



Next-generation trusted research environment capabilities

Applicant webinar

1 May 2025



UK Research
and Innovation

HDRUK
Health Data Research UK



ADRU

Data-driven change

Housekeeping

- Please remain **muted** at all times, unless invited to ask a question during the Q&A session
- To ask a question during the Q&A session: please use the '**raise hand**' **function** if you wish to ask a question out loud; or you can ask your question via the **Chat box** before and during the Q&A session
- During the discussion, please remain respectful, do not interrupt others and ensure any questions or comments remain on-topic
- Please keep your **video** off during presentations – you are encouraged to turn your video on during the Q&A/discussion session
- The webinar is being **recorded**
- **Slides** will be **shared** after the webinar

Overview of what will be covered today

- About this funding opportunity
 - DARE UK overview
 - What we are looking for
 - Who can apply
 - How to apply
 - Expectations on Public Involvement and Engagement
 - Key dates
- Q&A session
- Other updates

Sensitive data: affecting people, communities, and populations...



Data linkage: safely connecting sensitive data to benefit people, communities and populations...



Vision

For all research and innovation to benefit from seamless, secure use of diverse sensitive data, at a pace, efficiency and scale approaching that of the open data ecosystem, that revolutionises research productivity and accelerates research to deliver public good

Mission

To put the UK at the forefront of sensitive data research and innovation by assembling the tools, technologies and standards needed to streamline secure data linkage and use

**Phase 1:
Design & Dialogue**

July '21 – March '24

£7.5m

**Phase 2:
Build, Test & Establish**

August '24 – March '27

£18.2m

**Phase 3:
Deliver, Optimise & Federate**

TBC

Phase 1: Design & Dialogue

July '21 – March '24

£7.5m

- Two landscape reviews
 - Initial review
 - Infrastructure review
- Two portfolios of funded projects
 - 9x Sprint Exemplars
 - 5x Driver Projects
- Phase 1 recommendations report
- UK-wide public dialogue
- Community building initiatives
- Early draft of a federated architecture blueprint

