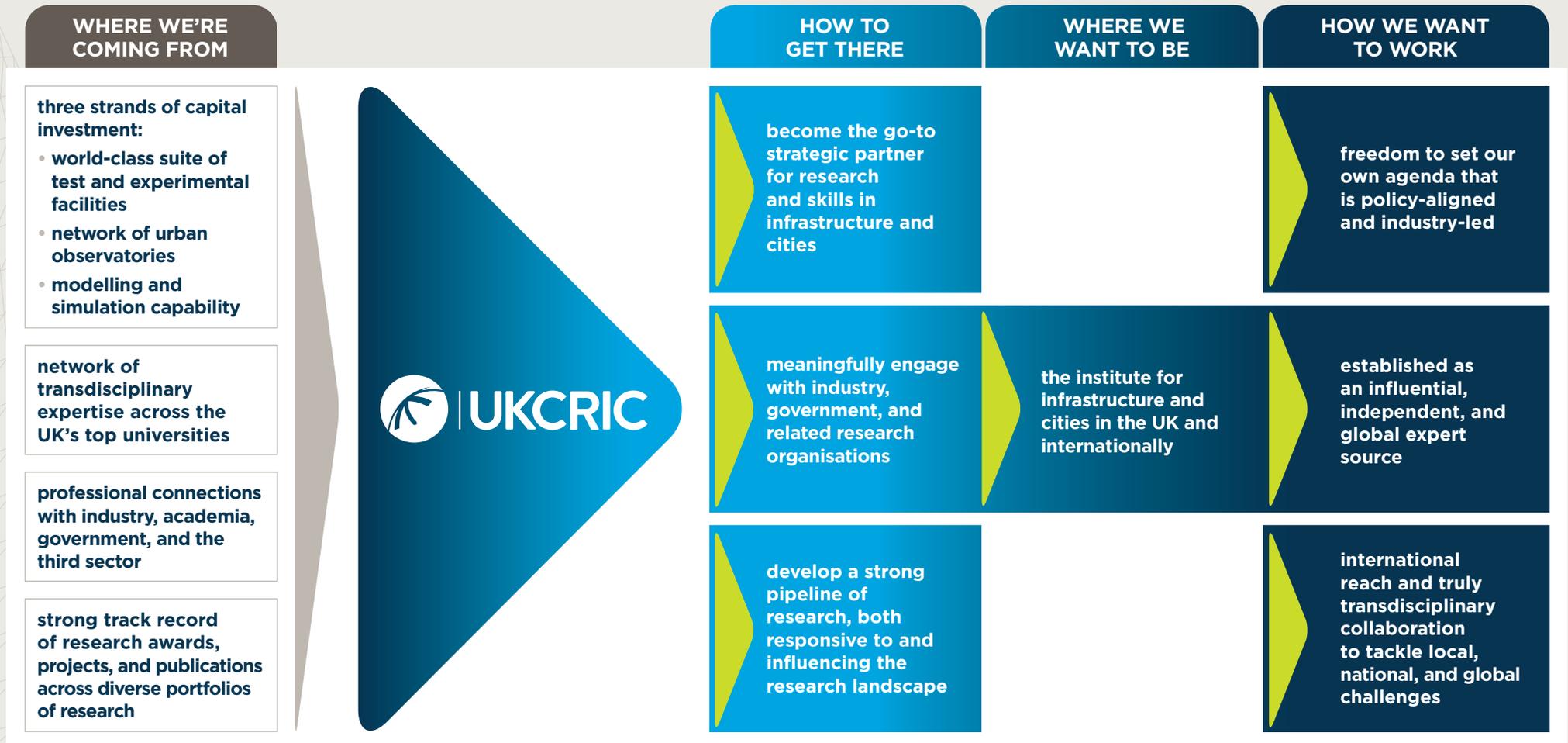
**INFRASTRUCTURE
AND URBAN
SYSTEMS AS
DRIVERS OF EQUITY,
INCLUSION AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

4.

**INNOVATIVE
OWNERSHIP,
GOVERNANCE
AND BUSINESS
MODELS FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND URBAN SYSTEMS**

Our roadmap

In 2022 we published our first roadmap, which was developed to inform decisions for transitioning UKCRIC from capital projects to being established as an Institute.



As we transition, it is necessary to strengthen both the responsiveness of UKCRIC research and our ability to influence the research, practice and policy landscape.

We are doing this by being better poised and ready to respond to emerging challenges and research calls, by pushing boundaries, by raising our profile and by influencing practice, policy and research. We are:

- **Strengthening our coordinated activities and facilitated collaboration across universities, disciplines and career stages**
- **Bidding for and delivering research aligned with local, national and international priorities**
- **Sharing knowledge and news of our collaborations and undertakings**
- **Demonstrating thought leadership**
- **Building and maintaining strong stakeholder engagement with practice, industry and Government**
- **Developing and producing foundational content**

UKCRIC is committed to fostering diverse sources of advice and directions of collaboration. This means engaging with multiple stakeholders, committing to transparency, embedding adaptability and fostering opportunities that span all levels of involvement and interest.

UKCRIC's success is wholly the success of our members and the result of their time, energy and collaborative spirit. UKCRIC is designed by academics as an integrated research capability committed to the renewal, sustainment and improvement of infrastructure and urban systems in the UK and elsewhere. Each UKCRIC member brings its own unique expertise, services and facilities to the UKCRIC community.

A growing network

In 2017 UKCRIC was a network of 12 member institutions. In 2024 membership has grown to 16.

To coordinate, integrate and maximise the benefit of UKCRIC requires a relatively modest investment in a core Operations Team. From April 2023 UKCRIC's activities have been fully funded through membership fees. Our minimum annual operating costs are in the region of £300,000. Every penny is spent to return the greatest value for our members, who set UKCRIC's long-term strategy and agree an annual operating plan at the start of each year.

All or part of a members fee can be used to buy out staff time to work on projects closely aligned with UKCRIC's vision, mission and scientific missions.

Research facilities

In the operating year ending 31 March 2023, 204 research projects used UKCRIC's facilities, with a value of £32M.

All our members have the option of [affiliating facilities](#) that serve research on infrastructure and urban systems and align with UKCRIC's scientific missions.

In addition to promoting the capabilities of our facilities and the research undertaken in them, UKCRIC operates a facilities network. This brings together the academics, managers and technical staff responsible for running the facilities. Members share experiences, best practices and opportunities as well as raise cross-facility issues.

Our Full Members benefit from discounted access to UKCRIC's facilities.



A Connected Network

Skills and training

Through our professional, policymaker, postdoctoral and doctoral training, UKCRIC is training the next generation of research, knowledge and innovation leaders in cities and infrastructure across the academic, industry and policy sectors.

UKCRIC's personalised professional and policymaker training fellowship provides our members with opportunities to bring practitioners and policymakers up to date with the latest research and inspire them to think differently. Each fellowship is tailored to meet the needs of a given professional or policymaker and can include roundtables, one-to-one meetings, state of the art reviews and placements.

UKCRIC's Doctoral Skills Network is open to all doctoral students from our member institutions. As of June 2024, the network is 225 strong.

Through our Doctoral Skills Network we host and curate webinars and training workshops. We also work in partnership with the Energy Research Accelerator (ERA), the Centre for Postdoctoral Development in Infrastructure Cities and Energy (C-DICE) and the Faraday Institute to offer their opportunities to our network and to engage postdoctoral researchers.

UKCRIC's Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) Network Programme is a key pillar of our activity, with an emphasis on building equal partner relationships between our members CDTs. Our dedicated Doctoral Skills Manager co-creates a programme of skills events designed to benefit the whole programme by connecting CDTs, engaging with post-graduate researchers and providing opportunities to meet and share knowledge and experiences with a wide community of researchers.

We also operate a CDT Manager Support Network for CDT managers and investigators to support bid creation and CDT operation.

All our doctoral skills opportunities are communicated through our dedicated Doctoral Skills Newsletter.

