



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Nuclear Physics Consolidated Grants 2026

Nuclear Physics 2026 Consolidated Grant Round

- Detailed questions specific to your CG proposal: email directly at pp@stfc.ac.uk
- Full details are on the funding finder page: [Nuclear physics consolidated grants 2026](#)

STFC Nuclear Physics and Particle Astrophysics Team

Overview of STFC Nuclear Physics and Particle Astrophysics (NPPA) Team:

- Dr Helen Beadman, Associate Director
- Dr Jamie Parkin, Team Head
- Dr Georgina Freeman, Senior Programme Manager
- Thomas Gray, Senior Programme Manager
- Daniela Danaila, Programme Manager
- Lindsay Clarke, Programme Manager
- Jane Long – **Retired**

Nuclear Physics Consolidated Grants

Programme overview

- Provides long-term funding for the nuclear physics research community within the UK.
- Supports a coherent programme of research within a department, institution or consortium, enabling researchers to plan and execute their work more effectively.
- Only one consolidated grant can be awarded to an eligible research organisation or consortium. However, applications may consist of multiple, distinct scientific themes.
- Four-year funding cycle allows research groups to plan their projects with greater confidence and stability, allowing for more ambitious and comprehensive research agendas.
- Collectively enhances the effectiveness and impact of nuclear physics research funded by STFC, ensuring that the UK remains internationally competitive and able to contribute to advancements in the field.

Previous Nuclear Physics Consolidated Grant round 2023

Overview of Nuclear Physics awards 2024–27:

- Awards to 11 UK nuclear physics groups
- 29 scientific themes
- £19.7M total funding (£19M resource, £750k capital)
- 36-month duration (2024–27)

Nuclear Physics Consolidated Grant round 2026

- Available funding expected to be constrained
- 48-month award duration
- Award start date: 1 October 2027
- Award end date: 30 September 2031
- Funding opportunity link: [Nuclear physics consolidated grants 2026 – UKRI](#)
- Application deadline: 12 March 2026
- Cross-community requests to be submitted by 31 January 2026

Changes since the last round

Whilst the key principles of the Nuclear Physics Consolidated Grants (NPCG) programme remain unchanged from previous rounds, some significant changes to the application process have been introduced for 2026.

UKRI Funding Service: This funding opportunity is being run through the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service.

Assessment criteria: This round of NPCG will use UKRI's standard grants question set and assessment criteria.

Financial Requirements Form: To capture the level of detail needed to assess a consolidated grant application, a separate Financial Requirements table must be completed.

Vision and Approach: replaces Case for Support. Use template to structure document and note new standardised Funding Service assessment criteria

Expert review: In line with new UKRI policy, this funding opportunity **will not have** a separate, written expert/peer review stage.

Changes since the last round

Equipment policy: Applications to this funding opportunity must adhere to UKRI's new [equipment and capital threshold policy equipment and capital threshold policy](#), introduced on 1 April 2025:

- Single items costing £25,000 and over will be considered capital expenditure, an increase from the previous equipment capital threshold of £10,000.
- Items of equipment will be funded at 80% of their full economic cost (80% FEC). However, awards for instrument development may (at the panel's discretion) be funded at 100% FEC.
- In the Funding Service individual items of £25,000 and over should be included under the equipment heading, items under £25,000 should be included as Other Directly Incurred.

Changes since the last round

Staff roles: With the introduction of UKRI's Funding Service, the number of available staff roles has been expanded. It is anticipated that all applicants will maximise this full range of positions available to ensure recognition of the team.

- project lead (PL)
- project co-lead UK (PcL)
- researcher co-lead
- grant manager
- research and innovation associate
- visiting researcher
- specialist
- technician
- professional enabling staff

See UKRI website for additional information on these roles.

Changes since the last round

Core Posts and STFC Staff Categories: Due to the potential constraints, STFC will provide Project Leads with greater flexibility in determining how to distribute funding between Core and non-Core positions.

Studentships: Doctoral studentships will not be funded through Nuclear Physics Consolidated Grants. All studentships should now be funded through STFC's dedicated [student funding programmes](#).

Panel composition

The panel will consist of around 10 academic representatives from the UK and around 8 invited international members.

The international members will be chosen by STFC to be able to provide expert input across the different areas.

An invite to contribute to the long list of possible international members has been sent out to the community via heads of groups.

Deadline for responses is the end of January.

The international members will be chosen from the long list without input from the grants panel.

Application Process: Vision and Approach (V&A) template

- Use the supplied [V&A template](#) to structure your Vision and Approach document.
- This will ensure that you provide all the information required to assess your submission
- The template is provided in Word format – once completed convert to PDF and upload to the Funding Service
- Please note that the template includes extensive additional guidance to assist you in preparing your submission
- If you have any questions about completing the document, contact STFC staff as soon as possible: pp@stfc.ac.uk

Application Process: Financial Requirements Form

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
1	Staff Costs	Lead Institution Name:			Application Title:							
2												
3	Note: Please indicate if Estates and indirects have been requested for each post.											
4												
5	Directly Allocated or Directly Incurred Posts	Staff Role (UKRI)	Staff Category	Name/Post Identifier (order: title/first name/last name)	Institution	Overheads sought - (Yes/No)	Start Date	End Date	Period on Grant (months)	FTE %	Full economic Cost (100%) £	Total number of charged hours over the duration of the grant
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												
16												
17												
18												
19												
20												
21	Overhead Costs											
22	Estates	Institution/University	FEC Cost (£)									
23	Estate Costs (DA)											
24	Estate Costs (DA)											
25	Estate Costs (DA)											
26		Total	£	-								
27												
28	Including Lab overheads											
29	Indirect Costs	Institution/University	FEC Cost (£)									
30	Indirect Costs											
31	Indirect Costs											
32	Indirect Costs											
33		Total	£	-								
34												
35												
36												

Total £ -

[Guidance](#)
[1. Staff & Overhead Costs](#)
[2. Equipment Costs](#)
[3. Non-Staff Costs](#)
[4. Summary](#)

Application Process: Cross-community effort

Requests for cross-community support should be discussed (in advance of your application) with the Cross-Community Group before the end of January 2026:

- Marc Labiche (marc.labiche@stfc.ac.uk)

Requests should specify the type of expertise required:

- target making
- technical support
- mechanical
- electronic
- software engineering

Please indicate the required level of FTE and when it is needed.

Community snapshots

It is important as a community (and a panel) that we have as much information as possible to quantify the success and impact of NP beyond core STFC CG funding.

The industrial and societal impact of STFC science is an increasingly important aspect with the new council structure and priorities.

Please engage with any requests for information on non-CG funding, industrial engagement etc so we have the information to hand to make the case for our community.

The last such exercise was done to gather information for the ECFA visiting panel in 2024 – derived from an incomplete response from the community. The key info gathered is in the following slides.

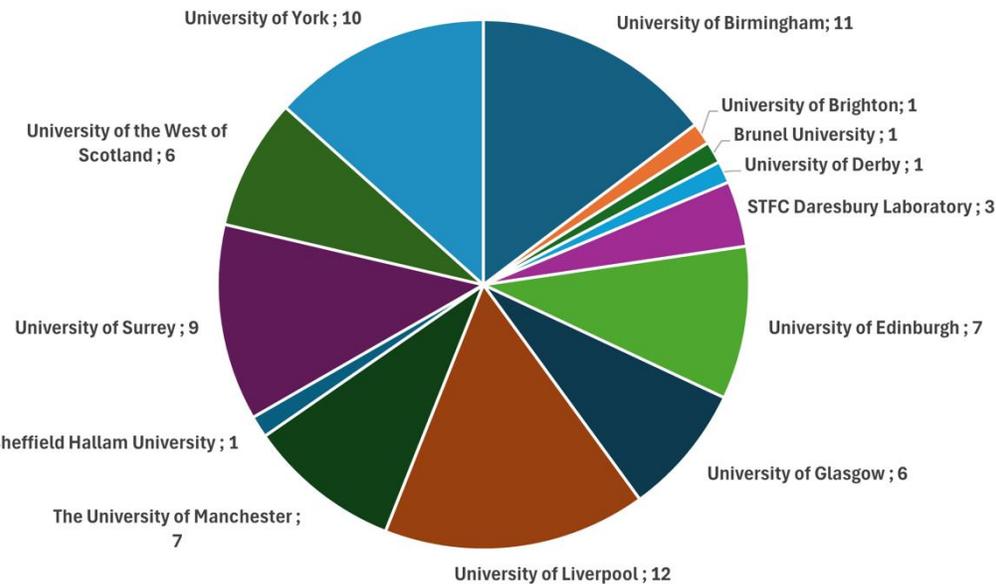
Please let me know if you spot anything missing, let me know of new collaborations, initiatives, funding,..

We will also request updated information in March – after the CG submission

Nuclear Physics in the UK

- 12 Universities
- 1 national laboratory
- 1 accelerator facility (MC40)

Number of NP academics per institute



Scotland
 UWS (NS/NA)
 Glasgow (HP)
 Edinburgh (NS/NA)

North of England
 Liverpool (NS/NA/HP)
 Manchester (NS/NA/HT)
 Sheffield (HP)
 York (NS/NA/HP/NT)

