



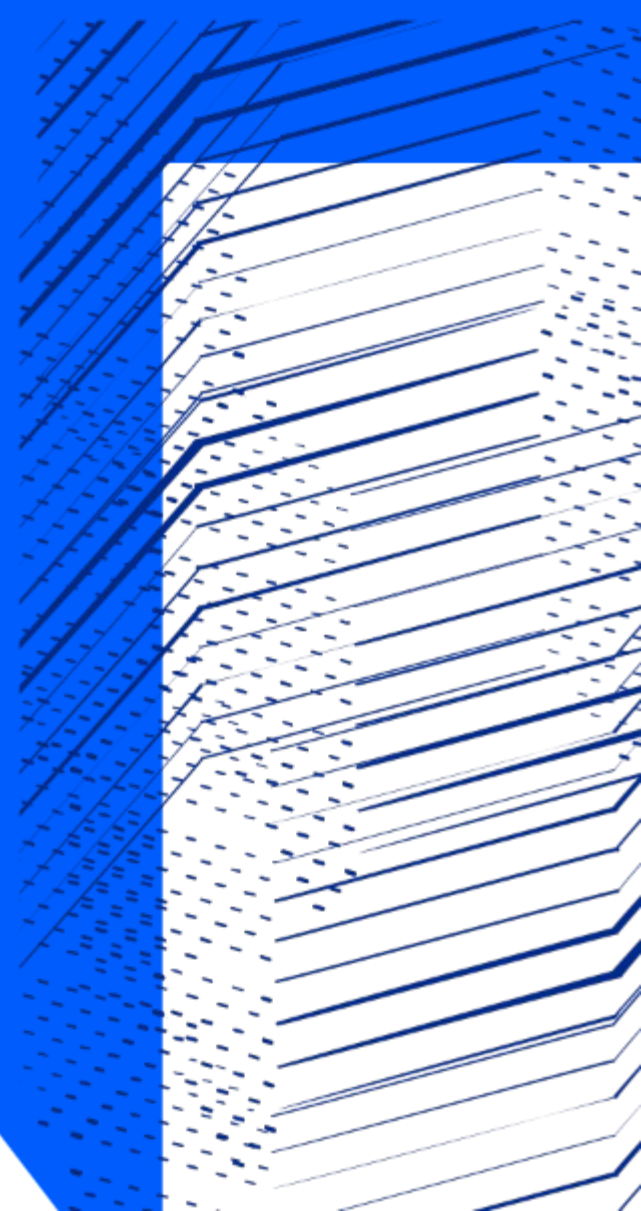
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# STFC Update