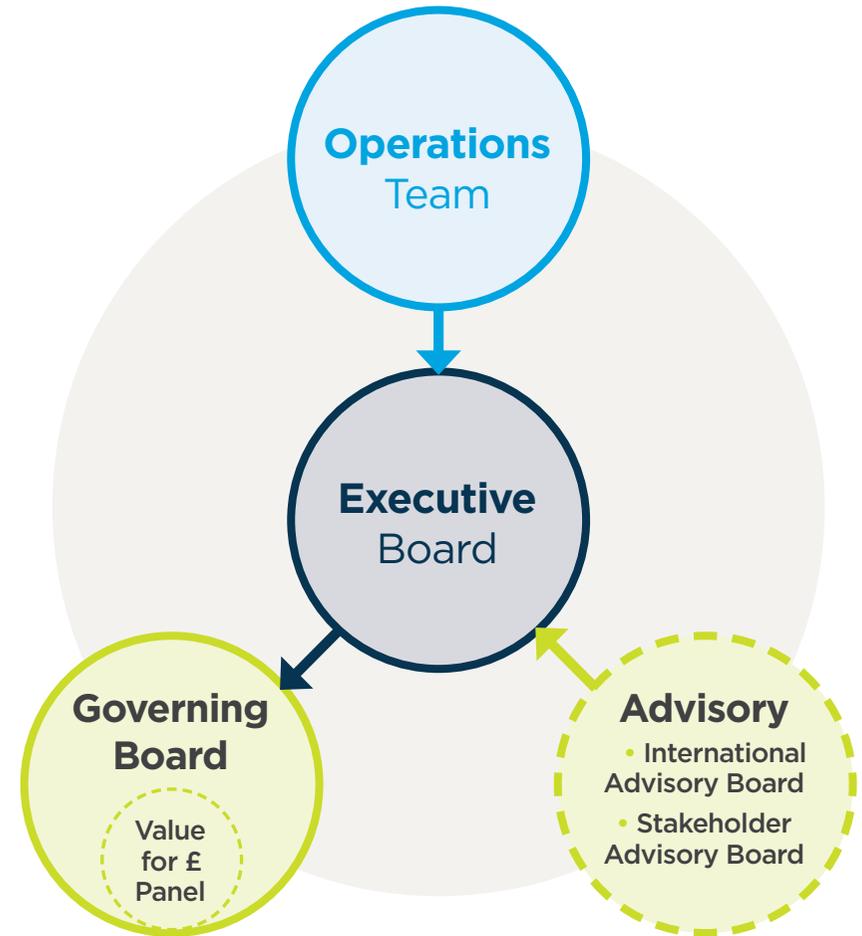
Governance

All our members get a say in what we do.

UKCRIC's Governing Board comprises representatives from each of our member institutions. The Board is UKCRIC's first port of call for triaging opportunities and its members act as our advocates. The Board provides oversight of our activities and approves our short- and long-term strategies. Each year it approves an annual operating plan, which is implemented by the Executive Board and Operations Team.

UKCRIC's Executive Board is on the front line of UKCRIC's operations and it includes a representative from each of our Full Members. This board gets first sight of everything UKCRIC does. It meets regularly and works closely with the Operations Team, which is responsible for the day-to-day running of UKCRIC.

UKCRIC is supported by our International Advisory Board, chaired by Lord Robert Mair, and our Stakeholder Advisory Group, chaired by Mark Enzer. The International Advisory Board comprises a select group of overseas academics and industry and is responsible for shaping and lifting UKCRIC's present and future maturity and strategy, and guiding the development of UKCRIC's capacities and capabilities. The Stakeholder Advisory Group comprises representatives from industry, government, the third sector, think tanks and others and is responsible for advising on the research challenges facing the infrastructure and urban systems sectors. Both act as advocates for UKCRIC and kindly respond to our between-meeting requests for advice on specific matters.



Communications

Our communications channels include public as well as members only channels.

UKCRIC's members newsletter is curated specifically for our members. It is our primary communication channel for opportunities and is received by staff and students of member institutions who have signed up to receive notices from us. It curates materials from practice, policy and academia, including funding opportunities, events, consultations, and skills and training opportunities, as well as the latest news and research. All our members are able to request items for inclusion.

UKCRIC's external newsletter focuses upon the activities and achievements of our members and is received by everyone who has signed up to receive notices from us (members and non-members). UKCRIC has a dedicated Communications, Marketing and Events Manager who is continuously identifying newsworthy items, working closely with members to make sure they are communicated to the right audience in the right way. Our newsletters promote outputs such as project milestones, case studies, reports, expert thought pieces, events and training from across our membership.

