AIRRPORT, Allocation and Compliance Workflows plus Extensions for TREs

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Bristol Centre for Supercomputing (BriCS), University of Bristol

FRIDGE workshop, November 7, 2025

Details: https://docs.isambard.ac.uk/
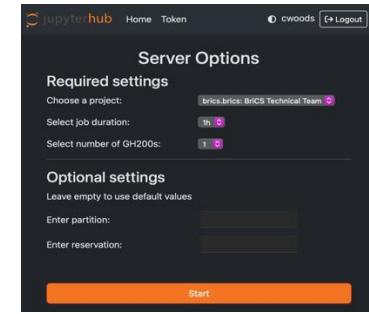
Idea Application Allocation Access

Application → Assessment → Award → Access → Accounting
"Target: March'25 To go from application to access in a day"

AIRRPORT – A collaborative project (empowering all stakeholders and agile)
AIRR sites-University of Bristol, University of Cambridge
DSIT and UKRI (funders and stakeholders)
Waldur-–OpenNode, Estonia
MyAccessID—GÈANT
Christopher Woods, Ashish Tom, and others from BriCS
Tanya Kushwahaa—Centre for Doctoral Student 6-months project

Project Lead – Applies for time on the service

https://portal-airr.isambard.ac.uk

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-research-resource

Documents

HTML — AIRR advanced supercomputers for the UK
HTML

HTML — AIRR Gateway route (UKRI guidance)
HTML

HTML — AIRR Rapid Access route (UKRI guidance)
HTML

HTML — AIRR Portal: how to apply (UKRI guidance)
HTML

1. Project Lead learns how to apply for time on different services...

2. ...chooses a call...

3. ...makes an application

Gateway Active
UKRI

Open round started: Jul 17, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Open round ends: Dec 31, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Apply to round
My Proposals

Description | Documents

Description

Gateway
Designed for researchers from academia, industry, or other UK organisations, this route supports:

- First-time users of AI supercomputing resources
- Testing of (novel) algorithms, code, and workflows
- Benchmarking of algorithms, code, and workflows before applying for larger AIRR opportunities.

Eligible activities include:

- Fundamental research (Research organisations only)
- Feasibility studies
- Industrial research
- Experimental development

Resources available:
Up to 10,000 GPU hours on AIRR services, to be used within 3 months of project start.

Accessibility and Inclusion
We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and are committed to making our application process accessible to everyone.
You must read the attached guidance fully before you start your application.
You can contact us at any time at airr@ukri.org to ask for guidance.

Reaction–Diffusion Constrained Deep Learning of Invasion Biology In review
Slug: ukri-1-gateway-1-20250717-215

Submission — Review — Decision

Details overview   More details

Call name:	Gateway	Round deadline:	December 31, 2025 (in 1 month)
Round reference:	Round 17.07.2025-31.12.2025	Created by:	

Progress

Details overview
Project details
Resource requests
Project team

Project details

Name
Reaction–Diffusion Constrained Deep Learning of Invasion Biology

Summary
Invasive pests and diseases threaten the UK's trees, plants and crops. They harm ecosystems, reduce biodiv

Description
See the attached documents.

Application ▸ **Assessment** ▸ **Award** ▸ **Access** ▸ **Accounting**

UKRI
@ airr@ukri.org

Dashboard   Calls   **Proposals**   Reviews   Team

Create review   ✕

Reviewer *

Select...   ⌄

25

25

Create   25

4. Call Manager assigns proposals for review...

Summary

Rate

★★★★☆ 4 stars

Comments

o   Proposal alignment with call scope evidenced
o   Added value of AIRR access evidenced
o   No compliance concerns

Notes (not visible to user)

Add your notes here

5. Reviewers complete their reviews...

Application ▶ **Assessment** ▶ Award   Access   Accounting
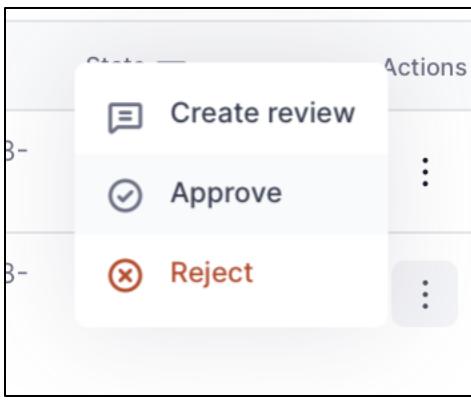
6. Call manager awards projects, assigning resources, sets project durations etc.

Create review

Approve

Reject

A AIRR-GW - 2025-07-17 - Self-supervised pre-training of vision-language models for task-specific applications (Round 2)
UKRI
Start date: Nov 3, 2025   End date: Feb 10, 2026

Project dashboard   Resources   Team   Audit logs

Resources   Search...   Export   Add

Name   Category   Offering   Created at   State   Actions

Isambard-AI   Bristol Centre for Supercomputing   Isambard-AI   Nov 3, 2025 at 5:10 PM   OK

Options

Allocation
Allocation in resource units   10000   Edit

7. Project details automatically transferred to Supercomputing Centre for provisioning

Application   Assessment   Award   Access   Accounting

https://portal.isambard.ac.uk

7. Project created for the Project Lead on the host site's project management portal

9. Project Lead can invite team members to join the project

10. Project team can log in and access the service, run jobs etc.

Application **Assessment** **Award** **Access** **Accounting**
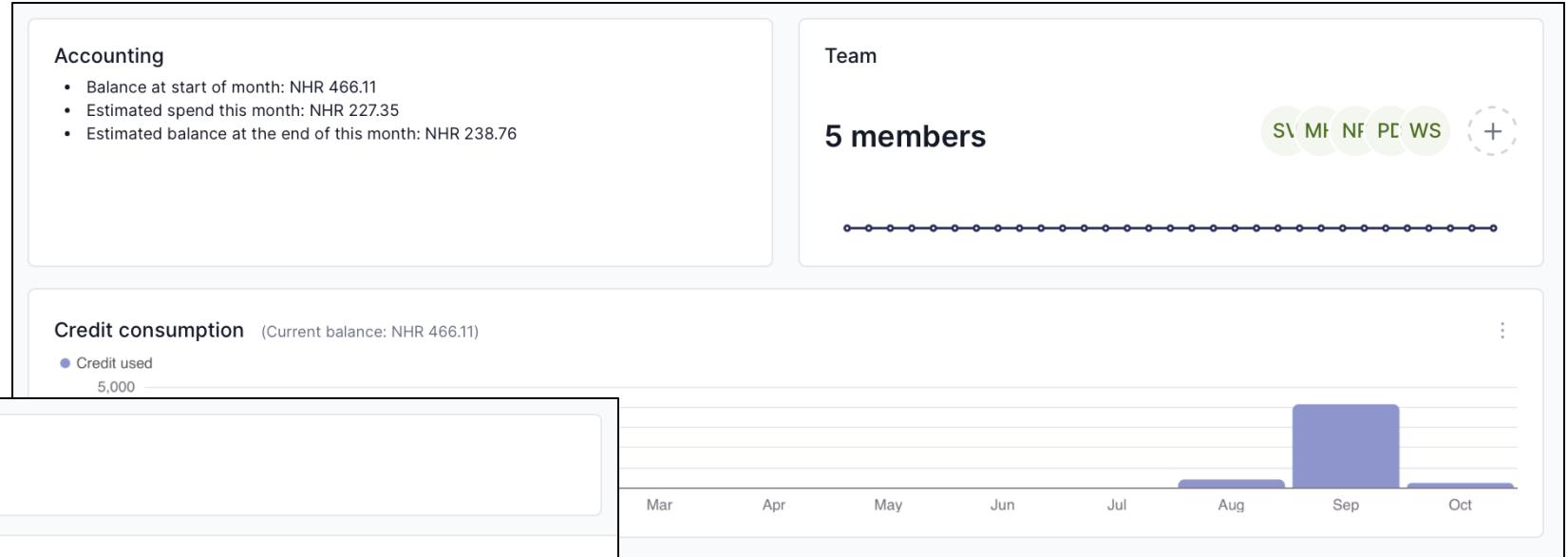
11. Accounting data collected automatically as jobs are running...

Accounting
- Balance at start of month: NHR 466.11
- Estimated spend this month: NHR 227.35
- Estimated balance at the end of this month: NHR 238.76

Team

5 members   S\ MI NF PL WS +

Credit consumption   (Current balance: NHR 466.11)
- Credit used
  5,000

Mar   Apr   May   Jun   Jul   Aug   Sep   Oct

UKRI
@ airr@ukri.org

Organization dashboard   Projects   Resources   Orders   Team   My offerings   Accounting ⌄   Audit logs

Projects ⟳   🔍 Search...   ⚙   ⬆ Export   ⬇ Bulk import   ⊕ Add

Name ⇕		Description	Created ⇕	End date ⇕	Estimated cost	Type	Actions
AIRR-GW - 2025-07-17 - FLVLA: Feder...	⧉	This project will test ...	Oct 2, 2025 at 2:58 PM	Jan 16, 2026	GPUHr 66.68	Regular	⋮
AIRR-GW - 2025-07-17 - Foundation M...	⧉	This project continu...	Sep 30, 2025 at 9:48 PM	Jan 14, 2026	GPUHr 289.24	Regular	⋮
AIRR-GW - 2025-07-17 - Multi-agent d...	⧉	This research propo...	Sep 30, 2025 at 9:46 PM	Jan 14, 2026	GPUHr 1,320.64	Regular	⋮
AIRR-GW - 2025-07-17 - Meta-Learnin...	⧉	Vision-Language-Ac...	Sep 30, 2025 at 9:43 PM	Jan 14, 2026	GPUHr 1,817.12	Regular	⋮
AIRR-RA - 2025-07-17 - Financial LLMs...	⧉	This is part of Aveni'...	Sep 30, 2025 at 7:52 PM	Jan 14, 2026	GPUHr 542.72	Regular	⋮

12. This is transferred back to the allocation site for review by the Call Manager. They can track progress, choosing to award more time, or contact Project Leads / remove unused time as needed
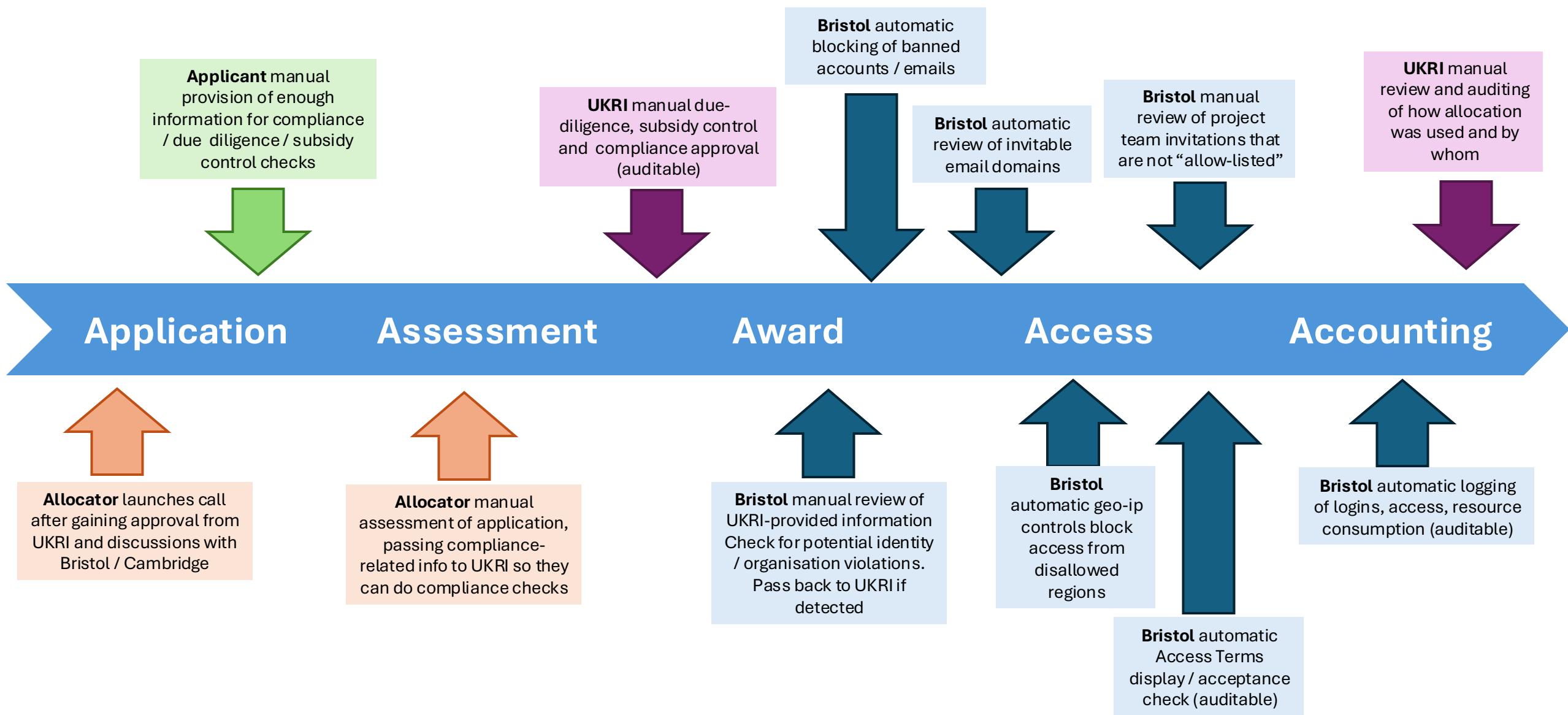
| Application | Assessment | Award | Access | Accounting |

Status (AIRRPORT-launched July 17, 2025)

- Manages allocations to the Dawn and Isambard-AI AI Research Resources by **UKRI**, **SovAI** and **AISI**

- 380 applications processed to date!

