



# THE ROLE OF RESEARCH COUNCILS IN SUPPORTING INNOVATION

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## PSA target (2004 Spending Review)

*"Improve the relative international performance of the UK research base and improve the overall innovation performance of the UK economy including through effective knowledge transfer amongst universities, research institutions and business"*



## ROYAL CHARTER

- To support high quality scientific and engineering research
- To support post-graduate training
- To promote the advancement of knowledge and technology in order to contribute to economic competitiveness
- To encourage public engagement and disseminate knowledge



## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Vibrant Intellectual Infrastructure essential for strong economy
- Only delivered by Research Community interacting with Wider Economy
- Interaction can be through
  - the dissemination of ideas
  - the transfer of people
  - or both e.g. spin-outs
- 2-way for maximum added value



## BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS OF RESEARCH COUNCILS

- To set relevant scientific priorities
- To support the supply of trained people
- To facilitate the wider economic agenda



## ECONOMIC IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Research Councils must act on:

- their **leadership** of the knowledge transfer agenda
- their role in **influencing** knowledge transfer behaviour of universities and other funders
- increasing their **engagement** with user organisations



## LEADERSHIP

- One Chief Executive nominated to champion economic impact across all Research Councils
- To provide strategy and direction, and facilitate harmonization and diffusion of best practice
- Council Chairs to give economic impact a higher profile in Council strategy



## INFLUENCING

- Nominated Chief Executive to influence all stakeholders to promote economic impact in the award of funding
- expand incentives for researchers to participate in knowledge transfer
- encourage and reward two-way secondments between the research base and business



## ENGAGEMENT

- RCUK should engage stakeholders to develop overarching, economically relevant research missions
- Council strategic research programmes must be developed and implemented in dialogue with economic stakeholders
- Responsive mode grant applications should identify potential economic benefits (if any) and reviewers should have clear guidance on how to score these benefits



## NEXT STEPS

- Each Council to describe the economic impact of their investment in a one-off report, setting a baseline to report against annually
- Each Council to publish an independent user community bi-annual satisfaction survey



## STFC MISSION

- World class science
- Greater international leverage
- Significant economic impact
- Increased quantity of good trained people
- Improved public engagement
- Effective organisation



## WORLD CLASS SCIENCE

Demonstrated by

- Clear affordable science strategy informed by other Research Councils
- More adventurous high impact portfolio
- More leadership of international projects
- Sun-setting of non-competitive programmes



## GREATER INTERNATIONAL LEVERAGE

Demonstrated by

- Clear UK position influencing international facility agenda/forcing realistic choices
- More effective trading between facilities
- Securing two new international facilities



## SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC IMPACT

Demonstrated by

- Harwell and Daresbury campuses becoming self-sustaining
- Provide solutions for industry, become natural source for problem solving and horizon scanning
- Better business engagement (using CLIK) to deliver more KE and spin-outs
- Involve industry early in R&D for large facilities
- Effective partnership with TSB to maximise impact of technology



## INCREASE QUANTITY OF GOOD TRAINED PEOPLE

Demonstrated by

- Increased flow of highly trained people into industry/commerce
- More two-way secondments
- More students working on STFC facilities
- More technicians and apprentices trained in the labs
- More rounded training to include project/facility management



## SOME ISSUES

- what does industry want? - access to do their R&D? the solution to problems?
- what priority should industry be given, how chosen and in what time-frame?
- what is the appropriate balance between science and industry/technology in the use of the STFC's facilities?
- What types of facilities are most likely to attract high end technology-based companies and university groups to the campuses?
- what are the relative roles of the STFC and the TSB?