## APP, HEPP and NP Town Hall

Prof Mark Thomson  
Executive Chair

10 April 2024



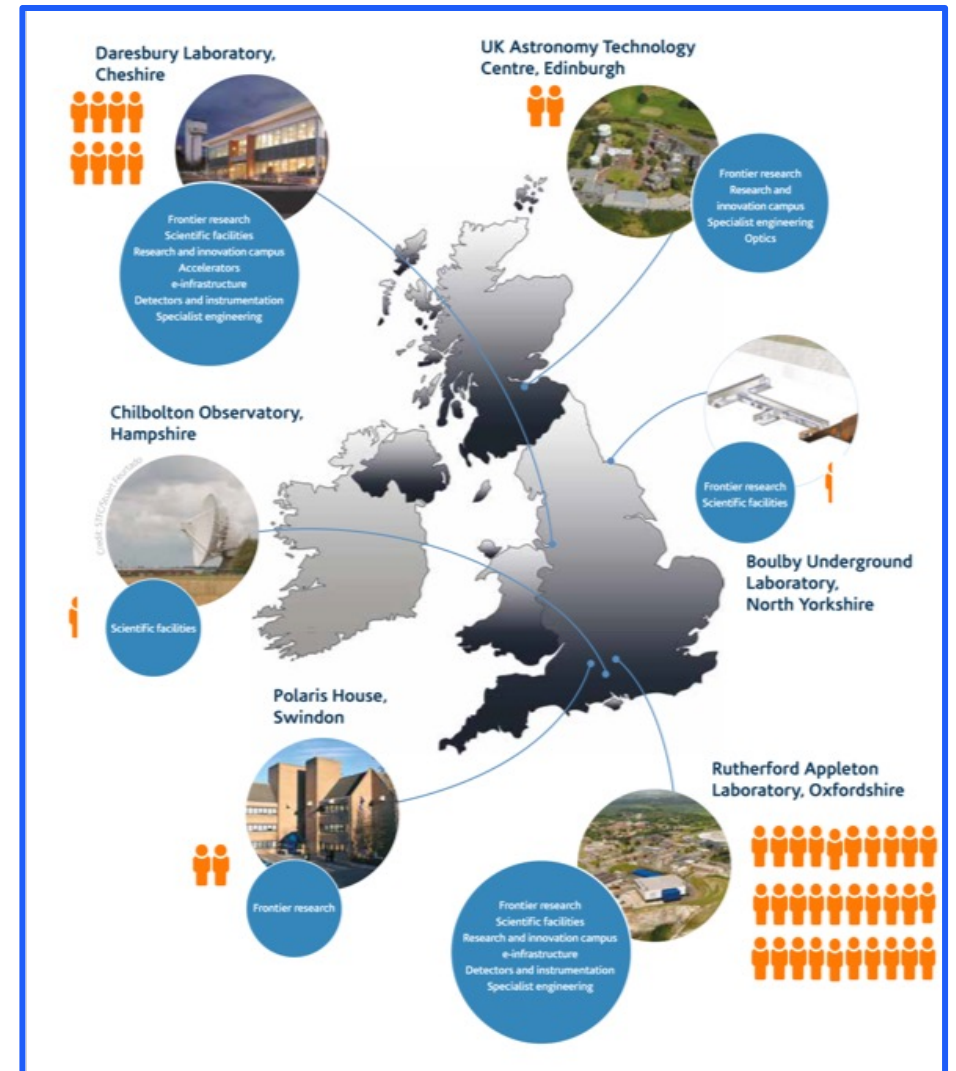
# STFC is a complex organisation

## STFC's split personality:

- **Science Funding:** fundamental research in particle physics, astrophysics, nuclear physics and space science (inc. particle astrophysics)
- **International Subs:** managing relationships with major international research facilities (inc. CERN)
- **Science Delivery:** operating UK's major multi-disciplinary research facilities and national laboratory capabilities (@RAL, Daresbury, ...)

## Annual budget of ~£950m and 3,000 staff

- approximately 30% of all UKRI staff
- >85% of our staff are are scientists, engineers and technicians





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**ED&I**



# STFC and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

**As a funder and scientific organisation, STFC is deeply committed to ED&I**

- moral, ethical and legal imperative – it is the right thing to do
- diverse organisations are more effective
- benefit (and benefit from) the widest (diverse) talent pool

**Action on EDI is a key priority for UKRI & STFC:**

- We published STFC's EDI **action plan** last year
  - **Describes the rolling programme of multiple actions to improve:**
    - EDI within STFC
    - Diversity in the people & things we fund
    - Diversity of the skill pipeline for the UK
  - **Looking to our communities to help inform the continuous development of our plans**



# Examples of recent initiatives

## EDI will always be a top priority for STFC. We are committed to action

- Many recent STFC EDI activities *include*:
  - Development of a robust action plan on Bullying, Harassment & Discrimination
  - A second phase of the Reverse Mentoring scheme has started, which was opened to all under-represented groups
  - Provision of active bystander training session for all senior staff
  - Events to celebrate International Women Day and provide inspirational role models
  - We will be hosting 10+ black interns this summer as part of the national 10,000 Black Internship scheme
- We are recruiting a dedicated EDI lead for STFC:
  - providing dedicated professional support for our many EDI activities
  - steering the programme of our independent EDI Advisory Board
  - leading the next phase of development of our EDI action plan





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# People Update





# UKRI Appointments

## EPSRC Executive Chair

- Professor Charlotte Deane joined EPSRC in January
- Was Professor of Structural Bioinformatics at the University of Oxford and Chief AI Officer at Exscientia plc



## NERC Executive Chair

- Professor Louise Heathwaite joined NERC in March
- Distinguished Professor in the Lancaster Environment Centre and Pro-Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise at Lancaster University



## BBSRC Executive Chair

- Professor Anne Ferguson-Smith will join BBSRC in July
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and International Partnerships, and Arthur Balfour Professor of Genetics at the University of Cambridge



# STFC Executive Chair

## STFC Executive Chair

- I have been re-appointed as Executive Chair of STFC for a further nine months from 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024
  - takes my term beyond the “normal” 6-year term
- The recruitment for my successor is well underway



## CERN DG

- the UK Government has announced its support for me as the UK candidate for next Director-General of CERN
  - this is just the start of a long process...
- This nomination will have no impact on the importance I place in my day job of ensuring that STFC continues to develop as a world leading research and funding organisation.



# Recent STFC Appointments / Recruitment

## Director of RAL Particle Physics Department

- Prof Sinead Farrington has been appointed and will start 1 July 2024
- She is currently Head of the Institute of Particle and Nuclear Physics at the University of Edinburgh
  - a great appointment for STFC and RAL PPD



## Director of UK ATC

- Current post-holder, Gillian Wright will be stepping down as Director this year – she will maintain her role as MIRI PI (James Webb Space Telescope)
- Recruitment is underway with interviews later this month

# STFC Appointments

## STFC Council – we have just appointed 3 new members

- **JT Janssen** - Chief Scientist at NPL and a member of the executive team. Distinguished for the application of quantum technologies and an NPL Fellow in Quantum Electrical Metrology.
- **Jana Kolar** - Executive Director of CERIC-ERIC, a pan-European research infrastructure in the field of characterisation of materials and bio-materials. Formerly chair of the European Strategy Forum of Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)
- **Lucy Edge** - COO and Executive Director, