

Reef-UKC Kick-Off Meeting & Workshop1

Date: September 5th & 6th, 2024

Summary:

The Reef-UKC project successfully launched with a dynamic kick-off meeting and workshop, uniting academics, industry, and local government. Hosted at Aston University, the event focused on advancing sustainable cooling and energy consumption solutions.

Key Highlights:

- **Welcome & Vision:** Tony Dodd, Deputy Dean of Aston University, emphasised the project's collaborative approach and its focus on critical cooling challenges.
- **Expert Insights:**
 - James Coombs OBrien, Energy – Net Zero Innovation Lead at UKRI, provided valuable insights into the national strategy for sustainable energy and the role of innovation in achieving net-zero targets.
 - Dave Pearson, Director of Innovation at Star Refrigeration, delivered a compelling presentation on cutting-edge cooling from heat technologies, sparking engaging discussions among participants.
- **Project Structure:** Work package leads were identified, and a steering committee was formed, establishing a strong foundation for project governance.
- **ECR Focus:** Day 2 was dedicated to an ECR workshop, featuring sandpit activities, round table discussions, panel discussions, and funding pitches, fostering early-career development.
- **Seed Funding Announcement:** A £100K Seed Funding Call was announced, aiming to support 8-10 innovative projects with a focus on ECR and industry collaboration.

Outcomes:

The event successfully launched the Reef-UKC network, fostered collaboration, and generated significant interest in sustainable cooling research. The Seed Funding Call announcement and ECR-focused activities are expected to drive impactful project outcomes.