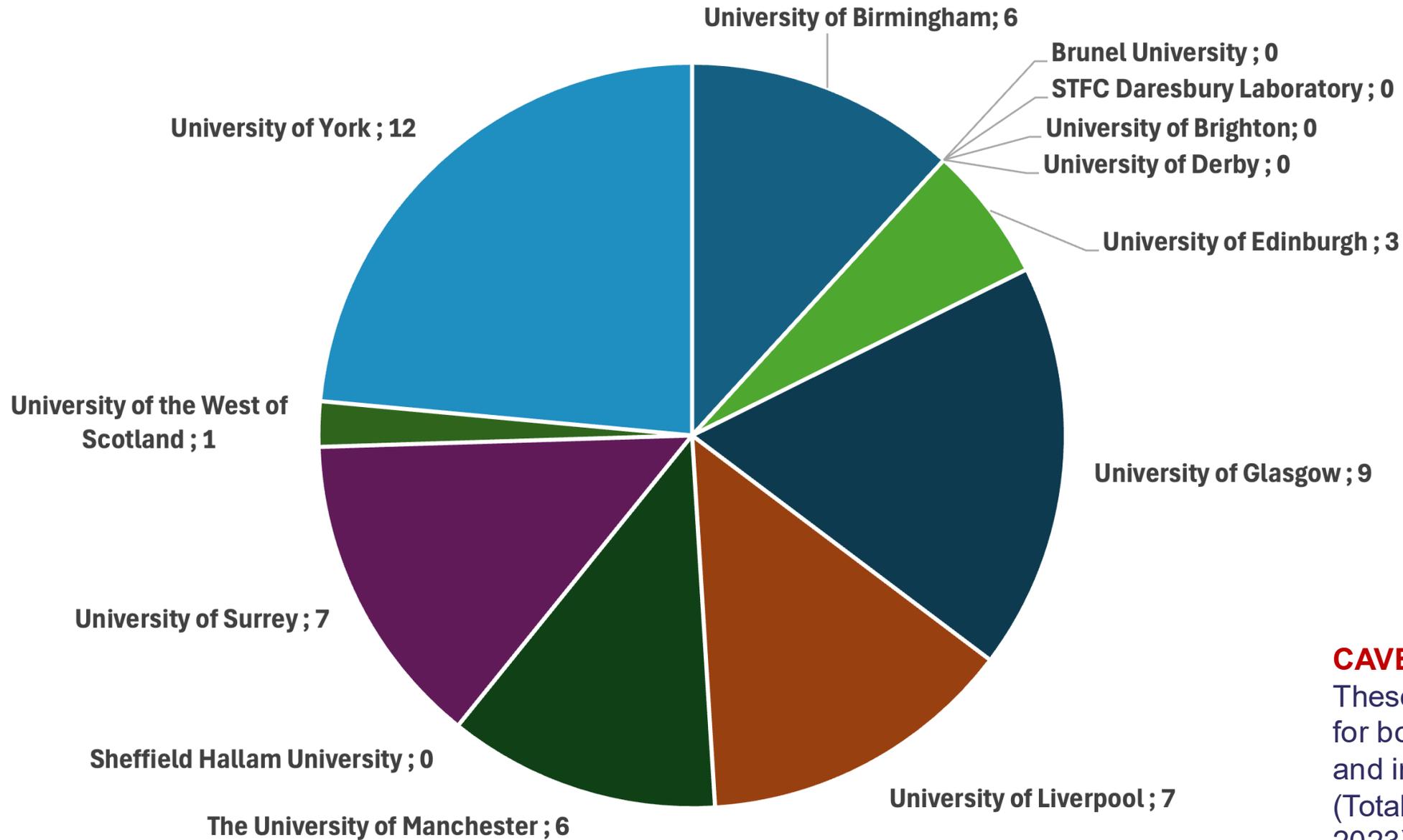
Midlands
 Birmingham (NS/NA/HP)
 Derby (HP)

Southern England
 Surrey (NS/NA/NT)
 Brighton (NS/NA)
 Brunel (HP)

Daresbury lab (NS/NA/HP)

MC40 proton/neutron beam facility (NS/NA)

