

DIGITAL
DESIGN
NETWORK
PLUS

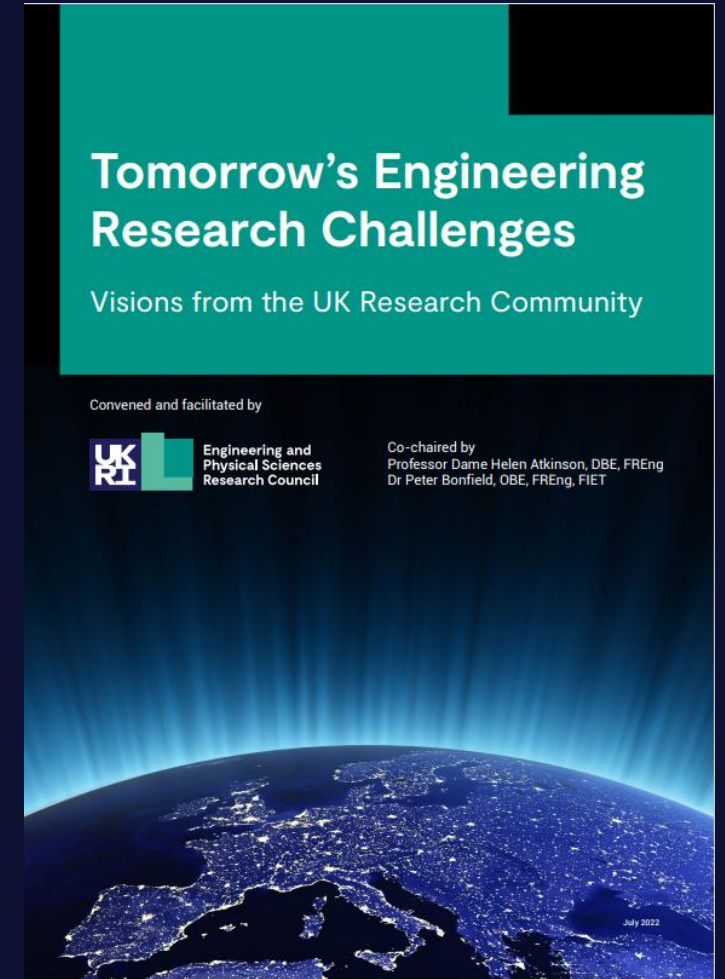
Case Study 3: Co-leads Information session Trevor Robinson

21 July 2026



Vision for D2N+

...to create an active digital design community that will define, set and prioritize key Engineering Design challenges and viable solution pathways that will exploit digital design technologies and help UK engineering transition to net zero faster.



