Call for Bids: Microbial Solutions for a Changing World - A *Sustainable Microbiology* Research Conference

Overview

Applied Microbiology International (AMI) is inviting the global applied microbiology community to submit bids to host the *Sustainable Microbiology* Research Conference (SMRC), **Microbial Solutions for a Changing World**, in 2027.

We welcome proposals from AMI members, AMI Advisory Groups, AMI Global Ambassadors, AMI Research Networks and the wider AMI community, as well as editors, authors, reviewers and readers *of Sustainable Microbiology*, and others working across applied microbiology.

Microbial Solutions for a Changing World is a recurring conference within the SMRC series, convened by AMI. It brings together researchers, industry, government, policymakers and other stakeholders to explore microbiological solutions to global sustainability challenges.

The conference typically includes a combination of keynote presentations, thematic and policy sessions, panel discussions, posters and opportunities for networking. Abstract submission is open across career stages, with contributions invited for both oral and poster presentations. The programme reflects a broad range of topics within applied and environmental microbiology, with a focus on sustainable solutions and real-world impact.

Microbial Solutions for a Changing World is hosted in different global regions, with host institutions providing local support for delivery in collaboration with AMI. The inaugural conference took place at Monash University, Melbourne, from 25–27 November 2025, chaired by Professor Chris Greening and bringing together over 150 participants.

Strategic focus: Food Security

The strategic focus for this conference will be Food Security, one of AMI's six strategic goals and aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.

We are looking for proposals for a focused scientific challenge within Food Security around which the conference can be built. The proposed focus should address an important or emerging challenge where applied microbiology can contribute solutions, while being broad enough to support a diverse international scientific programme.

Potential areas might include food safety, new microbial foods, sustainable food production, food loss and spoilage, resilient agriculture, fermentation and food-system microbiomes. These are examples rather than prescribed topics, and we particularly

want to hear from the community about the challenges they believe warrant an international meeting.

The successful host and programme committee will work with AMI to develop the proposed focus into the scientific programme.

Hosting *Microbial Solutions for a Changing World*

This document outlines the opportunity to host the next *Microbial Solutions for a Changing World* conference in 2027 and form its programme committee. Bids may be submitted with the support of the host institution, local industry and host city. The successful host will:

- Identify a proposed Chair and 5–6 additional members to form the programme committee, with appropriate scientific expertise and networks relevant to the proposed Food Security challenge.
- Identify and assign a local logistics lead to support the AMI Events Manager with venue and supplier coordination and onsite delivery of the conference.
- Secure a suitable conference venue and assume responsibility for venue contracting and the costs of venue and audio-visual hire, and ideally catering, either through institutional support, sponsorship or external funding. The venue must also provide suitable space for the welcome reception on day one.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the programme committee:

Chaired by the appointed Chair, the primary responsibility of the programme committee is to shape the scientific direction and content of *Microbial Solutions for a Changing World*. Working within the conference framework established by AMI, the committee will:

- Work with AMI to develop the proposed scientific focus into a high-quality international scientific programme.
- Identify and invite international speakers from across academia, government and industry.
- Contribute to the abstract process, including the review and selection of submissions.
- Ensure the programme supports a balance of established and early career researchers.
- Provide input into networking and community-building elements of the conference.
- Provide contacts for potential sponsors and exhibitors that align with AMI values.
- Be present at the conference and support delivery through session chairing and engagement with delegates.
- Promote the conference through their professional networks and existing marketing channels.

The role of AMI

AMI will provide professional conference organisation, assigning an Event Manager to support the programme committee and lead on the wider delivery of the conference. AMI will:

- Work with the programme committee to develop the scientific focus and define and oversee the overall conference framework, including timelines, session formats, keynote talks, panels and research presentations.
- Develop and manage the event budget, including setting registration fees and overseeing income and expenditure.
- Manage the conference website, registration and abstract submission systems, and delegate communications.
- Manage the speaker journey from confirmation through to onsite delivery.
- Lead on marketing, branding and promotion of the conference, working with the *Sustainable Microbiology* journal team and community.
- Develop, sell and deliver sponsorship and exhibition opportunities.
- Manage the venue and suppliers, supported by the local logistics lead.
- Lead onsite delivery of the conference, supported by the local logistics lead.

Event specification

Microbial Solutions for a Changing World will be a three-day conference, preceded by an arrival afternoon. Registration will be available on the arrival afternoon and on the morning of the first conference day. The conference programme will then run across three days.

There is scope for a social event on the evening of day two, but the venue for this does not need to be provided by the host.

Ideally, the conference will take place in November 2027, or as close as possible.

The event requires a fully accessible conference venue and space meeting the following specification:

- 1 x main plenary room seating a minimum of 150 delegates
- 1 x catering and exhibition area*
- 1 x poster area**
- 1 x welcome reception area (arrival day only)

** One large adjacent room/space for catering and tabletop exhibitors. This space will need to accommodate catering stations and 10–15 exhibition stands (2m x 1m spaces). Some ad-hoc seating for lunch would be a bonus.*

*** A space to accommodate circa 50 posters (25 poster boards assuming two posters per double-sided board). If possible, catering, exhibition and posters would be accommodated together in the same room/space.*

Mandatory bid requirements

The submission must address and provide evidence for the following categories:

Financial Support and Commitments:

The host will secure a suitable venue and assume responsibility for venue contracting and costs incurred in venue and audio-visual hire, and ideally catering, either through institutional support or external funding. Bids should include details of institutional support, sponsorship opportunities, potential exhibitors and any other funding that strengthens the bid and reduces financial risk.

Scientific Proposition and Alignment:

The bid must propose a focused scientific challenge within Food Security around which the conference can be developed. Bidders should explain why the challenge is important or emerging, why it warrants an international scientific meeting now, and how applied microbiology can contribute solutions.

The proposed programme committee should demonstrate relevant expertise and networks within the proposed area and explain how the committee, host institution and local academic and industry communities could contribute to the development of the conference.

The successful programme committee will work with AMI to develop the proposed focus into the final scientific programme.

Accessibility & Accommodation:

The bid must demonstrate the accessibility of the destination and ease of travel around the city using public transport. It must include a list of hotels within walking distance of the conference venue and estimated costs per night. The event should not coincide with religious holidays or other important events in the host city or country.

Bidding timeline

1 Sept 2026	Promotion of Call for Bids
31 Oct 2026	Deadline to submit your full bid
w/c 9 Nov 2026	Shortlist interviews
16 Nov 2026	Submitters notified of outcome

Guidelines for submitting online bid

During the online submission process, you will be asked for the following information:

Submitter details:

- Title
- Full name
- Email address
- Organisation

Scientific proposition:

- What focused Food Security challenge do you propose for this conference?

- Please provide a short, proposed title or description.
- Why should this challenge be addressed now?
- Please outline its scientific relevance, importance or emerging nature and the opportunity for applied microbiology to contribute solutions.
- What areas of science could the conference encompass?
- Please outline the breadth of topics that could sit within the proposed focus. This is not intended to be a proposed programme.
- Who would this conference bring together?
- Please describe the scientific communities, disciplines and sectors you would expect the focus to attract.

Programme committee:

- Name, organisation and email address of the proposed Chair.
- Names, organisations and email addresses of the proposed programme committee.
- Briefly describe the expertise and networks the proposed committee would bring to the conference.

Host and destination:

- Proposed host institution and city, and why this would be a strong destination.
- Proposed conference venue and how it meets the event specification.
- Name/contact details of the local logistics lead.
- Proposed social event, if applicable.

Financial support:

- Describe institutional support for the conference, including venue, AV and, where possible, catering.
- Identify potential sponsors, exhibitors, partners or other sources of financial support.

Accessibility:

- Describe accessibility and transport connections.
- Provide indicative nearby accommodation options and costs.

Additional:

- Is there anything else about your proposed scientific focus, programme committee, institution or destination that you believe strengthens your bid?

To submit your full bid

Submit your full bid via the link below:

https://appliedmicrobiology.org/submissions-generic/call-for-bids-mscw-2027.html

Use the yellow ‘Submit your bid’ button at the top of the page to submit your full bid to host MSCW 2027.