



WOMEN IN HIGH
PERFORMANCE
COMPUTING

ISC High Performance 2026 Impact Report

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Contents

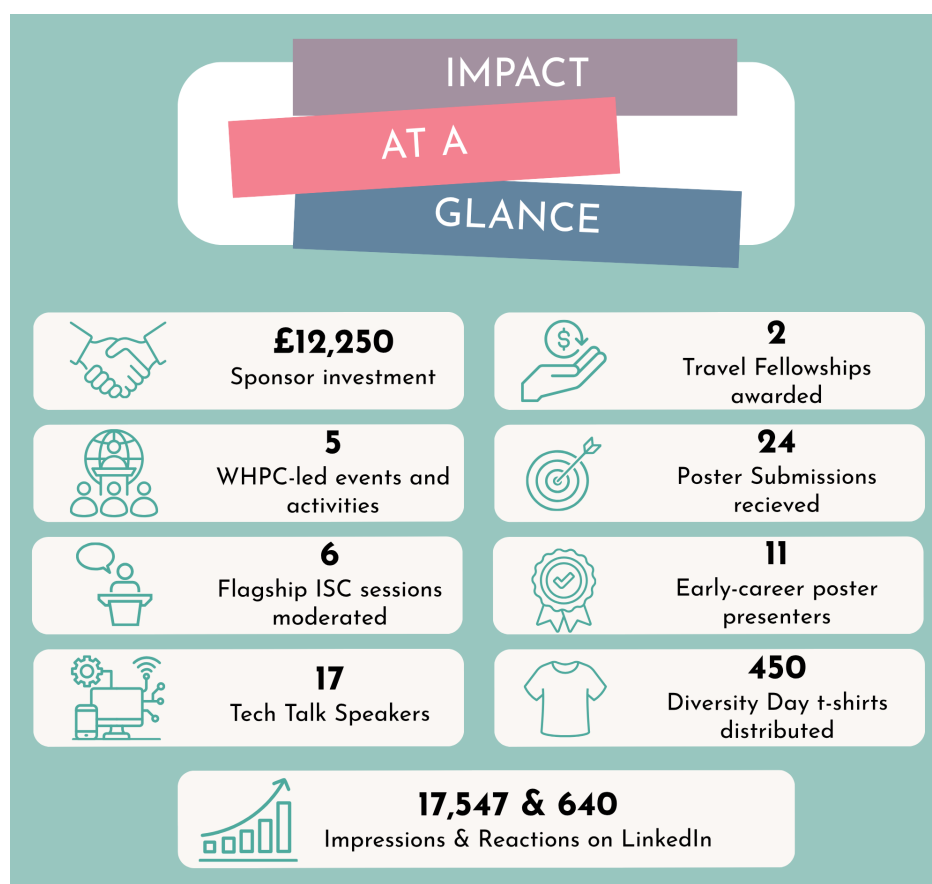
Event Overview	3
Impact at a glance	3
Sponsor & Partner Support	4
Sponsor support enabled:	4
Financial Summary	4
Sponsor Recognition	4
Programme highlights	5
WHPC Posters & Networking Reception	5
Diversity Day	5
Finding your people in HPC (<i>New for 2026</i>)	5
Moderator Programme (<i>New for 2026</i>)	5
Tech Talks by WHPC	5
Super(computing)heroes Birds of a Feather	5
Testimonials	6
Thank you!	7
Looking Ahead	7

Event Overview

- **Event:** ISC High Performance 2026
- **Date:** June 22- 26 2026
- **Location:** Hamburg, Germany

ISC High Performance is Europe's leading conference for HPC, AI and quantum computing, bringing together more than 4,000 researchers, engineers, technology providers and policy-makers from 64 countries.

2026 marked the third year of WHPC's formal partnership with the ISC Group, and our largest programme to date. Through new initiatives, expanded visibility across the official programme, and continued investment in early-career researchers, WHPC strengthened its position as a leader in diversity and inclusion while increasing the visibility of women and other underrepresented groups across the international HPC community.



Sponsor & Partner Support

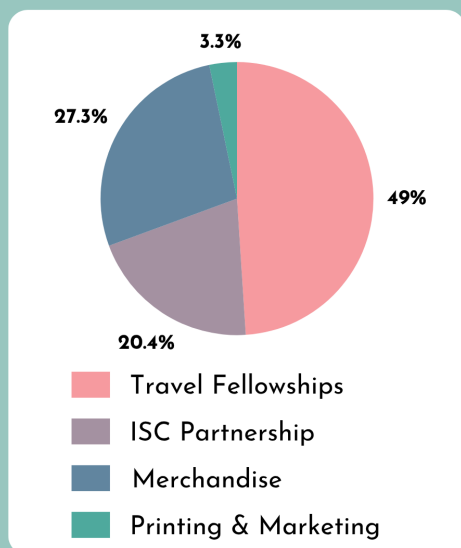
Thanks to **£12,250** in sponsorship from AWS, AMD, Google, Cambridge University Research Services & Dawn, HPE and Pawsey Supercomputing Research Centre, WHPC delivered its largest-ever ISC High Performance programme.