Each year we produce an Annual Review showcasing our membership, research and activities, which is free to download from our website. Our social media channels provide regular communications to our audiences.





Influencing

UKCRIC both curates and creates opportunities for influence:

- **Providing forums to connect people and organisations with similar interests**
- **Convening stakeholders to address shared concerns**
- **Organising events around the challenges for infrastructure and cities**
- **Representing members shared interests and priorities in engagement with industry, government, the third sector, think tanks and others**

We provide responses to relevant news items (e.g., the RAAC crisis), recast research outcomes for various audiences (e.g., policy, practice), respond to requests for expert input, and engage with national and international initiatives (e.g., COP).

Members tell us that our convening power to catalyse action sets us apart. Our International Advisory Board, Stakeholder Advisory Group, working groups and events programme are testament to this.

We are also invited to join third-party initiatives and where these align with our scientific missions and annual plan we are able to allocate core resources.

For example: the Net Zero Infrastructure Industry Coalition (of which UKCRIC is a founding member), the Livery Climate Action Group (for which UKCRIC reviewed its series of guidance notes) and the Digital Task Force for Planning (with which UKCRIC has an MOU). Additionally, we benefit from the extensive networks of our members, including: the UK Government's Committee on Climate Change, the Department for Transport, various ISO committees, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the National Infrastructure Commission, the National Preparedness Commission, and major infrastructure projects around the world.

PoliticsHome

UKCRIC members are eligible to leverage UKCRIC's PoliticsHome subscription to influence Westminster.

As well as authoring thought leadership pieces published on PoliticsHome, we work with journalists to produce articles in response to government priorities that are delivered into the inboxes of members of the upper and lower chambers and the civil service.

Our articles consistently perform well and we are particularly proud of [Mission Zero: Why the Skidmore Review can kickstart the nation's journey to net zero](#) as Chris Skidmore MP retweeted it.

We also contribute articles to the House Magazine, especially those on relevant themes, and we produce and post articles to our PoliticsHome microsite.



Events

We work with our members to organise and attend events.

UKCRIC is regularly invited to speak at, exhibit at, organise and attend third party events and these invitations are offered to our members.

Examples include a UK Department for Trade delegation to Malaysia, a Royal Society infrastructure roundtable with representatives from the government of Ukraine, and a water risk event organised by Willis Towers Watson (all in 2023), the 2022 Department for Transport (DfT) Academic Engagement Workshop that shaped its College of Academics (which now includes many UKCRIC members) and the 2021 Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) annual conference. More recently, we were invited to two joint National Science Foundation (NSF)-UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) workshops (one of which we were commissioned to convene), and we have been commissioned by the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to convene a series of workshops to explore the need for a national research data archive.

We are also invited to engage with important and relevant world events, such as the Conference of the Parties (COP) and Singapore's World Cities Summit, and we attend and speak at trade events such as FutureBuild and the UK Infrastructure Show.

UKCRIC organises events with and on behalf of our members. These include events that bring together our membership, are based on specific themes, showcase the capabilities and facilities

of our members, and that respond to national and world events. By way of examples, at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic we organised an online workshop (much less usual at the time) inviting our members and selected others from practice and policy to discuss the impacts of the pandemic on infrastructure. This workshop's outcomes are captured in our report: Rethinking Infrastructure and Cities for a Covid-19 World. In 2022 we organised a showcase event at our Person-Environment-Activity Research Laboratory (PEARL) that brought together industry leaders and policymakers to explore how working in partnership with UKCRIC can maximise opportunities to enable safe, resilient and sustainable living, and generate economic opportunities for the UK.

We are also approached to organise events that bring UKCRIC together with non-academic organisations and groups to explore the art of the possible, such as with East West Rail, the Worshipful Company of Engineers and the Southwest Infrastructure Partnership.

We are founding members of the International Symposia of Next Generation Infrastructure. Originally hosted by NGInfra, Rotterdam, UKCRIC has been invited to take over this international event.

Consultations

UKCRIC members are invited to contribute to coordinated responses to consultations on nationally important issues.

We curate consultation opportunities for our members and communicate these through our members newsletter as well as directly to relevant members where appropriate. For consultations that are nationally important, our Senior Research Fellow coordinates a UKCRIC response.

Working with funders

Our members help us shape our discussions with funders.

We meet regularly with EPSRC and on an ad hoc basis with other funding bodies to discuss forthcoming opportunities, the funding landscape, the state of the art in infrastructure and urban systems, future priorities, and our members capabilities. These meetings are informed by what our members tell us about their capabilities and priorities.

Thematic working groups

UKCRIC members are invited to join our working groups.

Our thematic working groups are convened as and when required to address specific topics such as: equality, diversity and inclusion; data sharing; underground urban infrastructure; digital twins; and critical national infrastructure.





 **Creating Impact**

UKCRIC works with a wide range of partners to deliver our mission of connecting research with policy and practice for the renewal, sustainment and improvement of infrastructure and urban systems. Our ambition is for every major infrastructure and cities project to embrace systems thinking and practices through transdisciplinary and cross-sector collaborations that deliver innovation and learning.

Research bids

In the operating year ending 31 March 2023 UKCRIC's members leveraged £32M worth of funding as a result of being part of UKCRIC (up from £15.5M the year before).

Members tell us that access to UKCRIC's network of high-quality researchers was a contributing factor, enabling them to compile or join successful consortia. They also benefitted from including access to UKCRIC's facilities for conducting research at or near full scale, and from receiving input from and partnering with the non-academics that form part of our wider network.

UKCRIC has a mechanism for bringing together interested parties around funding opportunities. When a funding opportunity is particularly relevant to UKCRIC's scientific missions, we proactively build teams and support them in the preparation of proposals. Each month UKCRIC curates relevant research funding opportunities for our members. Funders range from those funding the lower technology readiness levels (TRLs 2 to 4), to those funding middle to higher TRLs (5 to 7).

Our members research projects are able to amplify their messages, recruit staff and disseminate findings through UKCRIC's marketing and communications channels, including via our external newsletter (to which anyone can subscribe), the members newsletter (available only to members) and via our subscription to PoliticsHome. We also work closely with industry, government and others to inform their research agendas and shape their funding opportunities.





Commissioned projects

Our members benefit when we are commissioned to undertake a piece of research, write a report or convene a group of experts. Sometimes the benefit is financial and supports staff and facility time. Sometimes the benefit is in impact and esteem, such as being involved in workshops and providing input for reports.

Our members can buy out skills and expertise from UKCRIC's Operations Team to work on projects aligned to UKCRIC, and this cost can be offset against the membership fee. This includes researcher time, training activities, organising events, and marketing activities.

UKCRIC also manages flexible funding for which it has bid directly. In 2023 the Data and Analytics Facility for National Infrastructure (DAFNI) secured funding for a call for projects that use the DAFNI facility, which resulted in eight successful projects. In 2021 UKCRIC issued a call for proposals aligned with our scientific missions that resulted in five projects being funded.

UKCRIC Limited

To June 2024, UKCRIC Limited has undertaken six projects at a value of £325,000.

Through our [startup company](#), UKCRIC is able to access funding opportunities closed to higher education institutions and to provide an alternative route for collaboration and impact.

UKCRIC Limited's Business Development Director works on behalf of UKCRIC's members to secure middle to higher TRL projects. Working to an agreed rate card means UKCRIC Limited can bid for short-deadline work. Working independently from member institutions means UKCRIC Limited can enter into framework agreements that benefit our members.

The forecast for UKCRIC Limited's third year of operation (up to March 2025) is excellent, including repeat business. Projects range from the decarbonisation of infrastructure to enhancing the use of artificial intelligence in critical national infrastructure. They are frequently either commercially confidential or embargoed, but [this article](#) will give you a flavour of the work being undertaken

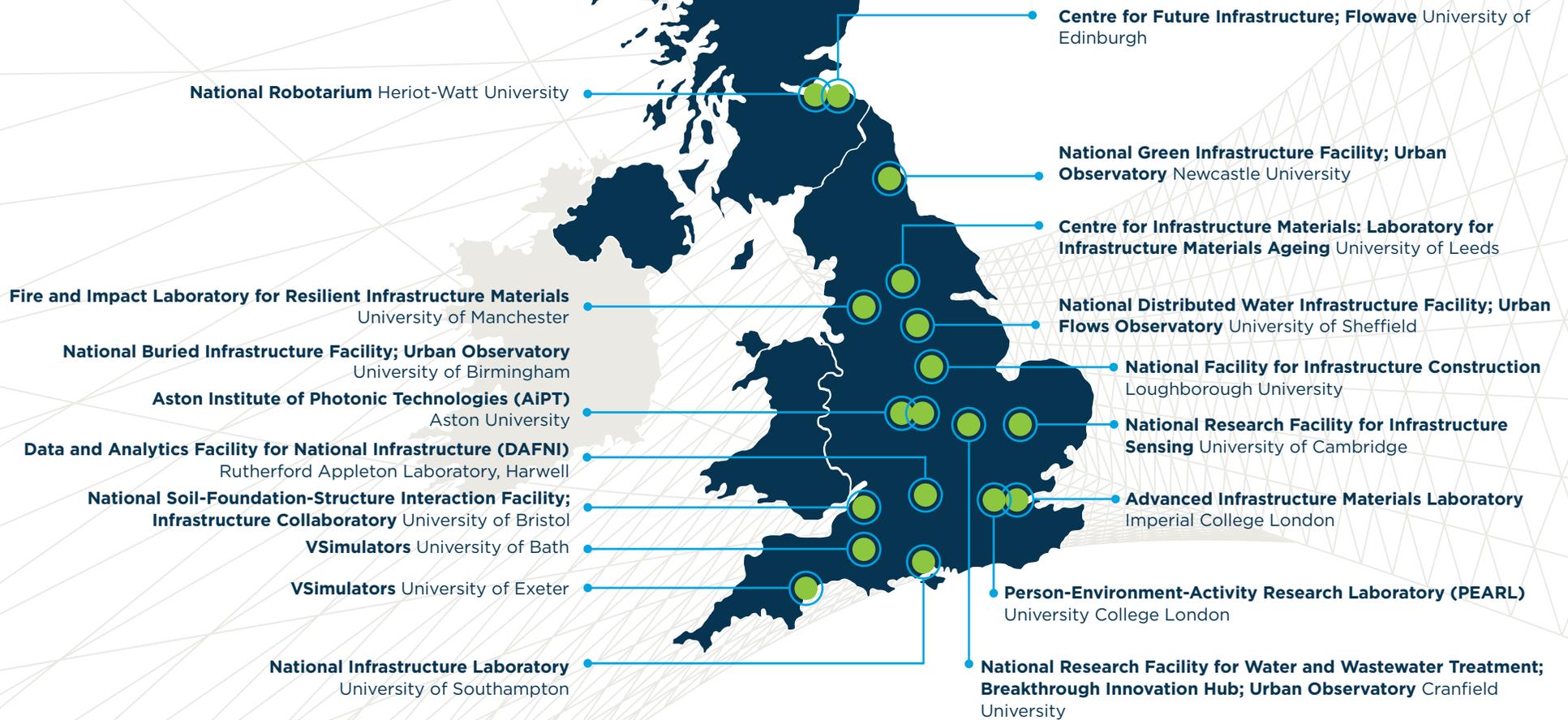
HS2

To June 2024 HS2 has commissioned and is developing discovery projects worth £400,000 to our members

UKCRIC members are exclusively offered the option of acceding to our [framework agreement with HS2](#). Despite the difficulties faced by HS2 in recent years, the project continues to invest in research-led innovation and continues to value its relationship with UKCRIC. The agreement provides a clear rate card of costs and a process by which HS2 can commission work.



Where to Find Us



Membership Benefits

UKCRIC offers two levels of membership: Full Membership fee is £50,000 per year and Associate Membership is £10,000 per year. Member benefits in blue below are available only to Full Members.

Revenue generation:

- Priority access to insights and knowledge about calls and grants for funding on infrastructure and cities
- Priority participation in collaborative UKCRIC research bids
- Extended support to establish multi-UKCRIC university collaborations to respond to funding opportunities
- Favourable letters of support for funding applications to include in-kind contributions
- Priority notification of UKCRIC Limited higher TRL collaborative opportunities
- Access to knowledge about calls for funding, grants, and opportunities to collaborate
- Support to identify individuals in UKCRIC universities who have desired (missing) skills and experience needed for proposals
- Opportunity to bid for UKCRIC in-house funding (when available)

Communications and marketing:

- Priority access to the UKCRIC community for complementary activities (e.g., events, bids, peer review of ideas, presentations, interviews)
- More visible marketing of members news, events, and thought pieces in UKCRIC's members
- Receipt of (and opportunity to have content published in) UKCRIC's members newsletter (internally focussed), curated from across the public, private and voluntary sectors and containing:
 - Funding opportunities
 - Events
 - Engagement opportunities (e.g., government inquiries)
 - Collaboration opportunities
 - Skills and training opportunities
 - Papers and reports
- Inclusion in UKCRIC's Annual Review
- Use of UKCRIC's name, branding, communications and marketing channels

Membership Benefits (cont.)