Phase 2: Build, Test & Establish

August '24 – March '27

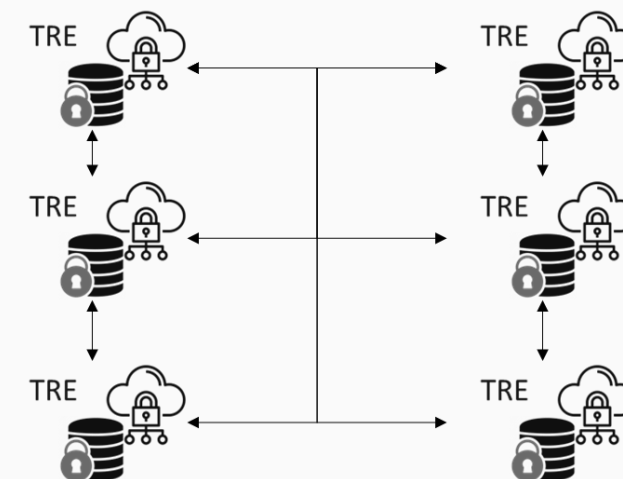
£18.2m

Intra-TRE Capabilities



&

Inter-TRE Capabilities





Partners
Build | Dev

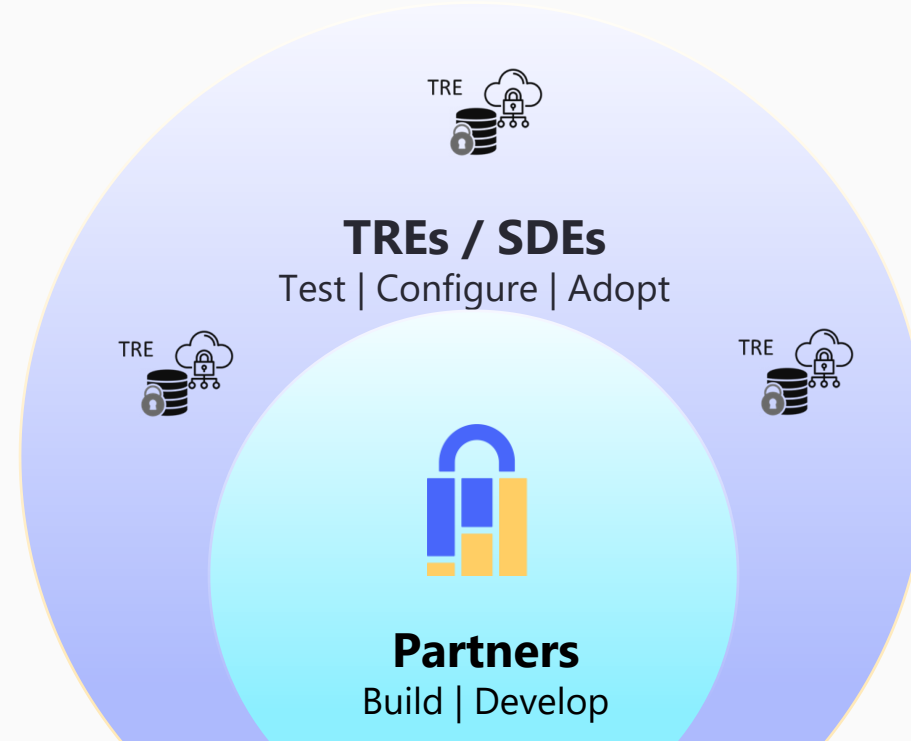
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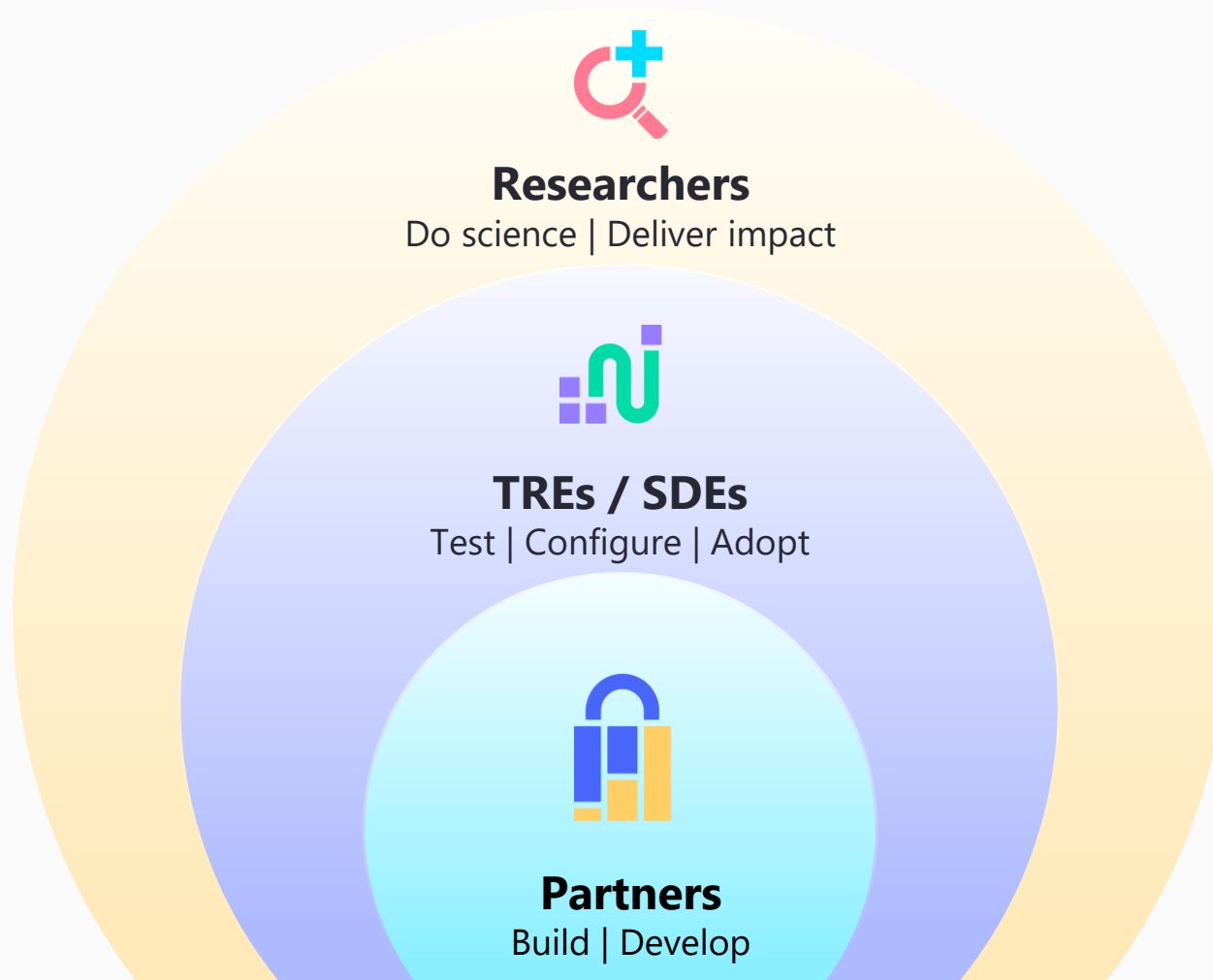


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Pre-announcement
published today!

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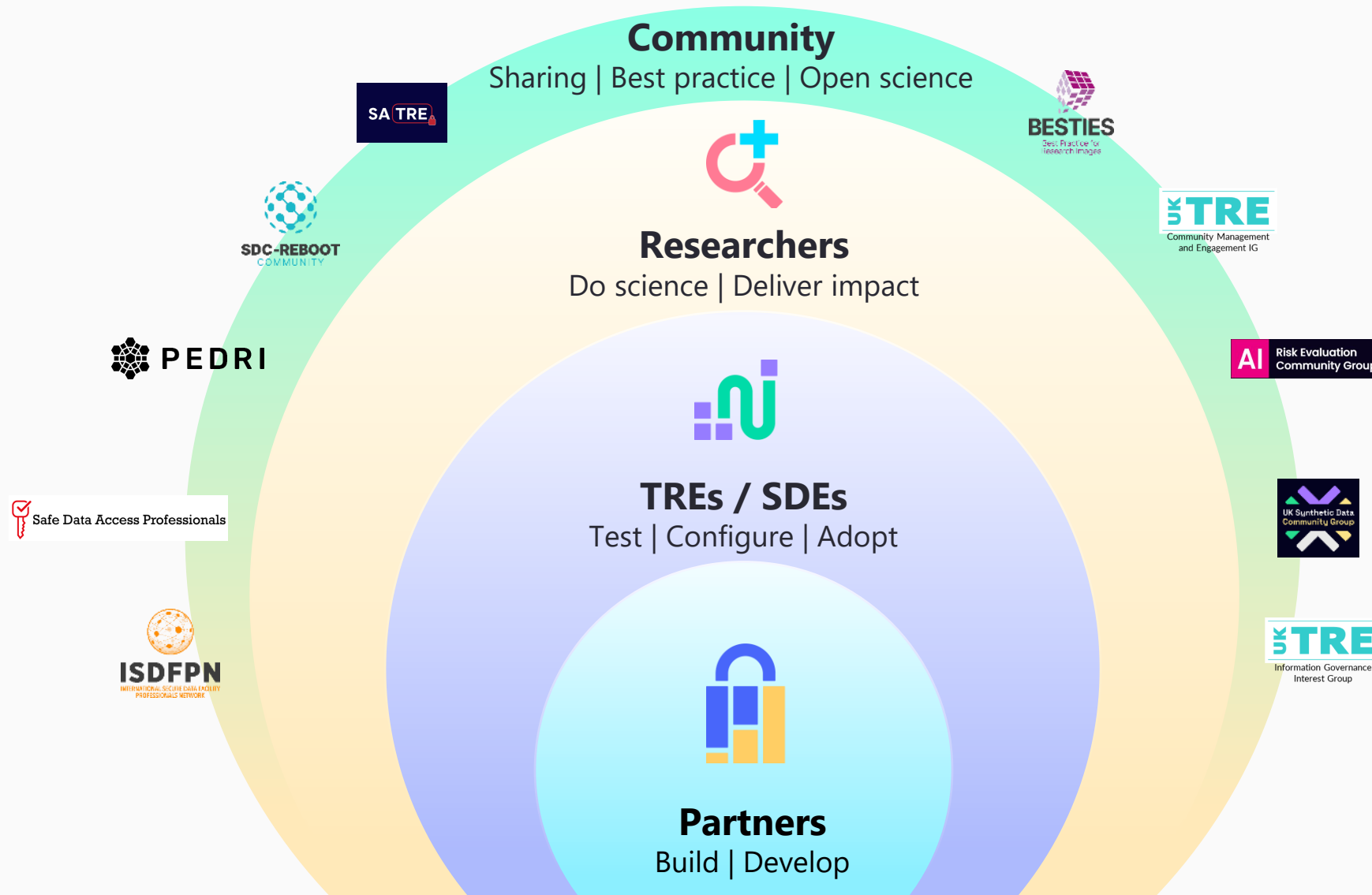
Community

Sharing | Best practice | Open science



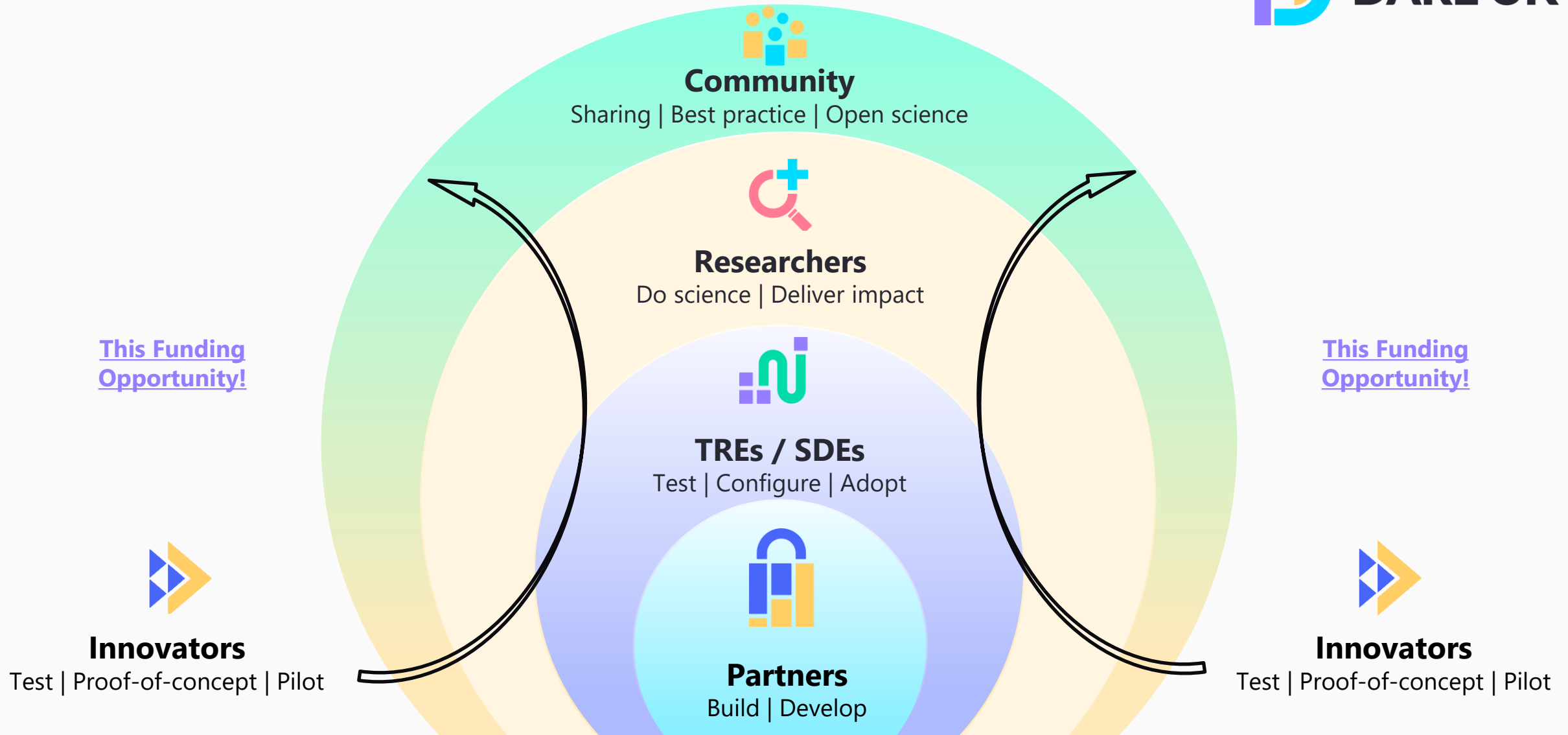
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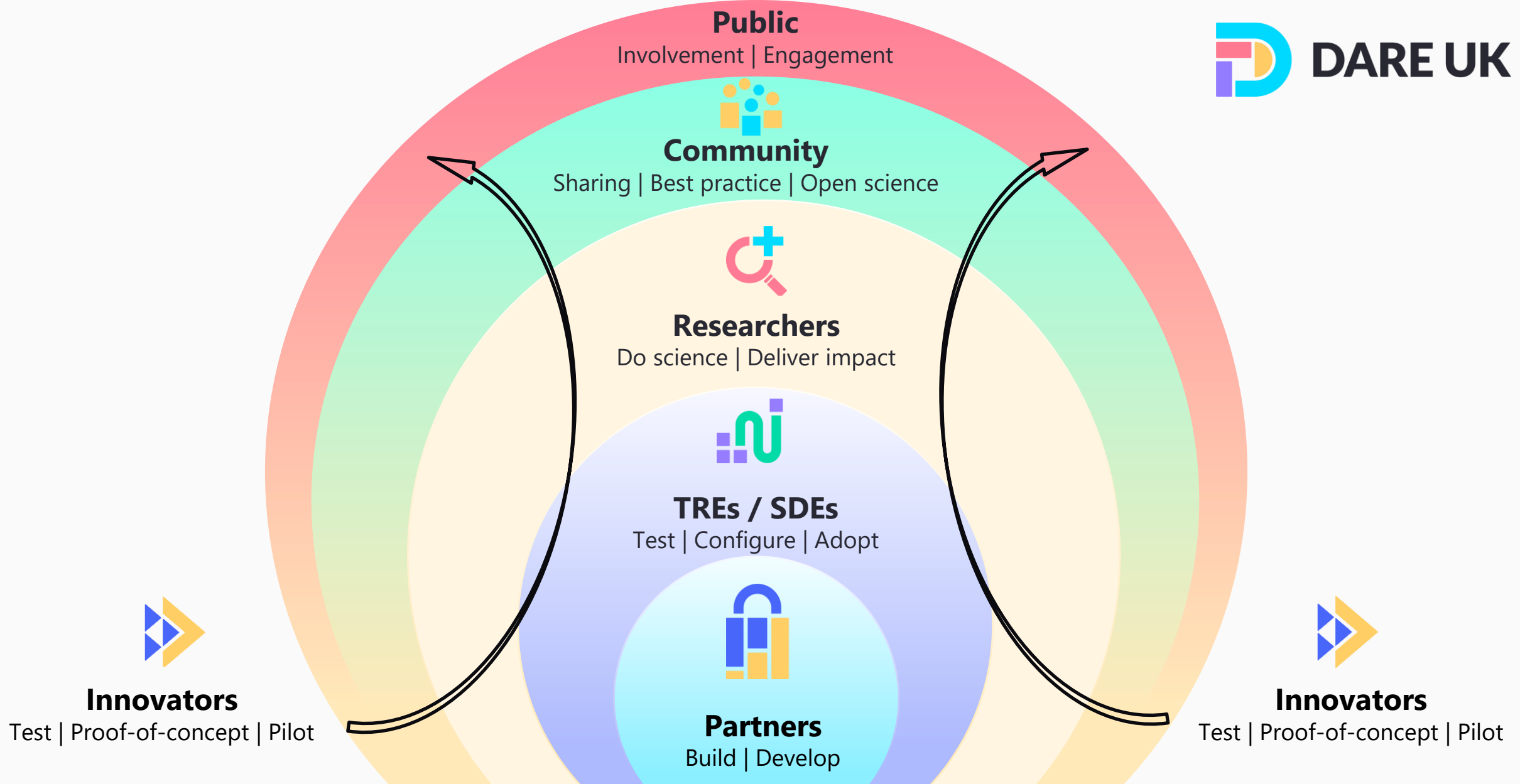
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What are we looking for?