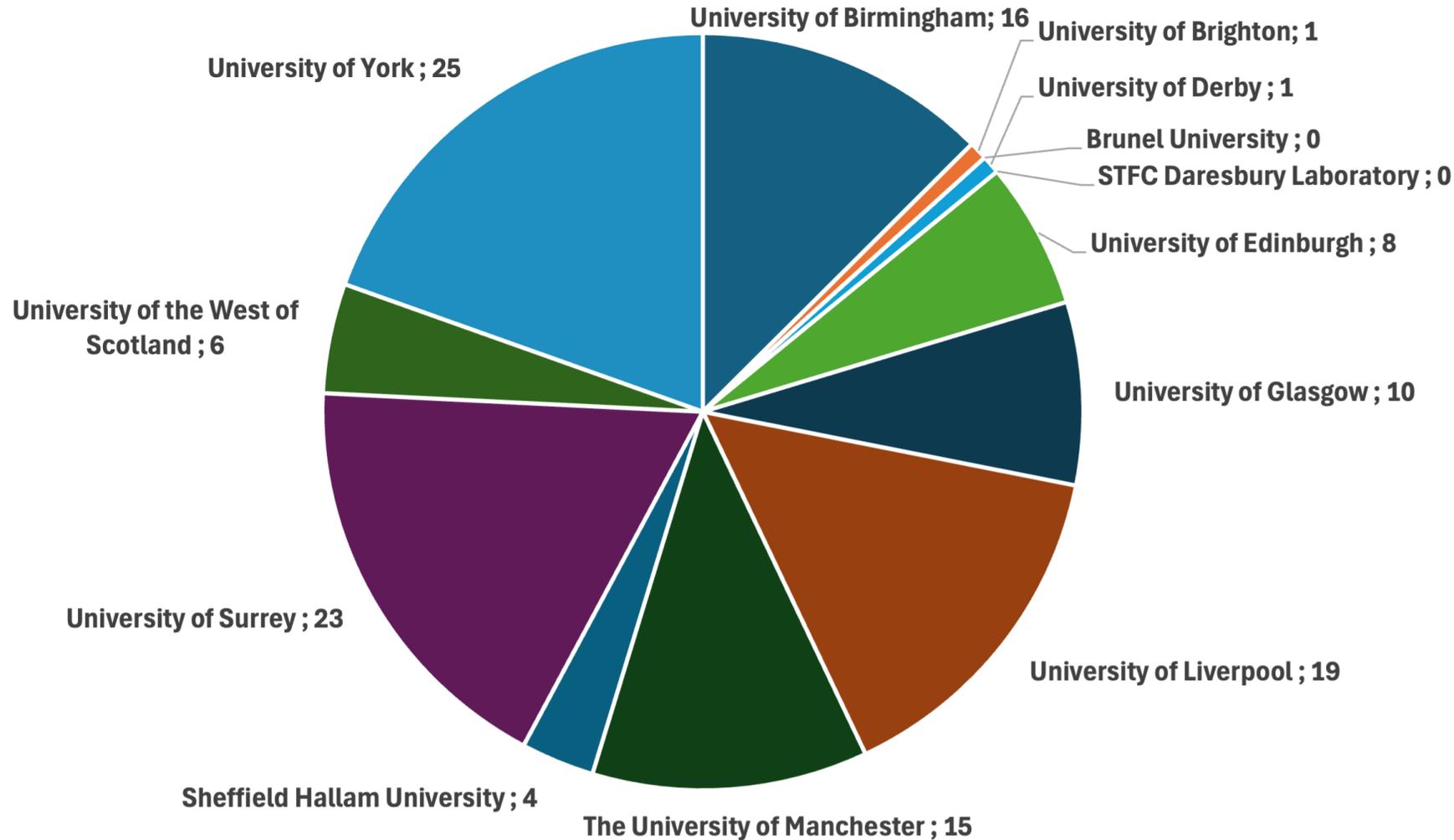
Nuclear PDRA in the UK by institute (source NPAP24)



CAVEATS:

These show PDRA supported for both pure science (STFC) and industry projects (Total STFC CG PDRA 27 in 2023)

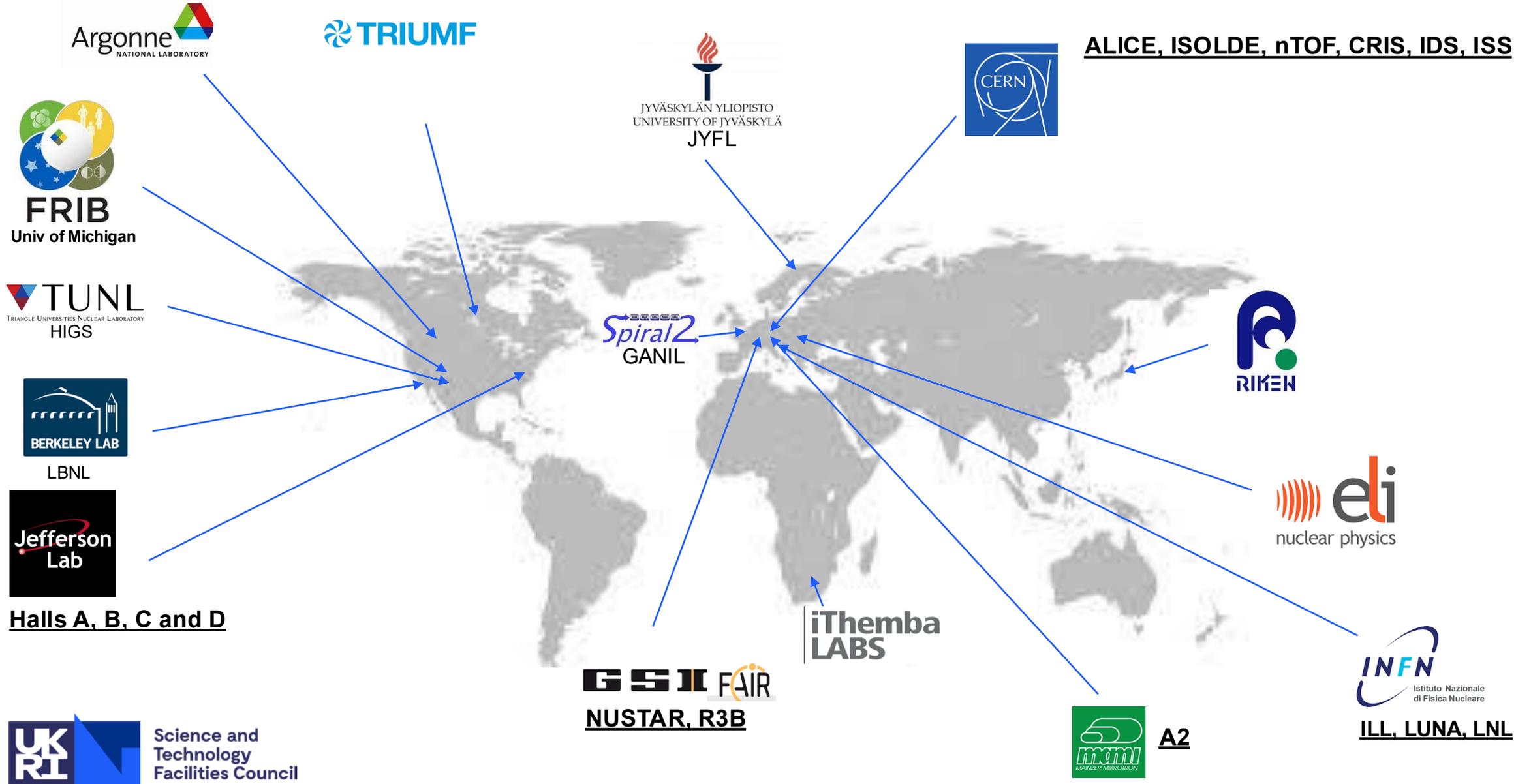
Nuclear PhD students in the UK by institute (source NPAP24)



CAVEATS:

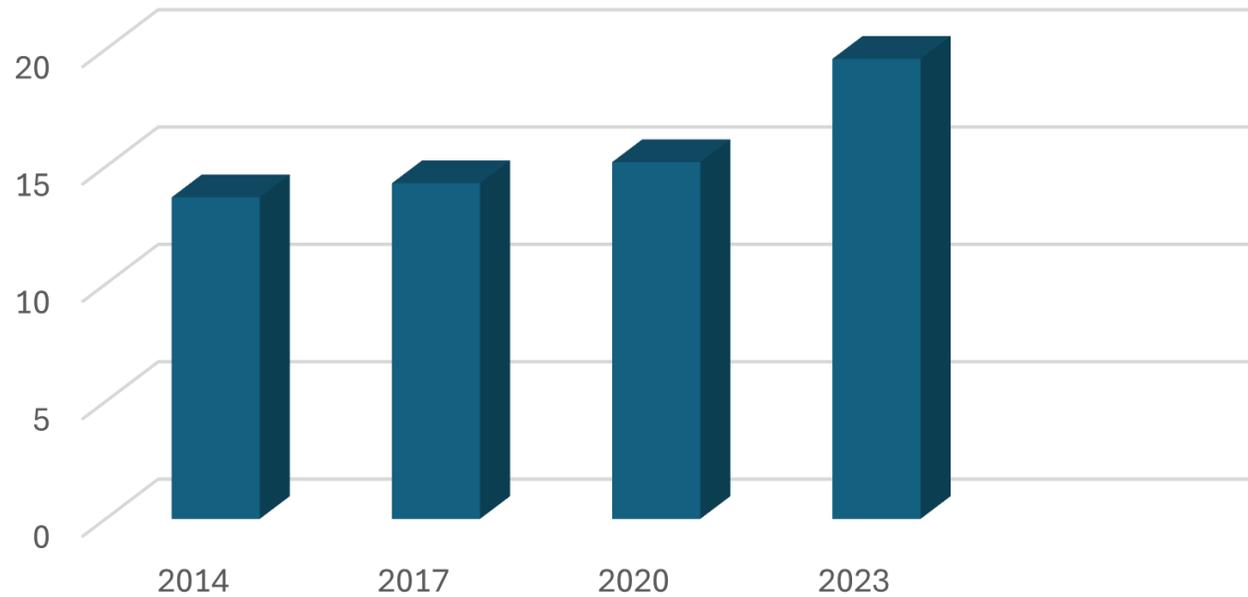
These show PhD supported by STFC as well as industry projects, self-funding students

Current facilities exploited by UK community

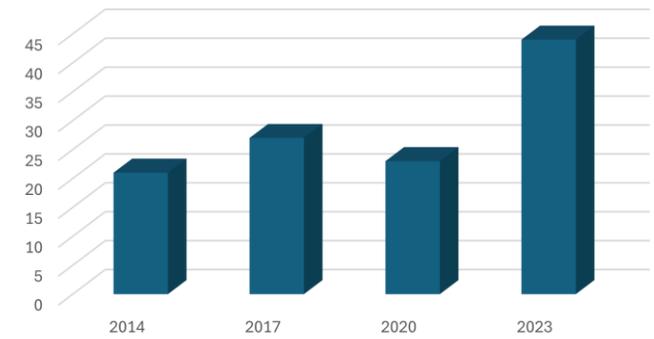


STFC Consolidated grant funding for UK nuclear community

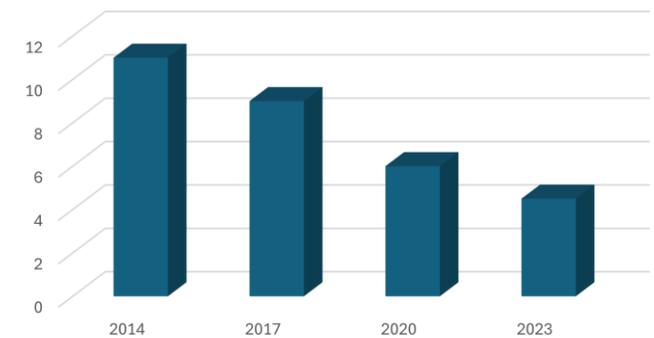
Total funding for NP (£M) from recent STFC Consolidated grants rounds



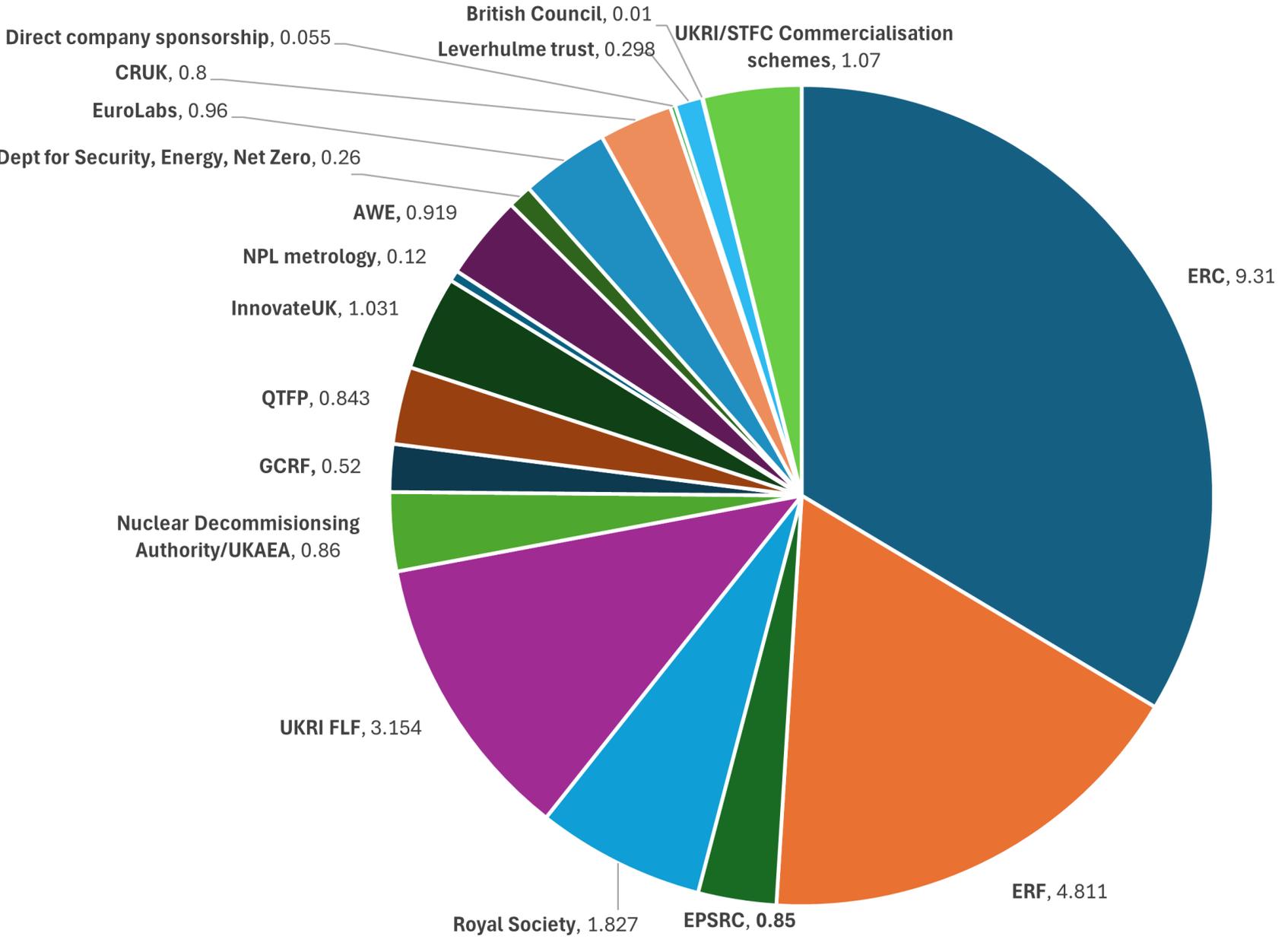
Total number of PDRA



Average %FTE funded per academic



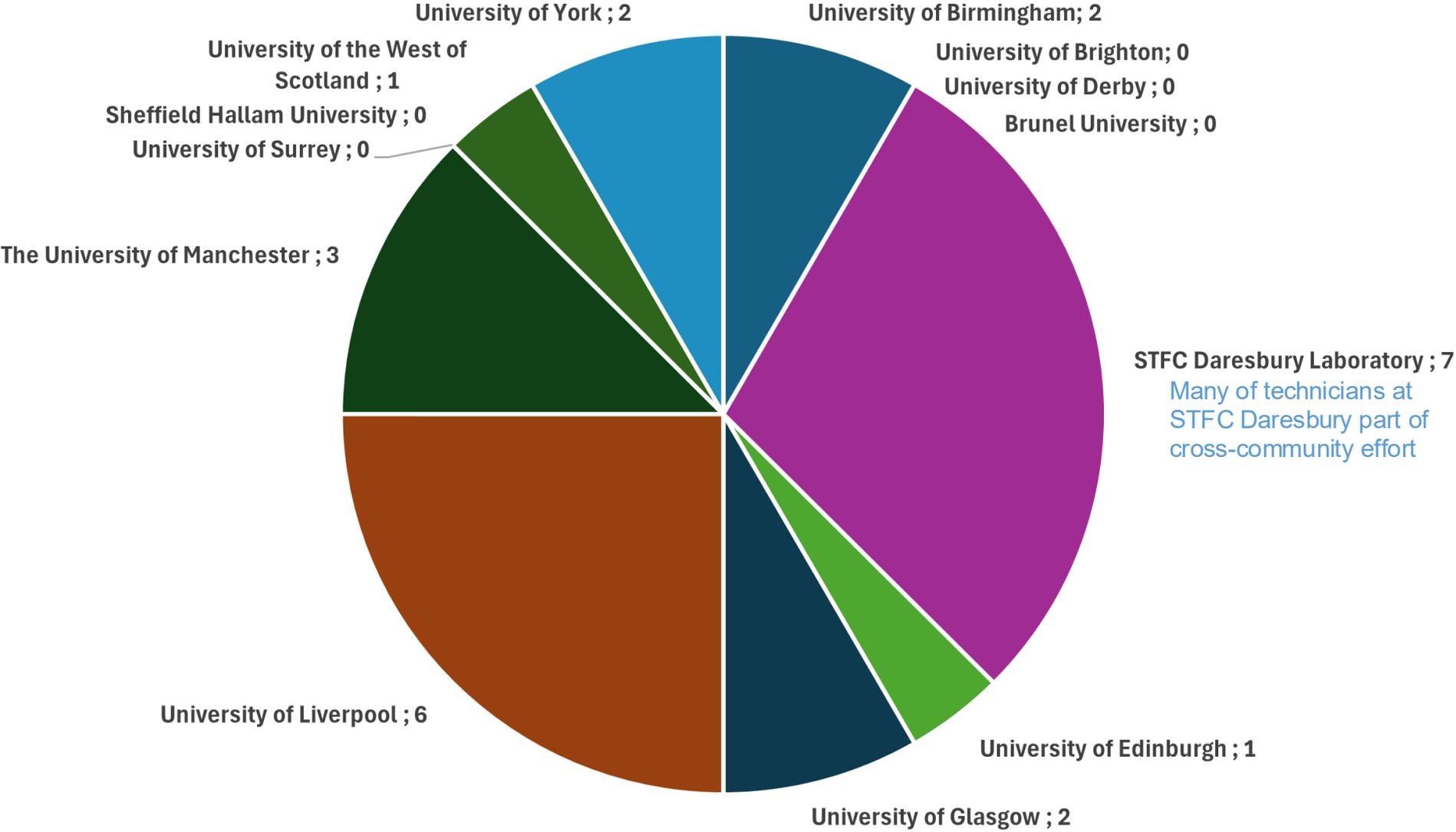
Recent (indicative) funding for UK NP outside of main grants panel



Numbers show funding awarded in £M

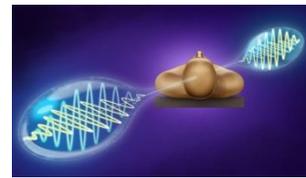
CAVEATS:
Responses from 9 of 12 groups
(ERF numbers from NPAP24)

Nuclear technicians/engineers in the UK by institute (source NPAP24)



STFC Daresbury Laboratory ; 7
Many of technicians at
STFC Daresbury part of
cross-community effort

(Some) recent examples of societal impact from NP



Quantum information in PET imaging – dose reduction (QTFP)

Nuclear waste management/security: LINKEOS

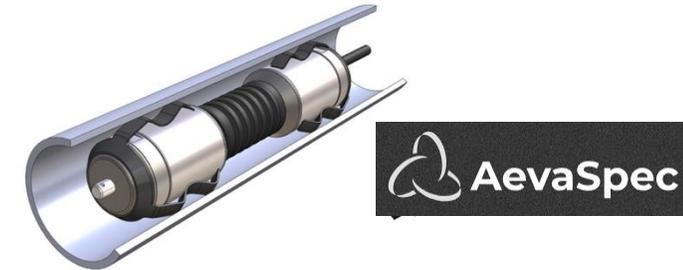


Oil industry, industrial imaging: AevaSpec

Radiation monitors for personnel e.g. D3S developed for Kromek (recent \$6M purchase by US authorities)



Medical isotope production using γ -beams at intensity frontier



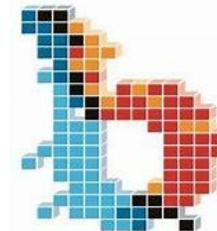
Ultra-fast rf photon detectors (with timepix) for medical imaging and quantum optics



MAPS technologies in medical physics : OPTima



AWE collaborations e.g. VENOM, a new neutron facility for nuclear research and isotopic assay

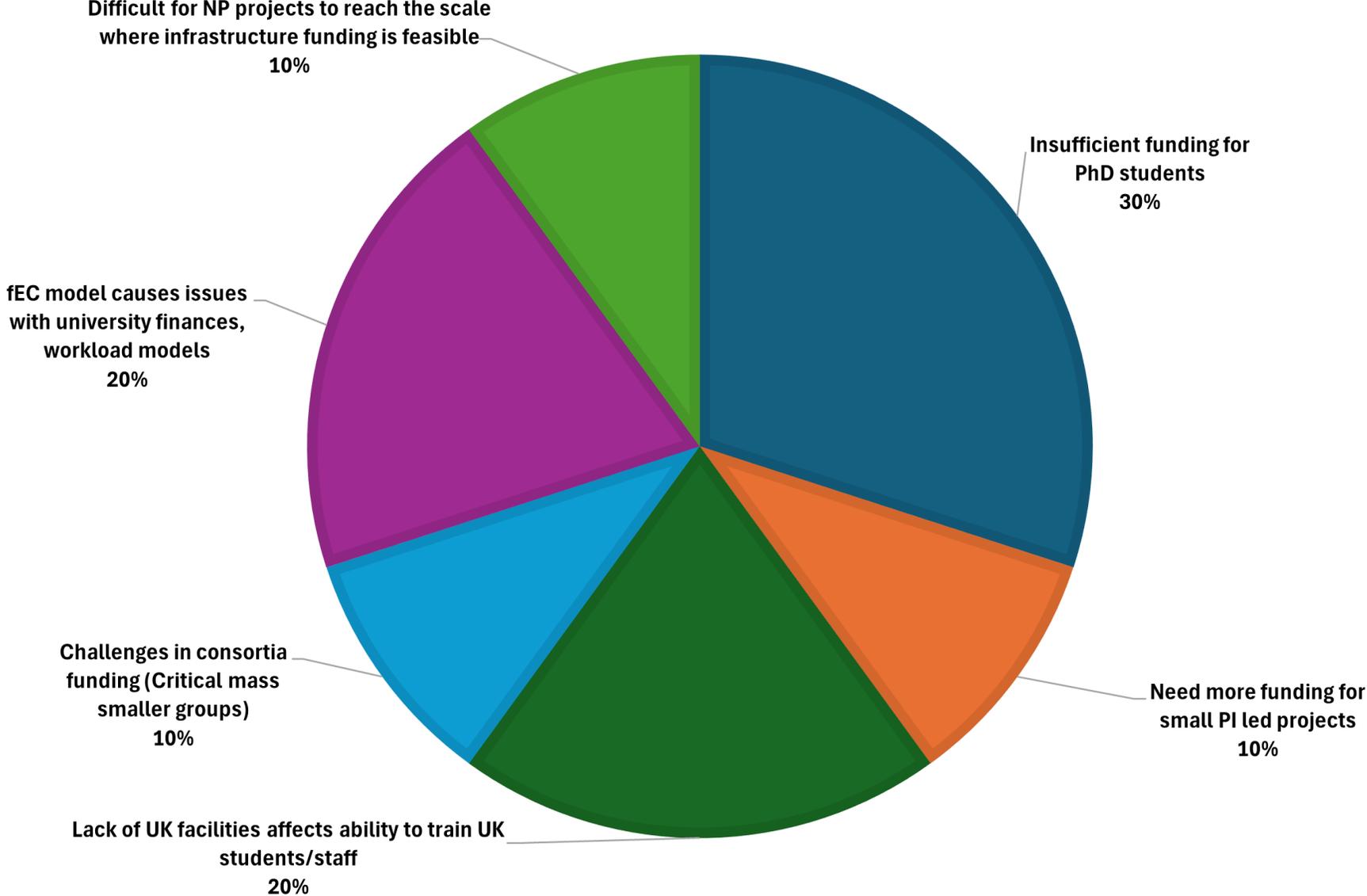


Binding blocks - One of UK's largest outreach activities reaching 1000's of school students (in-person) + online materials for educators

+ high-level training in nuclear physics, cutting-edge detector technologies, advanced simulation – skills sought for medical/industrial imaging, medical physics, nuclear industry, finance, ..

Difficulties expressed by the community

CAVEATS:
Responses from 9 (of 12) groups



Questions?



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