Facilities, frameworks and networks:

- Discounted use of UKCRIC's facilities and priority opportunities to develop facilities-based research projects
- Membership of UKCRIC's Facilities Network (requires affiliation of a facility)
- Access to the HS2-UKCRIC framework agreement and any future framework agreements
- Participation in collective engagement with major clients such as HS2 and Network Rail
- Priority involvement in network partnership development, such as with NIC, NPC, and UKRRIN

Governance and management:

- Membership of UKCRIC's Executive Board, which is responsible for implementing the annual operating plan agreed at the Governing Board
- Access to UKCRIC's International Advisory Board (chaired by Lord Robert Mair)
- Membership of UKCRIC's Governing Board, which is responsible for determining UKCRIC's strategic objectives and policies, monitoring progress towards achieving the objectives and policies, appointing senior management (the Executive Manager), and accounting for the company's activities to relevant parties, e.g., UKCRIC's members
- Dedicated staff (Operations Team) working for the benefit of UKCRIC's members
 - Executive Manager
 - Communications, Marketing and Event Manager
 - Senior Research Fellow
 - Doctoral Skills Manager

Membership Benefits (cont.)

Impact creation:

- **Priority opportunity to engage in UKCRIC's Government impact programmes, including the opportunity to influence key policymakers via roundtables and to engage with policy-led communications and marketing through PoliticsHome**
- **Priority opportunity to engage with UKRI and other funders**
- **Priority access to UKCRIC's Stakeholder Advisory Group (chaired by Mark Enzer) to shape ideas and form partnerships**
- **Access to a ready-formed network of leading research groups working on infrastructure and cities**
- **Opportunity to have content published in UKCRIC's external bi-monthly newsletter containing:**
 - News about UKCRIC and our members
 - Facility and research spotlights
 - Events
 - Papers, reports and thought pieces
- **Presence on UKCRIC's website, and opportunity to contribute original content**

Skills and training:

- **Priority participation in UKCRIC's Personalised Professional and Policymaker Training Programme, inspiring practitioners and policymakers in infrastructure and urban systems to think differently**
- **Access to UKCRIC's doctoral and post-doctoral training and skills activities, including:**
 - UKCRIC Doctoral Skills Network events and activities
 - UKCRIC's CDT Network Programme events and workshops
 - The Centre for Postdoctoral Development in Infrastructure, Cities and Energy (C-DICE)

Membership Responsibilities

- To participate in UKCRIC's Personalised Professional and Policymaker Training Programme
- To run one event a year (supported by UKCRIC's Operations Team) that aligns with UKCRIC's vision, mission and at least one scientific mission and that is free for UKCRIC members to attend
- To agree a single point of contact for liaison with UKCRIC's Executive Board and Operations Team. This person would preferably be the members Governing Board representative, but does not have to be (with the exception of attendance at Governing Board meetings).
- To pay the membership fee in a timely manner following 1 April each year. Members that are unable to pay a membership fee will be moved onto Provisional Membership for a maximum of two years for Full Members or one year for Associate Members.
- To support UKCRIC in funding applications and in the furtherance of UKCRIC's vision, mission and scientific missions
- To provide in-kind support for governance, management and other activities. As a minimum this includes attending two Governing Board meetings a year and one other meeting or event a year as UKCRIC's official representative.
- To champion UKCRIC whenever possible and appropriate
- To acknowledge UKCRIC in funding applications, outputs and impacts, where appropriate
- To badge as 'UKCRIC' relevant facilities and activities



UKCRICTM

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FOR RESEARCH ON
INFRASTRUCTURE & CITIES

**Infrastructure and systems
for a better global future**

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