



# Noise Network Plus: Overview of Objectives and Proposed Activities

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# Purpose

Noise is a pollutant (second only to air pollution)

- Negative impact on health of humans & wildlife, sustainability of human activities, and performance of AI systems & sensors



# Vision



Noise Network Plus aims to address this wide-reaching, impactful issue

“Engineering a Quieter Future”

- Building on the successes of the UK Acoustics Network (UKAN)



- Form a community spanning disciplines, organisations, & sectors
- “*Re-engineer engineering*” – fundamental shift in how noise addressed
- Promote inclusive working & educational practices / environments

## Building & Engaging the Community

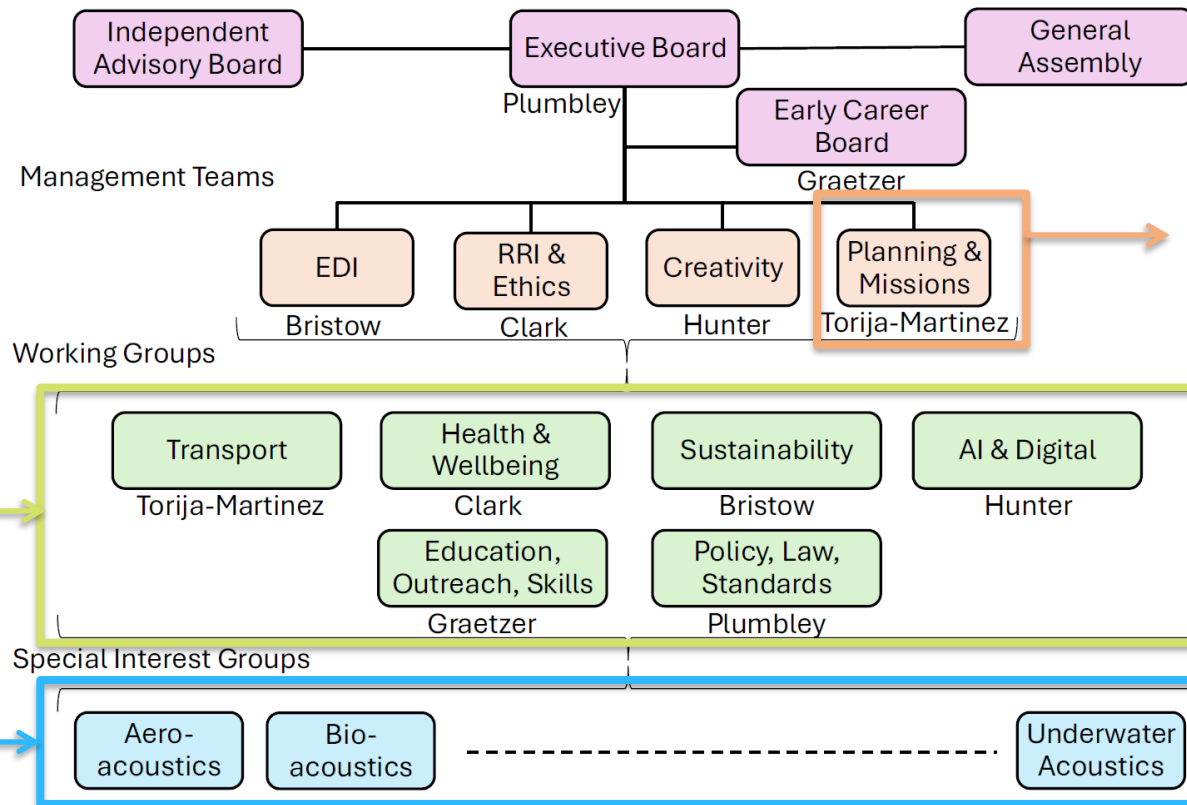
- Discuss, collaborate, and act within diverse and dynamic teams
  - Experts, policymakers, & communities
  - Academia, industry, & government
- 100+ participants today, ~60 project partners