Sponsor support enabled:

- Expansion of WHPC's partnership with the ISC Group
- Continuation of the official WHPC Poster Series and co-sponsorship of the Poster Networking Reception
- Two £3,000 travel fellowships for early-career researchers
- Increased visibility of underrepresented voices across ISC 2026 through new moderator opportunities and official programme activities
- Conference-wide Diversity Day, including WHPC-branded merchandise
- Branded conference materials and venue-wide visibility
- Promotion through ISC 2026 communications

Additional in-kind support was provided through media partnerships with EuroHPC Joint Undertaking and Scientific Computing World, and shipping/on-site logistics support from EPCC.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Sponsor Recognition

Sponsors were recognised throughout ISC 2026 via:

- WHPC website
- Social media & blog posts
- Printed materials
- Conference t-shirts
- Acknowledgements at WHPC activities

Programme highlights

WHPC Posters & Networking Reception

39 attendees, 11 poster presenters, 2 Travel Fellows

The WHPC Poster Series returned as an official ISC 2026 conference track, combining poster presentations, lightning pitches, mentoring and networking. The programme continues to provide an important platform for emerging researchers to gain visibility, build confidence and engage with international experts.

Diversity Day

450 t-shirts distributed

Conference attendees wore WHPC-branded clothing throughout the day to visibly demonstrate support for diversity and inclusion in HPC. The initiative sparked conversations across the exhibition floor and introduced many first-time attendees to the WHPC community.

Finding your people in HPC (*New for 2026*)

102 attendees

Held on the opening day of ISC 2026, this Community Meet-Up provided both a welcoming introduction to WHPC and helped attendees to build connections from the start of the conference, meeting friendly faces they could attend sessions with throughout the week.

Moderator Programme (*New for 2026*)

WHPC members moderated six flagship ISC 2026 sessions, including the Midweek Keynote, Vendor Showdowns and Technical Paper sessions. The programme increased the visibility of underrepresented leaders, ensured diversity in key conversations and provided valuable experience for the moderators.

Tech Talks by WHPC

91 attendees, 17 speakers

The annual Tech Talks showcased technical expertise, career journeys and community initiatives, with topics ranging from sustainable HPC to inclusive community building. The programme combined invited and lightning talks, highlighting the breadth and diversity of our community.

Super(computing)heroes Birds of a Feather

112 registered attendees, 4 panelists



This interactive panel brought together speakers from around the world to share their career journeys, challenges and advice. By highlighting authentic experiences from diverse role models, the session encouraged attendees to explore different career pathways and reinforced the value of representation within the HPC community.

Testimonials



"Attending the Women in HPC session at ISC High Performance 2026 this week was one of the highlights of the conference for me. Hearing these remarkable women share their journeys, challenges, and leadership experiences was truly inspiring. It was wonderful to see how the Women in HPC movement is building such a supportive and inclusive community, encouraging more women to enter the field and empowering them to grow as future leaders."



"From getting to meet lots of wonderful women at the WHPC Community Meetup, to some fascinating sessions on system design for sustainability and communicating our research, and finishing the day presenting my talk 'A Faster Universe, No Big Bang Required' on GPU acceleration for astronomy codes at the Tech Talks in the Opening Reception!"



"It was an incredible experience connecting with leading experts in the field, discussing parallel computational workflows, and being part of such an empowering and vibrant WHPC community."

Thank you!

WHPC @ ISC 2026 was made possible through the commitment of our volunteers, speakers, mentors, moderators, reviewers, partners and sponsors.

In particular, thank you to our organising committee:

- Eleanor Broadway
- Ayesha Afzal
- Valerie Rossi
- Vijeta Sharma
- Buket Benek Gursoy
- Sarah Johnston
- Cristin Merritt
- Katya Zossimova
- Karina Pesatova
- Elsa Gonsiorowski

Looking Ahead

Building on the success of ISC 2026, WHPC will continue expanding opportunities for our community through:

- Growing the Travel Fellowship programme
- Expanding mentoring for speakers and moderators
- Increasing representation across conference programmes
- Strengthening partnerships with conference organisers and sponsors
- Creating welcoming spaces where diverse talent can connect, collaborate and thrive

These ambitions will continue at SC26 and future international events as WHPC works towards a more diverse and inclusive HPC community.

Explore our 2026 prospectus to learn more about supporting our future events.