The Centre Européen de Calcul Atomique et Moléculaire (CECAM) and the EPSRC network grant Collaborative Computational project CCP5++ agree to collaborate to run annual sandpit projects to foster collaborative research, involving both academic and, when appropriate, also non-academic, and in particular industrial, participants, in the area of advanced simulation (including methodology developments) and artificial intelligence.

The Director of CECAM and the Chair of the CCP5 project will prepare every year a joint call for proposals to identify the specific topic and format of the sandpit. Preparatory meetings, short – possibly repeated - scientific visits and visits and infrastructure (e.g. repositories, Wikies…) to enable collaborative software development projects are among the activities eligible for funding. These activities are expected to have a tangible outcome, e.g. in the form of software or white papers, that should be specified in the application. All output is expected to respect the principles of open science and be made available in community repositories or archives.

The yearly call will emphasize interdisciplinarity and collaboration between researchers based in the UK and in other countries within the CECAM community. The call will be launched and advertised by each organization with agreed deadlines that will adapt to the requirements for both organizations, with care to maximize the dissemination and impact of the call. To be eligible, the organizers will have to include researchers from at least one publicly funded UK Research Institution and one Research Institution based in the European Union.

Applications will be submitted and managed via the CECAM website and the sandpit activity will appear as an “Alternative Format” event in the CECAM yearly program.

A judging panel composed of 2 members selected by CECAM and 2 members selected by CCP5++, the Director of CECAM and the Chair of CCP5 will evaluate and rank the proposals. The CECAM Council and the CCP5 Executive Committee will be informed of the evaluation procedure and ranking.

CECAM and CCP5++ will each contribute 12.000 Euro to the budget of the activity. No participation fee should be charged by the organisers. Successful sandpit activities will be encouraged to apply for a CECAM flagship proposal the year following their deployment to disseminate output and promote wider collaboration. If selected this flagship workshop will be co-funded by CCP5++ and hosted by a UK based CECAM Node.

This agreement is valid from March 2022 to September 2024, and will be re-examined for renewal at the end of this period.