- 96 accepted, 66 rejected, 17 currently in review

- Time from application to access is ~1 week

- Key limitations are the time to complete compliance assessment and handle reviews

- Approx 3M GPU hours have been allocated and consumed since September

Compliance impacts multiple stages of this workflow ...
Co-developed with DSIT and Bristol compliance and legal teams

Applicant manual provision of enough information for compliance / due diligence / subsidy control checks

Bristol automatic blocking of banned accounts / emails

UKRI manual due-diligence, subsidy control and compliance approval (auditable)

Bristol automatic review of invitable email domains

Bristol manual review of project team invitations that are not "allow-listed"

UKRI manual review and auditing of how allocation was used and by whom

Application	Assessment	Award	Access	Accounting

Allocator launches call after gaining approval from UKRI and discussions with Bristol / Cambridge

Allocator manual assessment of application, passing compliance-related info to UKRI so they can do compliance checks

Bristol manual review of UKRI-provided information Check for potential identity / organisation violations. Pass back to UKRI if detected

Bristol automatic geo-ip controls block access from disallowed regions

Bristol automatic Access Terms display / acceptance check (auditable)

Bristol automatic logging of logins, access, resource consumption (auditable)

... automatic and manual reviews and controls mitigate risk

Idea   ==Data==   Application   ==Compliance==   Allocation   Access   ==Auditing==
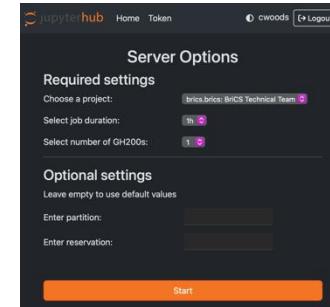
Connecting Ideas and Data for Agile Compliant Research
"Target: Nov'25 To go from application to access in < 1 week"

AIRRPORT + TRE – A collaborative project proposal
(empowering all stakeholders and agile)
AIRR sites-University of Bristol, University of Cambridge
DSIT and UKRI (funders and stakeholders)
FRIDGE team (University of Bristol, University of Cambridge, UCL, Turing)
UKBB (incorporate processes in place e.g. CTRE)
Other stakeholders
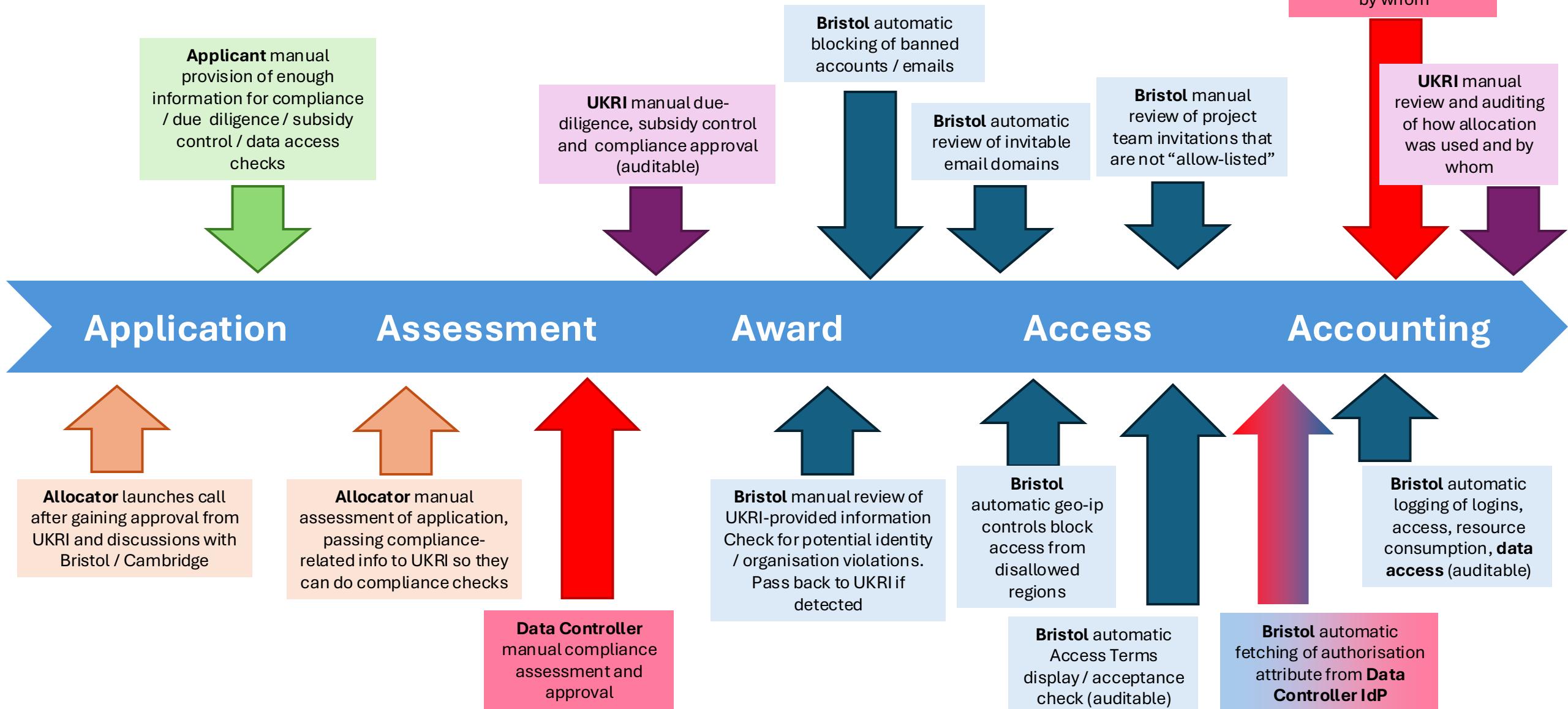
Compliance requirements for TREs to be added into this flow (proposal)

Data Controller review and auditing of how data was accessed and by whom

Applicant manual provision of enough information for compliance / due diligence / subsidy control / data access checks

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Bristol automatic blocking of banned accounts / emails

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Application **Assessment** **Award** **Access** **Accounting**

Allocator launches call after gaining approval from UKRI and discussions with Bristol / Cambridge

Allocator manual assessment of application, passing compliance-related info to UKRI so they can do compliance checks

Data Controller manual compliance assessment and approval

Bristol manual review of UKRI-provided information Check for potential identity / organisation violations. Pass back to UKRI if detected

Bristol automatic geo-ip controls block access from disallowed regions

Bristol automatic Access Terms display / acceptance check (auditable)

Bristol automatic fetching of authorisation attribute from **Data Controller IdP**

Bristol automatic logging of logins, access, resource consumption, **data access** (auditable)

E.g. Data Controller's IdP provides authorisation info via an identity attribute

New call: https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/isambard-ai-and-dawn-airr-supercomputers-innovator-route/
Launched Nov 6, 2025

Isambard-AI and Dawn AIRR supercomputers: Innovator route

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Innovate UK, Medical Research Council (MRC), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
Funding type:	Other
Publication date:	6 November 2025
Opening date:	6 November 2025 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	16 January 2026 4:00pm UK time

Timeline

- **6 November 2025 9:00am**
  Opening date
- **16 January 2026 4:00pm**
  Closing date
- **16 February 2026**
  Earliest project start date
- **13 March 2026**
  Latest project start date

Empowered agility in action – New access calls and mechanisms introduced swiftly

Input for the shared responsibility discussion

- Bristol is exposed to unlimited liability if, e.g.
  - Isambard-AI is used to hack into, e.g. a large UK car manufacturer
  - Isambard-AI is used to host and distribute CSAM or terrorist materials
  - Isambard-AI is used to run an AI model that gives "wrong" advice that leads to harm to a member of the public
  - Isambard-AI is used in a way that violates export control rules / laws, or subsidy controls
  - Protected data stored on Isambard-AI is stolen, leaked or illegally released

- Bristol must have solid – contracted – mechanisms to transfer liability, gain indemnities, and minimise liabilities for users' actions

- Risks are assessed by the legal team, controls have to be understood and defendable by the legal team, and our compliance ultimately feeds into our insurance coverage understandable by our insurer that would be used to cover any incidents or claims
  - Insurers, lawyers and judges will debate and decide if the controls are sufficient – not technical people!

- Bristol needs indemnity, ability to transfer liability, and ability to limit liability
  - Without a contract with the third party, the cloud customer cannot claim "shared responsibility" to pass liability onto that third party