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Compute Services**
NetworkPlus

**Spring Conference
26-27 February 2026**

**Federating everything, everywhere, all at once: Exploring the potential for
inclusion of Tier 3 services in the UKRI federated DRI**

Gregory Warren





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The Problem

- There are 100+ Institutional HPC Clusters across the UK
- Independently Funded, Governed and Operated
- Varying Technical Maturity
- No Consistent Access Model
- Limited Interoperability



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Why this Matters now

- UKRI DRI Roadmap Development
- Financial Pressure on Institutions
- Sustainability Concerns
- Data Growth Driving local Compute Demand



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This Project aims to...

- Community Mapping
- Evidence Gathering
- Operational Baseline Assessment
- Federation Readiness Analysis
- Practical Roadmap Development



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Our Core Research Questions

- How are Tier-3 HPC Systems Currently Governed and Funded?
- What Technical Architectures Dominate?
- What are the biggest Operational Pain Points?
- What Appetite exists for Federation?
- What Models are Realistic to start with and develop from there?



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Methodology

- National Survey of Tier-3 Providers
- Survey is Up till the 3rd of April (<https://lnkd.in/eZjM74cq>)
- Structured Stakeholder Interviews
- Community Workshop at the University of Leicester 8th and 9th June 2026
- Final Evidence Based Report provided to Funders of Recommendations



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What Federation Could Mean?

1. Light Touch Coordination
2. Access Federation
3. Resource Pooling



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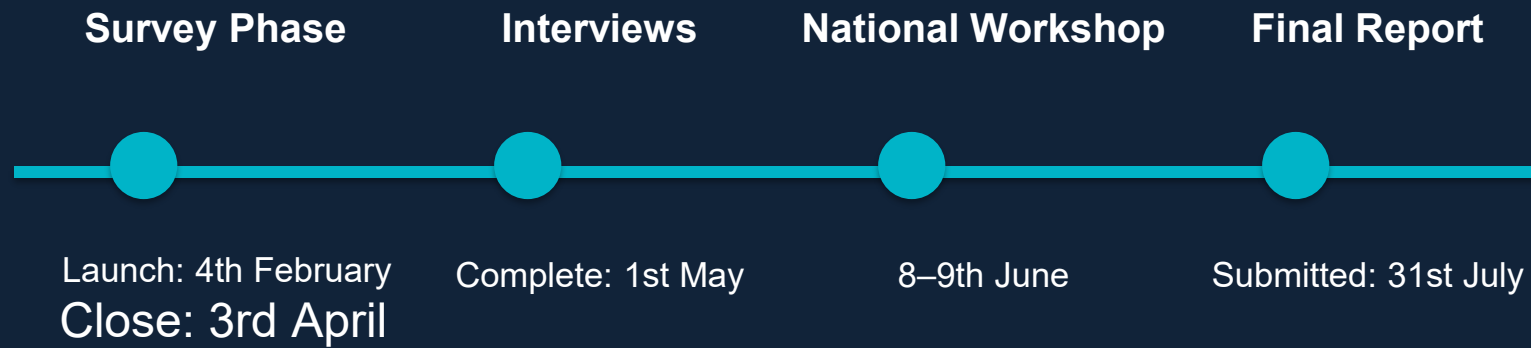
Risks

- Institutional Autonomy Concerns
- Funding Asymmetry
- Technical Heterogeneity
- Governance Complexity
- Cultural Resistance
- Lack of Interest



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Deliverables and Timeline





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Project Team

- Mark Wilkinson (PI)
- Gregory Warren (CO-I)
- Lisa Brant (Project Manager)





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Thank you

All Questions during the Panel Q&A 😊