Innovative applications which address challenges and needs in the TRE landscape beyond those already being developed in the [DARE UK Transformational Programme](#).

- Early-stage innovation in federated Trusted Research Environment (TRE) infrastructure
- Conceptualisation, early testing, and technical validation of new capabilities and core services.
- Build on insights from [DARE UK Phase 1 Landscape Reviews](#) and the DARE UK [Federated Architecture Blueprint](#).

Framing assumptions

- the UK's future infrastructure for sensitive data research will be federated
- there will be many such services. Services may be provided by the public, private or third sectors; the architecture is agnostic
- there will be a secure, standardised software-defined network infrastructure between these services.
- information will be exchanged between services across this network using a small number of standardised structured object formats
- registry services will exist to record membership of the network and other required information sets

Your application should align closely with DARE UK's vision.



We are particularly interested in applications in the following areas:

- automatic indexing and data linkage in federated TRE environments
- federated machine learning across TREs, including use of large-scale sensitive datasets (for example, medical images)
- safe use of remote major compute facilities within sensitive data projects
- incorporation of large-scale reference datasets (for example, maps, geospatial images, climate data) into sensitive data projects
- semi-automation of software package security management within TREs and federated TRE environments
- strong security isolation of project environments to support greater flexibility in user software deployment inside TREs
- use of Privacy Enhancing Technologies in support of TRE services (for example, multi-party computation, homomorphic encryption, differential privacy)
- use or enhancement of broadly adopted common data models for sensitive data research (for example, use of OMOP for health data)
- use of synthetic data as a risk management approach for testing different analytical capabilities within TREs

Who can apply?

- Funding is available at 80% full Economic Cost (FEC) for all **UKRI eligible organisations**.
- Industry partners

If your application involves industry partners, they must provide additional information if the relationship falls within the **industry collaboration framework**.

Funding available

- The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to **£390,000**. **MRC will fund 80%** of the FEC.
- The total fund available is **£2,250,000**.

How to apply

- This call is being run through the new **UKRI Funding Service**. Applications must be submitted via [here](#).
- Your organisation **must be registered** to submit an application through the UKRI Funding Service. If your organisation is not listed, email support@funding-service.ukri.org.
- Submit an application by **4:00pm, Thursday, 5th June 2025**.

How your application will be assessed

- Assessment criteria – “what assessors are looking for”.

Process

- An independent expert review panel will review your application
 - applications will be shortlisted
 - shortlisted applicants will be invited for a panel interview (**August 2025**)
 - panel will make funding recommendations
- Application outcomes will be communicated by the **end of September 2025**.

Expectations on public involvement and engagement

- Project team must include a dedicated PIE lead
- Project plan (in the "Approach" section of the application) must integrate PIE plans

[DARE UK Public Involvement and Engagement guidelines document](#)

Summary of key dates

- Call opening date: 4 April 2025, 9:00am UK time
- Drop-in session: Thursday 22nd May 2025, 2:00pm
- Call closing date: Thursday 5 June 2025 4:00pm UK time
- Funding panel meeting and shortlisted applicants' interviews: August 2025
- Funding decisions communicated: Sept 2025
- Projects duration: 12 months ~Sept 2025 to Sept 2026

Any Questions?

For further questions related to this specific funding opportunity please contact informatics@mrc.ukri.org

Any queries regarding the system or the submission of applications through the Funding Service should be directed to the helpdesk.

Email: support@funding-service.ukri.org

DARE UK Landscape Review Survey open

Who should respond?

Anyone working in an organisation that manages, processes, or provides access to sensitive data for research purposes.

Deadline for responses?

Friday 6th June 2025

Where to find the survey?

[DARE UK website](#)

DARE UK Real world Research Exemplar – funding opportunity

Overview

We invite research teams from across UKRI research councils remit to partner with TREs of appropriate maturity to deliver real-world research utilising new capabilities introduced through the DARE UK Transformational Programme.

Opening date: 8 September 2025 9:00am UK time

Closing date: 5 November 2025 4:00pm UK time

Funding available

The FEC of your project can be from **£365,700 up to £609,500**.

UKRI will fund **80%** of the FEC.

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