Leadership/membership



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST



University of
Sheffield



University of
BRISTOL



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

DIGITAL
DESIGN
NETWORK
PLUS



Academia

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY

Loughborough
University

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY



Imperial College
London

University
of Exeter



University of
Southampton



The University of
Nottingham

KING'S
College
LONDON

Industry

UK Atomic
Energy
Authority

FRAZER-NASH
CONSULTANCY
— A KBR COMPANY —



Solution providers



AUTODESK



Founding partners



Academia

Industry

Solution providers

RTOs



CATAPULT
High Value Manufacturing



SIEMENS



ADVANCED
MANUFACTURING
INNOVATION
CENTRE

RTOs

CATAPULT
Digital



NATIONAL
COMPOSITES
CENTRE

AMRC
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
RESEARCH CENTRE

Approach

Coalesce a Network of Networks

- Four key stakeholder communities

Define industrial level, relevant, challenge case studies

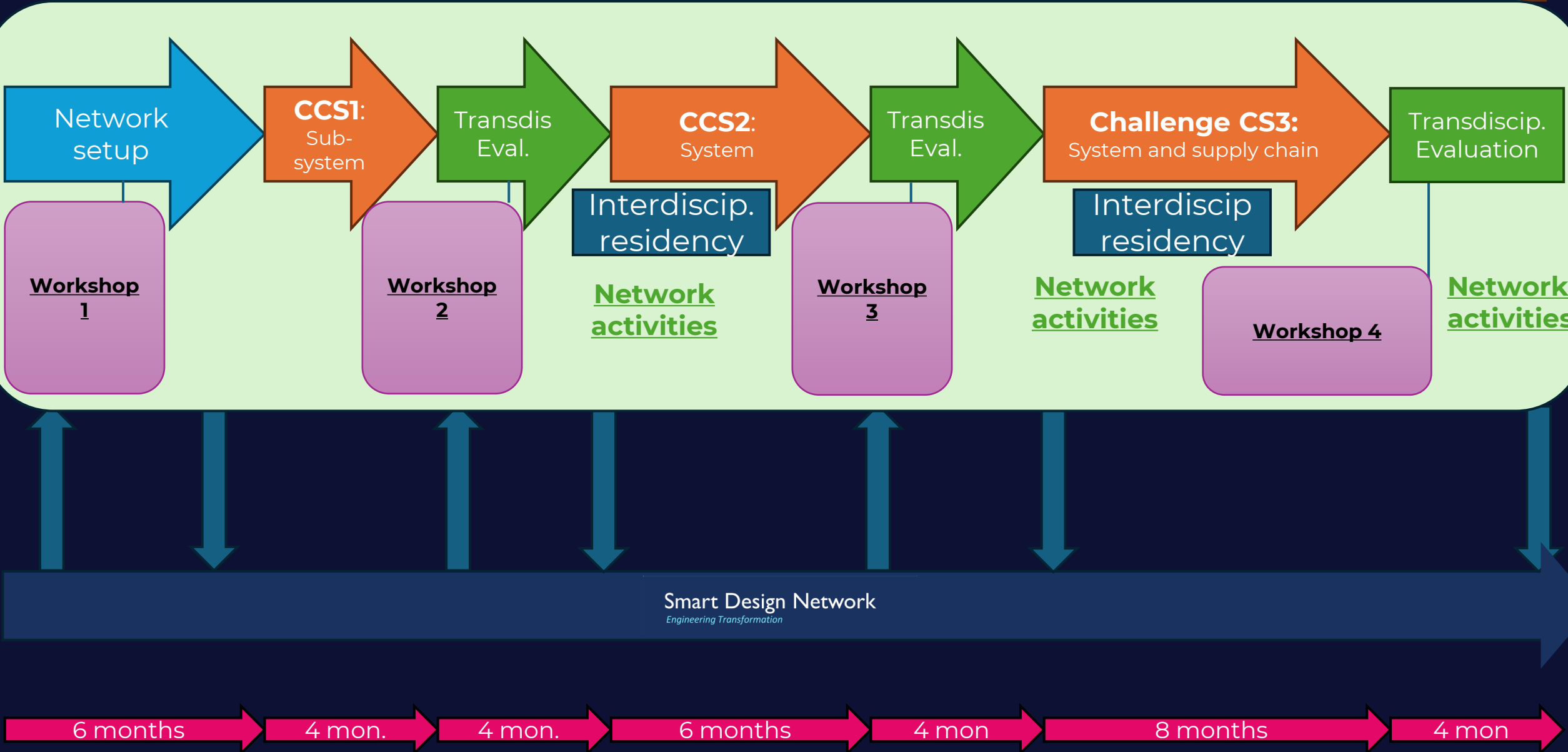
Distribute £1M of flexible funding to solve the case studies

Learn together by doing together:

1. Understand fully challenges that limit us today and find the best opportunities for quickest improvement
2. Roadmap and prioritize research challenges going forward

DECIDE for Net Zero Fellowship

DIGITAL
DESIGN
NETWORK



D2N+ outcomes

- A **community** focused on the common goal of exploiting digital design for net zero
- A suite of **agreed challenge case studies** that future research projects can be built on
- **Metrics and methodologies** for appraising digital design
- A body of **exemplar solutions** to the challenge case studies
- A **cohort of academics** with a framework for ongoing collaboration in digital design

Case Study 1 & 2

CCS1 : Re-imagining the drone process

- Led by Dr James Gopsill and Dr Andrew Wodehouse
- Ran from Sept 2025 – March 2026
- 3 teams (14 people)
- [Challenge One - Digital Design Network Plus](#)

CCS2: Re-imagining Design Processes for Circularity in Electric Motors

- Led by Dr Maryam Farsi and Dr Ejae Perez
- Running June – Dec 2026
- 3 teams (11 people)
- [Challenge Two - Digital Design Network Plus](#)

Case Study 3: Co-Leads

- **The role**

- responsibility for **developing, defining, managing and monitoring** a digital design focused case study
- Funding up to **£50,000 EPSRC rates (80% FEC)** available – use to cover **academic time, travel and consumable** (can't fund equipment/PhD or RA time)
- Management of **funding call**, awards (15) and successful teams
- **Attendance** at D2N+ Mgt Com to update on progress
- **Report** on final outcomes of case study
- **Contract agreement** will be with QUB

Case Study 3: Co-Leads Cont'd

- Open to mid-career academics
- Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate the following :
 - **Leadership** experience
 - Experience in **Engineering Design, Digital Technologies and Digital Design**
 - Experience working with **multiple stakeholder groups**, ideally those listed in the network (RTOs, software vendors, end-users and academic communities).

Case Study 3

- **Design in a heavily regulated industry**
- **Run in association with the 4D HealthTech Network Plus ([4D Health Tech](#))**
- **While the case study will focus on a medical application, it should be open to everyone with digital design experience, and to all sectors with regulatory challenges**



Key Dates – Case study 3

- **Closing date 31 July 2026**
- Outcome Communicated **by 14 Aug 2026**
- **Workshop 3** – 1 & Dec 2026 (Sheffield)
- Case study 3 will run from Jan/Feb – Sept/Oct 2027 (8 months)
- **Workshop 4** – 30 Nov – 2 Dec 2027 (Belfast)

Forms & Links

- Challenge Case Study 3 Co-Lead - [Challenges - Digital Design Network Plus](#)
- Please ensure you have checked your eligibility <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/>

Our research culture

- **Inclusivity** – a network open to everyone
- **Interdisciplinarity** – targets to bring people together
- **Diversity** – priorities and plans for supporting difference
- **Equity** – e.g. funding for early and mid career academics

FAQs

- **What sort of input is required for the case study? What do you need us to bring as ideas?**
 - It is crucial that the challenge is generic enough so that it is open to a wide range of collaboration. The challenge must be versatile. It does not need to be overly complex, but it must be something that researchers can engage with from a wide range of areas, and be relevant to industry.

FAQs

- **Do you have to have an industry partner on board with a prepared idea?**
 - No, if you have an industry partner that is willing to share this kind of information that would be welcome, but it is not essential. Case study leads are encouraged to develop the idea independently.

FAQs

- **Does the industry partner need to be part of the existing network?**
 - We are always looking to expand the Network, so welcome input from industry partners that currently are not members.
- **Do you need to define project on application form?**
 - No, you do not need to define the project at application stage. We hope that you will be able to work with the other co-lead, along with the Core members of the network, to define the challenge idea.

FAQs

- **Can the challenge be focused on different digital design tools?**

- Yes, there are no restrictions on the focus of the challenge as long as it meets the brief of designing faster, better and with less. There is no limit on what tools can be used.

- **The funding is for time, is there any additional support offered?**

- The funding can also be used for travel and subsistence. It is up to the applicant to explain in their proposal how the funding will be used. Whilst the funds cannot be used to support PhD/PDRA work, the D2N+ team and the Leads for the project are available to help and support you throughout the project.

Contact

- digitaldesignnetwork@qub.ac.uk
- [Digital Design Network Plus – Learning together by doing together.](#)
- Join our Group on LinkedIn

