

Programme Board

Terms of Reference

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1. Context

The Future Marine Research Infrastructure (FMRI) programme will support UKRI's mission to **advance knowledge, improve lives and drive growth** by delivering a transformational investment in NERC's National Capability Large Research Infrastructure (NCLRI) National Marine Facilities. The purpose of the FMRI programme is to realise the benefits achievable through the adoption of cutting-edge capabilities including: robotics, autonomy and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

2. Purpose and Remit

2.1 Purpose

Chaired by the FMRI Senior Responsible Owner (SRO), the Programme Board provides oversight and assurance for delivery, and recommends decisions to NERC Executive.

2.2 Remit

The Programme Board will:

- Ensure delivery remains aligned with UKRI **strategic priorities**.
- Confirm that there is a credible and compliant plan to realise the intended **outcomes and benefits** within the specified programme constraints.
- Provide appropriate scrutiny of **decisions** which are submitted as recommendations to NERC Executive.
- Assure that there is **robust governance** at all levels and compliance with applicable policies and standards, including consideration of Value for Money (VfM).
- Provide constructive challenge to reporting of **progress and performance** against agreed milestones, scope and budgets.
- Enable **issues** to be escalated, supporting the programme with resolving barriers to delivery.
- Ensure the programme **risk** appetite is understood and aligned to UKRI policy, risks are robustly controlled, and the programme is supported with the management of uncertainty.

2.3 Scope

- The Programme Board will **recommend** decisions related to the scope of the solution, strategic alignment and/or commercial arrangements to NERC Executive.
- The Programme Board will provide **oversight** for delivery and spending decisions, but will not decide on the specific activities to be funded.

3. Membership

Members are nominated by the SRO in consultation with NERC Executive.

The SRO reserves the right to change the membership at any time in response to the evolving needs of the programme.

Name	Affiliation	Role
Leigh Storey	NERC (FMRI)	FMRI Senior Responsible Owner / Chair
Kimberley Bond	NERC	Chief Operating Officer
Dr Liam Blackwell	EPSRC	Deputy Director for Infrastructure & ICT
Emma Johnson	SMI*	UK Industry Advisor
Prof Mark Moore	Uni. Southampton	FMRI SAG Chair
Dr Kristian Thaller	NOC (FMRI)	FMRI Programme Director

Members may, with the agreement of the SRO, propose a deputy to attend in their absence.

4. Mode of Operation

Timing: The Programme Board will meet every three months and more often if required to address urgent or material issues.

A meeting will be **quorate** when a minimum of half of the Board members are present and, if a decision is required, when the Board member appointed to provide the relevant specialist skill or knowledge is also in attendance.

The **Secretariat** will:

- Coordinate meetings.
- Circulate supporting papers at least 10 working days in advance of the meeting.
- Prepare the minutes and circulate these within 15 working days of the meeting.

Information will be provided to Members in supporting papers. Discussions at Programme Board meetings will take this information as read.

The Programme Board may be given access to **confidential information**. Members understand that the loss or inadvertent disclosure of such information may harm the interests of the person and/or organisation to whom it belongs. Members are to assume that all information shared is confidential unless confirmation is provided in writing by the Secretariat that this is in the public domain.

* Society for Maritime Industries

Members of the Programme Board commit to declare any potential **conflict of interest** at the earliest opportunity and accept that declared conflicts of interest will be recorded in the minutes.

FMRI will reimburse the employers of Programme Board members for any **travel expenses** in accordance with NOC policy, but no fee is payable for meeting attendance.