THE AWARDS 2020

Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution name	University of Southampton
Submission title or project name	ERGO (Ethics & Research Governance Online)
Nominee/key personnel	ERGOnauts: Shivram Rajamanickam; Richard Gooding; Mike Hall; Jeff Monger; Chris Yorke; Trudi Bartlett; Jo Dixon; Ferdousi Chowdhury; Diana Galpin
URL	
Submission	Enhancing ethical and scientific quality, safeguarding the public, promoting good practice, and preventing poor performance and misconduct are critical elements of every university's research mission. Launched in 2018, ERGO is a transformational, stand-alone web-based platform, developed in-house for the online ethical review and approval of research projects undertaken by the University's 20,000+ research staff and students. The functionality of ERGO – including a comprehensive dashboard to monitor reviews and reviewers, the automatic allocation of reviewers depending on the level of project risk, and the ability for non-specialist staff to customise the system – is currently unmatched in commercially available systems. Developed with future-proofing in mind means that ERGO can be readily customised to meet the needs of individual organisations across the sector, and to quickly and easily reflect changes, whether by regulatory and funding bodies, or in standard practice in the highly subjective and fast moving ethics environment.