

NW CYBERCOM: COMMERCIALISATION SANDPIT

Unlock the cyber security potential of the
North West



The University of Manchester



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL



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University of
Central Lancashire
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TURN YOUR IDEA INTO A COMMERCIAL SOLUTION

The £1.2m North West Cyber Security Connect for Commercialisation (NW CyberCom) project is a collaborative effort between the universities of Lancaster, Manchester, Salford, Liverpool, Manchester Metropolitan University, and the University of Central Lancashire, which is aiming to unlock the cyber security potential of the North West.

As part of this, Plexal is co-leading delivery of the NW CyberCom: Commercialisation Sandpit alongside Lancaster University, with support from the partner universities – and we want academic experts to be a part of it.

We're on the search for individuals from all backgrounds to bring their diverse ideas, approaches and research to the table to tackle some of the most important cyber security challenges facing the North West region and the UK at large.

We'll provide a unique opportunity for academics to be part of a high-profile programme that will provide coaching, up to £25,000 per project in funding and collaboration opportunities to evolve from idea to a product-in-the-making as your confidence and concept grows.

You'll connect with leaders in industry to learn about real-world cyber challenges – and how your research can be part of the solution.

And in return, you'll be open to trying new things outside of your comfort zone, collaborating and testing ideas that can be commercialised with an entrepreneurial mindset.

Any questions? Contact the team on nwcybercom@lancaster.ac.uk

THE OPPORTUNITY

You will:

- partner with entrepreneurs and businesses to develop ideas
- create new solutions to cyber challenges affecting society and the fabric of the economy
- harness academic research and expertise to create a competitive advantage for the North West, resulting in growth and the creation of local startups and spinouts
- help the North West capitalise on existing strengths and sectors where it's already thriving to be a UK leader in cyber and emerging technologies
- develop a Proof of Concept with £25,000 in funding and support

THE CHALLENGES: HOW CAN YOU USE YOUR RESEARCH?

ETHICAL AI AND QUANTUM FOR CYBER SECURITY

Emerging technology areas, such as AI and quantum, are impacting the future of cyber security and enabling new approaches for industry to process, secure and analyse data. This can create greater efficiencies and reduce burden on employees.

However, technologies such as AI and quantum also present a new cyber security threat: the ability to generate convincing information and data, which may not be accurate or validated, as well as a new threat to established security protocols. Industry will need to leverage cutting-edge research to employ novel solutions to mitigate these risks.

We're looking for ideas utilising research which innovatively address either (or both) of the following key questions:

- (1) How can you use ethical AI to automate decision making reducing 'cognitive load' in a cyber secure way?**
- (2) How can you use AI or quantum to ensure data authenticity and/or assure confidential data sharing?**

Your idea can leverage any approach using AI, or quantum, or both to address these key cyber security challenges industry is facing.

WHAT NEXT?

Your idea can leverage any approach using AI, or quantum, or both to address these key cyber security challenges industry is facing.

You may want to consider different AI models, or the ethics and bias of utilising AI. You may have specific target sectors in mind as early adopters for your potential solution – but this isn't necessary. We're welcoming ideas which could be applied to critical national infrastructure use cases.

If you'd like to express interest and get involved, as a first step please contact your institution's KE project representative and copy in nwcybercom@lancaster.ac.uk We'll then ask you to fill in [this form](#) (or access via QR code).

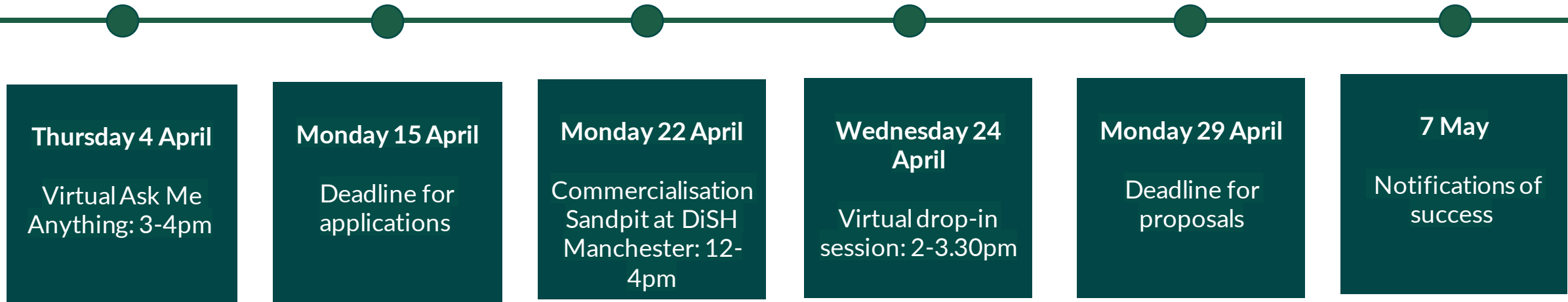
**North West CyberCom: AI &
Quantum Commercialisation
Sandpit**



KEY DATES

For now we're just asking you to express interest. You can do this through your university. We'll then be in touch to let you know how to submit your initial idea through [the application form](#).

Selected academics will be invited to a workshop with industry and startups, after which you'll be asked to submit a full proposal. We'll be on hand throughout to help you craft the right idea and understand how your research applies to the first challenge.



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For more information about NW CyberCom, [click
here](#)