

# Scientific Concept for the Building Bridges Research Symposium

Science Mission Agenda  
October 6-7, 2026

# Science Mission Agenda

October 6, 2026: Day 2 – From Expertise to Project Concept

| Time        | Mining                                                                                                                                                       | Materials                                                                                                                                         | Energies                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | Session Lead: Lenhard Hamza & Viruschka Tewary & WITS                                                                                                        | Session Lead: Rodney Genga & WITS & Anna Rath                                                                                                     | Session Lead: Lisa Pichler & Reza Goldansaz & WITS                                                                                                |
| 09:30–09:45 | <b>Opening &amp; Project Lab Briefing</b><br>Workshop instructions, objectives, expected outputs and working methodology                                     |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 09:45–10:15 | <b>Expertise &amp; Capability Exchange</b><br>Who is here? What expertise, infrastructure, data and capabilities can each participant contribute?            | <b>Expertise &amp; Capability Exchange</b><br>Who is here? What expertise, infrastructure, data and capabilities can each participant contribute? | <b>Expertise &amp; Capability Exchange</b><br>Who is here? What expertise, infrastructure, data and capabilities can each participant contribute? |
| 10:15–10:45 | <b>Funding Call &amp; Challenge Alignment</b><br>Identify suitable funding opportunities, call requirements and strategic fit                                | <b>Funding Call &amp; Challenge Alignment</b><br>Identify suitable funding opportunities, call requirements and strategic fit                     | <b>Funding Call &amp; Challenge Alignment</b><br>Identify suitable funding opportunities, call requirements and strategic fit                     |
| 10:45–11:00 | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11:00–11:40 | <b>Challenge &amp; Research Gap Lab</b><br>What problem should we solve? What is missing in current knowledge/technology? What makes the challenge relevant? | <b>Challenge &amp; Research Gap Lab</b>                                                                                                           | <b>Challenge &amp; Research Gap Lab</b>                                                                                                           |

|                      |                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                                                   |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>11:40–12:00</b>   | <b>Project Concept Decision</b><br>Agree on preliminary project idea, research questions and objectives                                | <b>Project Concept Decision</b>                   | <b>Project Concept Decision</b>                   |
| <b>12:00–13:00</b>   | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                           |                                                   |                                                   |
| <b>13:00–13:30</b>   | <b>Industry Partner Matchmaking</b><br>What does industry need? What can researchers offer? What should the project solve in practice? | <b>Industry Partner Matchmaking</b>               | <b>Industry Partner Matchmaking</b>               |
| <b>13:30–14:00</b>   | <b>Research Questions, Objectives &amp; Scope</b><br>Define overall objective, specific objectives and non-objectives                  | <b>Research Questions, Objectives &amp; Scope</b> | <b>Research Questions, Objectives &amp; Scope</b> |
| <b>14:00–14:30</b>   | <b>Project Architecture</b><br>Initial methodology, major activities/work packages and expected results                                | <b>Project Architecture</b>                       | <b>Project Architecture</b>                       |
| <b>14:30–15:00</b>   | <b>Consortium &amp; Expertise Mapping</b><br>Who contributes what? Which expertise is missing? Which additional partners are needed?   | <b>Consortium &amp; Expertise Mapping</b>         | <b>Consortium &amp; Expertise Mapping</b>         |
| <b>15:00 - 21:30</b> | <b>Cultural programme and dinner- more information in the overall agenda</b>                                                           |                                                   |                                                   |

## Day 1: Required Output

Each group leaves with a **Project Concept Sheet** containing:

- Working project title
- Funding call / target funding instrument
- Challenge / problem
- Research gap
- Research questions
- Overall and specific objectives
- Scope and non-objectives
- Initial methodology
- Expected results and impact
- Industry relevance
- Consortium members and expertise
- Missing expertise / partners
- Preliminary project coordinator / lead

## October 7, 2026: Day 3 – From Project Concept to Proposal Roadmap

| Time        | Mining                                                                                                                                                 | Materials                                      | Energies                                           |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|             | Session Lead: Lenhard Hamza & Viruschka Tewary & WITS                                                                                                  | Session Lead: Rodney Genga & WITS & Anna Rath  | Session Lead: Lisa Pichler & Reza Goldansaz & WITS |
| 09:30–09:45 | <b>Day 1 Recap &amp; Project Decision</b><br>Confirm project concept, funding target and key assumptions                                               | <b>Day 1 Recap &amp; Project Decision</b>      | <b>Day 1 Recap &amp; Project Decision</b>          |
| 09:45–10:30 | <b>Project Structure &amp; Work Packages</b><br>Translate objectives into work packages, tasks and activities                                          | <b>Project Structure &amp; Work Packages</b>   | <b>Project Structure &amp; Work Packages</b>       |
| 10:30–11:15 | <b>Roles, Responsibilities &amp; Resources</b><br>Who leads each WP? Who contributes? What infrastructure, data, personnel and resources are required? | <b>Roles, Responsibilities &amp; Resources</b> | <b>Roles, Responsibilities &amp; Resources</b>     |
| 11:15–11:30 | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                    |                                                |                                                    |
| 11:30–12:00 | <b>Results, Impact &amp; Implementation</b><br>Deliverables, milestones, expected impact, exploitation and dissemination                               | <b>Results, Impact &amp; Implementation</b>    | <b>Results, Impact &amp; Implementation</b>        |
| 12:00–13:00 | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                           |                                                |                                                    |
| 13:00–14:00 | <b>Project Roadmap Finalisation</b><br>Timeline, proposal responsibilities, missing partners, risks, next actions and submission plan                  | <b>Project Roadmap Finalisation</b>            | <b>Project Roadmap Finalisation</b>                |