# Objectives

To achieve our broader aims, our specific objectives are:

- New inter-organisational network (O1)
- Public engagement and outreach (O2)
- Missions (O3)
- Explorative pilot projects (O4)
- Mission-inspired research funding bids (O5)
- Education, training and skills (O6)
- Embedding activities across organisations (O7)

# O1: New inter-organisational network



- Community-led “Missions” defined & led by network members & through public engagement
- Network support to pursue large collaborative bids (incl. pilot project funding)

# O2: Public engagement and outreach



- Public interest is a big driver: largest source of complaints for local authorities
- Engage early for input in co-design of missions, e.g.,
  - Contribute to podcasts, science festivals, music festivals, etc.
  - Competitions – “Most Annoying Noise”, “Name that Noise”
  - Artists in residence
  - etc.
- Digital assets to support outreach by members (videos, slides, etc.)
- Policy: encourage members on white papers, gov’t committees, RAEng Policy Fellowships, etc.

The Rest  
Is  
Just  
Noise



## O3: Missions



Co-design a set of long-term noise-related “Missions”

- e.g., *“Halve societal cost of transport noise by 2040”*
- Phase 1: Strategic Orientation
  - Define & select **missions**
  - Achieve consensus, translate into **achievable objectives**
- Phase 2: Coordination and Embedding
  - Translate into Roadmaps, Action Plans, **Pilot Projects (O4)**
  - Embed into partner organisations, to continue beyond Network



## O4: Explorative Pilot Projects



- Explorative cross-disciplinary pilot projects:
  - Academia, industry, government, third-sector organisations
  - Test new and imaginative ideas, gather missing evidence, or conduct feasibility studies
  - **£640k funding (Up to £40k per project)**
- 2 Competitive calls
  - End Y1: Address TERC-related priorities, themes and challenges
  - End Y2: Address identified Missions (O3)

## O5: Mission-inspired research funding bids



- **Pursuit of large collaborative bids**
  - Working Groups identify & encourage full-scale bids to funders
  - Collaboration workshops
  - Impact engagement workshops
    - Showcase research to industry, policymakers, charities, etc.
    - Encourage knowledge exchange
  - Grant-writing retreats
  - Identify forthcoming opportunities
    - Research Councils, Innovate UK, EU funding, KTPs, CDTs, ...

## O6: Education, training and skills



- Developing early-career (EC) members (incl. via Summer School)
  - Sector mobility, public engagement, Ethics/RRI, EDI, grant writing
- Collaboration with Centres for Doctoral Training (CDT)
  - CDT in Sustainable Sound Futures; LAURA, the Leverhulme Trust Aural Diversity Doctoral Research Hub
- Undergraduate Engineering Degrees – Noise across Engineering
  - Material on “Noise for Engineers”  
Related to: Systems Thinking; Sustainability
- Inspiring the Next Generation – Noise as an accessible concept
  - Noise-inspired teaching materials for schools and young people

## O7: Embed activities across organisations



- Build long-lasting inter-organisation connections to outlive Network
  - Noise Network Plus as “scaffolding” / “catalyst”
  - Plan for legacy from the start
- Identify direct connections to universities, engineering institutions, industry, policymakers, charities, etc.
- E.g. in PEIs relevant to underwater/marine noise
- Organise joint “silo-breaking” multi-PEI webinars & workshops

## Proposed activities

With the development of new technologies for transition to NetZero, we have a “once in a generation” opportunity to get this right now

- New research leading to new approaches to tackle noise pollution
  - Pilot projects: calls for proposals
- Self-sustaining network of trusted individuals (“Noise Champions”)
  - Embedded across stakeholder organisations, breaking down silos, delivering on the network missions to tackle noise pollution
- New generation of engineers – more diverse and inclusive
  - Systems thinking - noise as a key issue for everyone

Join us; be part of a transformative movement in engineering and beyond!