

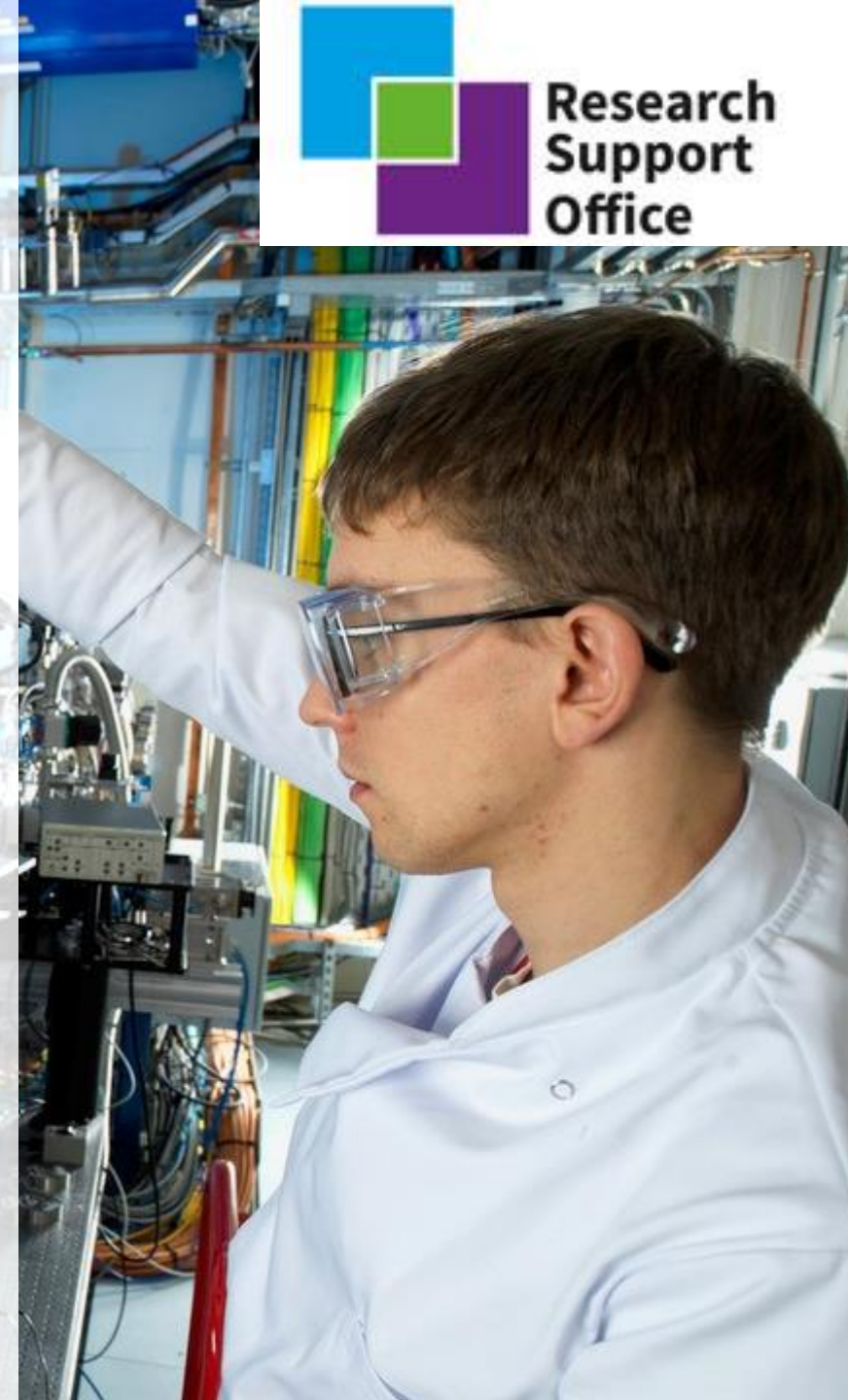


Radioactive Waste Management University Research Support Office

PhD Bursary Scheme – 2021/22

RWM RSO Aims

- Deliver world-leading research from the UK's academic research community that will underpin the safety case for a geological disposal facility;
- Support UK universities to access geodisposal research funding that will underpin our geological disposal programme;
- Develop the next generation of geodisposal research expertise to support the national programme.

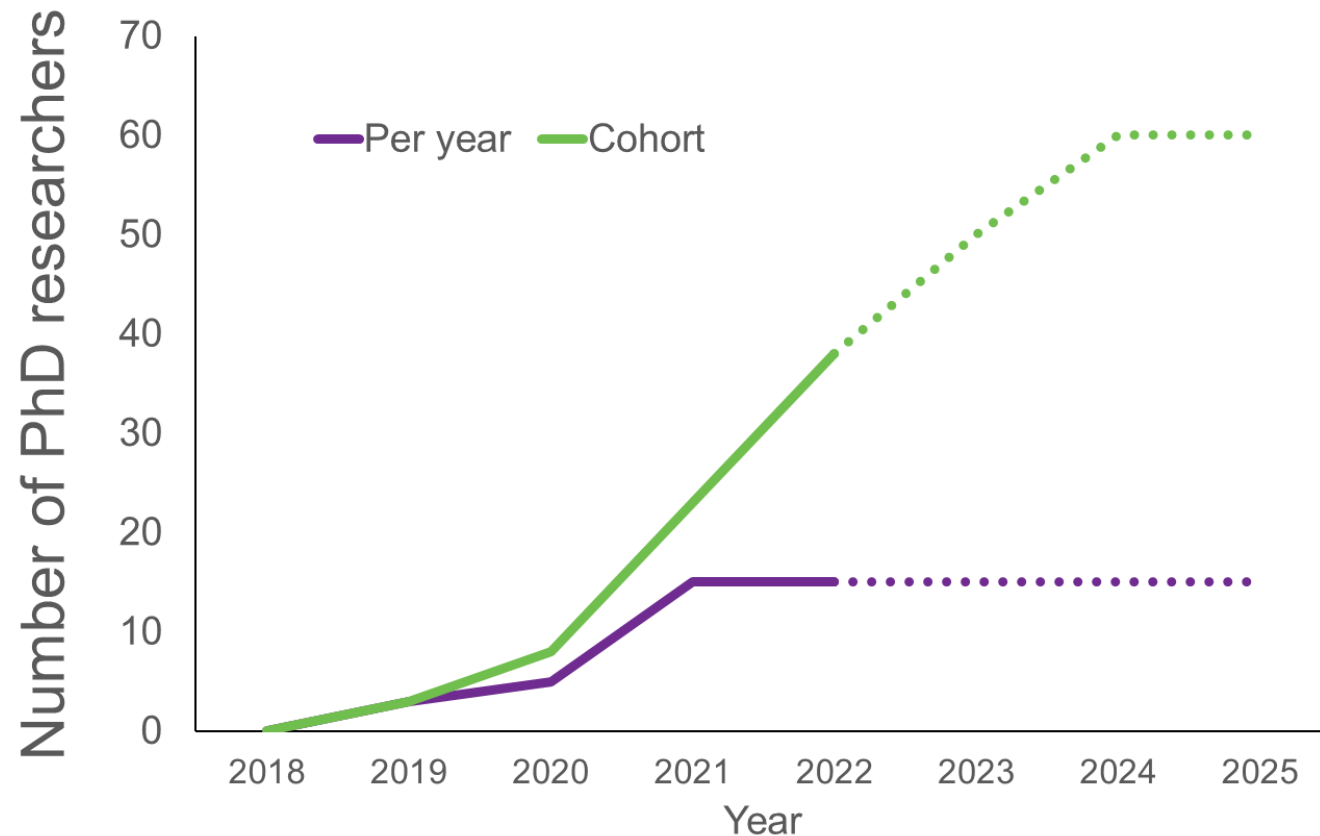


RWM RSO Bursary Scheme

- Develop key skills required for RWM's research mission over the coming decades, and to help deliver the next generation of geodisposal experts
- Encourage collaboration and communication between RWM and the academic community and deliver impact
- Develop community of researchers across the UK in geodisposal related areas using state of the art facilities and approaches

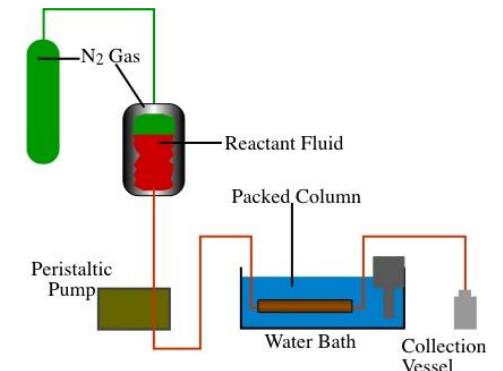
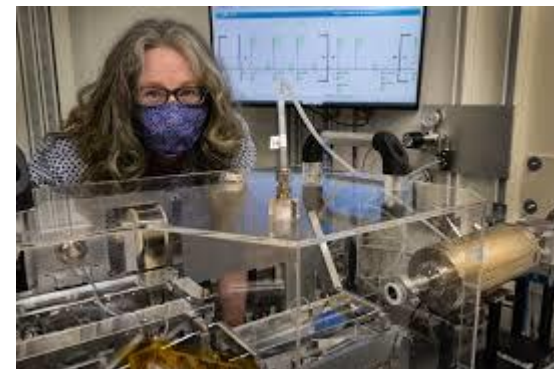


RWM RSO Bursary Scheme



Scheme Overview

- Annual call / 4 year PhD project
- RWM expecting to fund **10-15** PhD studentships this year
- Cost < **£120,000**
- **Project areas** – RWM defined remit, apply to that remit
- **Open call** – remit within scope of RSO GDF research and defined by academics



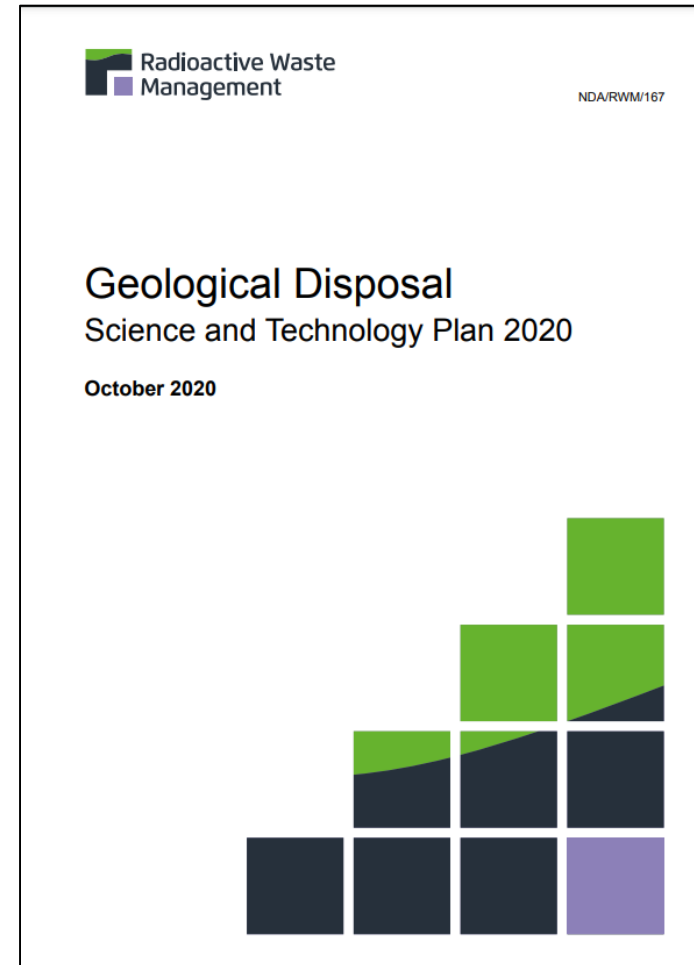
PhD Project Areas development

Research Priorities - SMEs and Discipline
Leads work together to develop research
priorities and PhD project areas

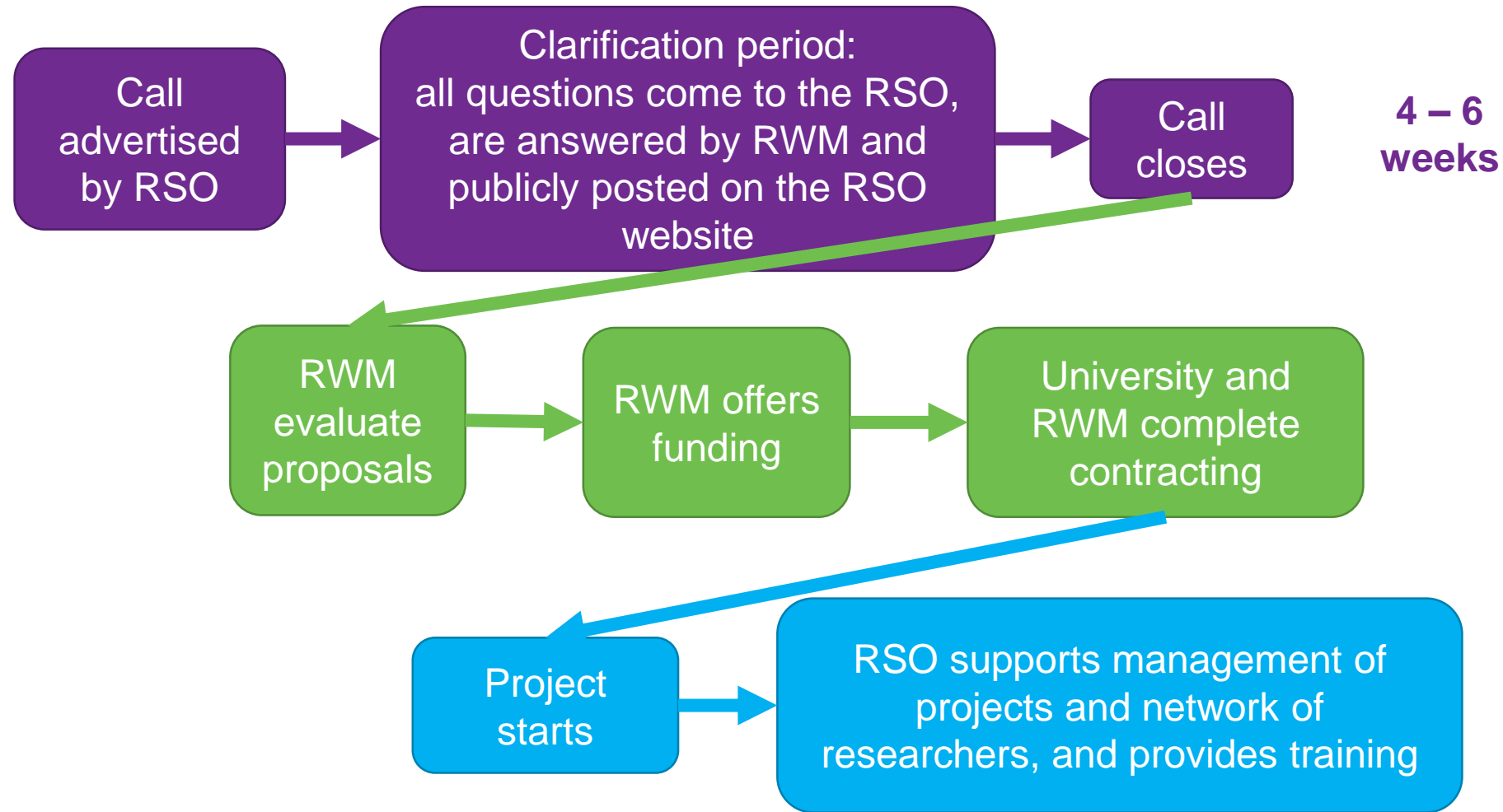
SMEs secure RWM funding and refine project
areas with CT, DL support

Project areas are published openly and
transparently – Autumn 2021

2021/2022 Scheme ~ 20 project areas



Calls for Research - Process



Project Area Examples 2021/2

- Investigating the impact of high ionic strength on bentonite performance in a geological disposal environment – **Sciences**
- Remote inspection of high integrity waste disposal environment – **Advanced Materials**
- Impact of non-radiological processes on human biota - **Environment**
- Developing fundamental understanding of coupled THM-C processes in compacted materials / **Applied Maths**
- New Materials for Underground Space in the GDF - **Engineering**

SEE POSTER BOARD FOR FULL
PROJECT LIST AND CONTACTS

Application Process 2021/2

- Launch Autumn 2021 – RSO website www.rso-gdf.ac.uk
- Application form/assessment criteria
 - Project Description
 - Alignment to RWM Research Strategy
 - Skills/capacity generation
 - Finances including added value / gearing
- Applications from academic researchers who have not previously received funding from RWM are particularly encouraged.
- Announcement of funding early new year 2022

Finances

- Total cost to RWM of <£120,000
- Gearing – funding from other source strongly encouraged
 - UKRI CDT's or DTP's
 - EPSRC - GREEN CDT
 - EPSRC - Nuclear Energy Futures
 - NERC – industry studentship match
 - University/regional funds
- In-kind funding

RWM RSO PhD Cohort Activities

- Induction including starter pack
- Annual RSO meeting - themes
- RWM supervisor for each project
- Training activities
 - Communication
 - Outreach
- Networking / seminars



RWM RSO PhD Bursary Scheme – 2021/22

Questions?