|                    |                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>14:00–14:50</b> | <b>Project Roadmap Showcase</b><br>Each group presents: project concept, gap, objectives, consortium, work packages and next steps. 10 min per topic |
| <b>14:50–15:00</b> | <b>Closing Session – From Meeting to Proposal</b><br>Cross-project feedback, commitments, next meetings and proposal submission pathway,             |
| <b>15:00-22:00</b> | <b>Cultural programme and dinner – more information in the overall agenda</b>                                                                        |

## Required Final Output

Each project team should leave the symposium with a **Proposal Development Roadmap** containing:

- Working project title
- Target funding call
- Challenge and research gap
- Research questions
- Objectives and non-objectives
- Methodological concept
- Work package structure
- Expected results
- Expected impact
- Consortium and partner expertise
- Missing partners / expertise
- Partner roles and responsibilities
- Indicative resources and budget
- Timeline and milestones
- Key risks and dependencies
- Data, IP and exploitation considerations
- Dissemination/publication approach
- Proposal coordinator
- Proposal writing responsibilities
- Concrete next steps
- Responsible person for each next step
- Next project-development meeting
- Target proposal submission date

# BUILDING BRIDGES: PROJECT CONCEPT *Template*

**Topic:**                      ☐ Mining            ☐ Materials            ☐ Energies

**Project Working Title**

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**Participants:**

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## 1. THE PROBLEM

**What real-world or scientific problem are we trying to solve?**

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**Why is this problem important now?**

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## 2. RESEARCH GAP

What is currently missing in science, technology, knowledge or practice?

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What has already been done?

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What remains unresolved?

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## 3. CORE RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the central question this project will answer?

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Supporting research questions:

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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## 4. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Overall objective

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Specific objectives

O1: 

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O2: 

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O3: 

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O4: 

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Non objectives

NO1: 

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## 5. PROJECT BOUNDARIES

**What WILL the project address?**

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**What will the project explicitly NOT address?**

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**Why are these boundaries necessary?**

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## 6. PROJECT APPROACH

**How will we address the research gap?**

Briefly describe the proposed approach:

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**Key methods / technologies / approaches**

- ---
- ---
- ---
- ---

## 7. EXPECTED RESULTS

**What will the project produce?**

- ☐ New scientific knowledge
- ☐ Methodology
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Prototype / demonstrator
- ☐ Model / simulation
- ☐ Dataset
- ☐ Tool / software
- ☐ Guidelines / standards
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the key expected results:**

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## 8. EXPECTED IMPACT

**What changes if this project succeeds?**

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**Who benefits?**

- ☐ Researchers
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Policy makers
- ☐ Society
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the potential practical/industrial application?**

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## 9. FUNDING FIT

### Target funding opportunity

Funding programme: \_\_\_\_\_

Call / topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected submission: \_\_\_\_\_

### Why does our project fit this call?

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### Key call requirements we need to address

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## 10. CONSORTIUM

| Partner / Organisation | Country | Expertise / Contribution | Proposed Role |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|
|                        |         |                          |               |
|                        |         |                          |               |
|                        |         |                          |               |
|                        |         |                          |               |
|                        |         |                          |               |

### What expertise do we already have?

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### What expertise is missing?

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### Which additional partners do we need?

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## 11. INDUSTRY CONNECTION

**What does the industry need from this project?**

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**Which industry partners could contribute?**

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**What could industry provide?**

- ☐ Problem definition
- ☐ Data
- ☐ Infrastructure
- ☐ Testing / validation
- ☐ Demonstration site
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Co-funding
- ☐ Exploitation pathway
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 12. INITIAL PROJECT STRUCTURE

| WP  | Main objective / activity | Lead | Key partners |
|-----|---------------------------|------|--------------|
| WP1 |                           |      |              |
| WP2 |                           |      |              |
| WP3 |                           |      |              |
| WP4 |                           |      |              |
| WP5 |                           |      |              |

**How do the work packages connect?**

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### **13. KEY PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS**

**What are the basic needs for this project to work?**

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**What could prevent the project from succeeding?**

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**What do we need to resolve before proposal submission?**

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### **14. PROJECT LEADERSHIP**

**Potential project coordinator:**

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**Scientific lead:**

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**Proposal development lead:**

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**Other key responsibilities:**

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## 15. FINAL PROJECT PITCH

Complete this sentence:

**Our project will** \_\_\_\_\_  
**because** \_\_\_\_\_  
**by** \_\_\_\_\_  
**resulting in** \_\_\_\_\_  
**for** \_\_\_\_\_.

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## PROJECT DECISION

**At the end of the symposium, do we agree to develop this project?**

- ☐ YES — committed to develop a proposal
- ☐ YES — subject to finding additional partners
- ☐ MAYBE — further discussion required
- ☐ NO — project should not be pursued

**Target funding call confirmed?** ☐ YES ☐ NO

**Consortium sufficient?**

☐ YES ☐ NO — missing: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project coordinator identified?** ☐ YES ☐ NO