



## Questions and answers from the CRACK IT Challenge 48 Wings of Change Launch webinar

Further information related to eligibility and the application process is covered in the [Two Phase Challenges Guide for Participants](#).

### 1. What new approach methodologies (NAMs) are currently used for avian toxicity testing?

NAMs in development include approaches such as Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship (QSAR) models for predicting acute toxicity, EcoToxChips that use a toxicogenomics approach in two avian species and *in ovo* approaches that use chicken and quail embryos for assessing endocrine disruption in birds. Current NAMs in development require further development and validation for use in a regulatory context. Further information about current avian NAMs can be found in the Wings of Change [Challenge brief](#).

### 2. Can the Sponsors provide avian toxicity data?

There are publicly available databases such as the [US EPA ECOTOX](#) database and the [Pesticides Properties DataBase](#) with data for acute and chronic endpoints. Collection and analysis of existing acute and chronic avian toxicity data forms part of the Phase 1 deliverables. Access to Sponsor owned chemical and toxicological information is part of the in-kind support offered for Phase 2 and could be used to address gaps in the data. Further information about the in-kind contributions offered by the Challenge Sponsors can be found in the [Challenge brief](#).

### 3. How long do you think it will take for the NAMs developed through the Challenge to be accepted by regulators?

The development and validation of NAMs for use in a regulatory context is likely to be a lengthy process. Early engagement with regulators on your NAMs is strongly encouraged when working to deliver the Challenge. A clear plan for exploring regulatory acceptance of the approach developed through the Challenge forms part of the Phase 2 deliverables.

### 4. Can additional external collaborators be brought into the team for Phase 2?

Additional collaborators can be brought into the team for Phase 2. Please note that applicants that have focused on one work package for Phase 1 are expected to include the required expertise for Phase 2 to



address both acute and chronic toxicity, either by including additional external collaborators or teaming up with another Phase 1 team.

## **5. What is the start date for Phase 1?**

Phase 1 must start no later than Monday 6 January 2025. Further information on the key dates and deadlines for the competition can be found on the [Innovation Platform website](#).

## **6. Can CRACK IT Challenge funding be used for staff time and travel?**

Costs requested can include labour costs for all those contributing to the project and travel. Please see section 3 of the Two Phase Challenges [Guide for Participants](#) for further information related to application finances and the costs that are in scope. Please note that the Review Panel is required to judge resources requested in terms of value for money including whether the proposed cost for effort and deliverables reflects a fair market price.

## **7. Can the NC3Rs help facilitate connections with potential collaborators to build consortia to apply for Phase 1?**

A LinkedIn group has been set up to provide networking opportunities for potential applicants to meet new collaborators. Join the Wings of Change networking group [here](#).

It is encouraged that applicants discuss their proposed approach with the Challenge Sponsors. If you would like to be introduced to the Sponsors before the submission deadline please contact the CRACK IT team at [crackitenquiries@nc3rs.org.uk](mailto:crackitenquiries@nc3rs.org.uk)