Proposal guidelines:

The proposal should be well structured and written in UK English (Calibri, font size 11). It should contain at least an abstract, main text (divided in subsections, see below), and references. The facility manager and review panellists will assess the technical feasibility and scientific excellence of the proposal, according to the criteria indicated below. You should include these elements in your proposal.

The abstract should have a maximum length of 150 words. **The total length of the proposal, excluding references, should not exceed two pages.** You are allowed to include figures in the main text. Figures with their captions count towards the proposal length limit. Please complete the background information on the next page.

The completed proposal needs to be saved as an anonymised PDF and submitted via the [FAST platform](https://fast.geo.uu.nl/). Information on how to submit your application can be found [here](https://fast.geo.uu.nl/app/faq). Help on removing personal data from a PDF can be found [here](https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/using/removing-sensitive-content-pdfs.html).

Selection procedure:

The selection procedure consists of i) a technical feasibility assessment conducted by the manager of the requested facility, and ii) a review of the scientific excellence of the proposal by two reviewers from your research field that are not involved in EXCITE. The review will be blind; therefore, you are requested to exclude personal information from the proposal itself. Personal information stored in the FAST platform will be treated as confidential by the TNA management team and will not be made available to reviewers.

Technical feasibility assessment:

You are required to contact the facility manager and discuss the technical feasibility of the proposal prior to submission. After submission, the technical feasibility will be formally assessed on:

1. Rationale for the requested equipment and methodology with which to analyse the samples.
2. Justification for the number of samples and requested access units.
3. Sample information, e.g., sample size, geometry and type (thin sections/mounts/rock chips/plugs/cores/etc.), sample preparation, and the nature of the material(s) to be analysed.

Scientific excellence:

You are reminded that the scientific excellence of the proposal is assessed against the following criteria:

1. Suitability of the proposed methodology for answering the research question(s) (Poor: 1 – Excellent: 5).
2. The rationale for, and link between, the objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes of the study (Poor: 1 – Excellent: 5).
3. The innovativeness and timeliness of the proposed research, and the scientific significance of the expected outcome(s) (Poor: 1 – Excellent: 5).
4. Structure and writing style of the proposal (Poor: 1 – Excellent: 5).

Bonus points:

In addition, bonus points are awarded if i) the applicant is an early career scientist (1), ii) the applicant is using the facility(s) for the first time (0.5), and iii) the applicant does not have access to equivalent equipment in their country of affiliation (0.5). Please indicate if you qualify for any of these criteria by ticking the corresponding boxes in the background information on the next page.

Requested facilities:

You can request access to multiple equipment from a maximum of **two** facilities within the EXCITE consortium, as long as this is required to meet the research objectives. Make sure to contact the manager(s) of the facility(s) to which you intend to apply, prior to submitting the proposal.

BONUS POINTS (indicate what applies to your situation):

I am an early-career scientist (1 pts)

I am a first-time user of the facility (0.5 pts)

I do not have access to equivalent equipment in my country (0.5 pts)

LIST THE REQUESTED FACILITY(S) – EQUIPMENT – ACCESS MODE - ACCESS QUANTITY

(REMINDER: you can request access to multiple equipment from a maximum of **two** facilities. The list of offered facilities and equipment is available on the [FAST call page](https://fast.geo.uu.nl/app/public-call/3f1d-third-excite-transnational-access-call)):

**EQUIPMENT 1 (mandatory):**

Select facility/equipment from dropdown list

Select Access mode from dropdown list

Type access quantitySelect Access units from dropdown list

**EQUIPMENT 2 (optional, only if needed to meet the research objective):**

Select facility/equipment from dropdown list

Select Access mode from dropdown list

Type access quantitySelect Access units from dropdown list

IF THIS PROJECT IS A CONTINUATION OF A PREVIOUS EXCITE PROPOSAL:

(Indicate the title/ID of the previous proposal):

Click to type

PROPOSAL TITLE (MAX 10 WORDS):

Click to type

ABSTRACT (MAX 150 WORDS):

INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES (please describe the rationale for your proposed research):

METHODOLOGY (please describe the methodology and its relation to the research question(s) and expected outcomes. If multiple equipment is requested, please specify the work/analysis per equipment):

SAMPLES (please provide information related to the samples):

EXPECTED OUTCOMES (please describe the expected outcomes and their scientific significance):

REFERENCES: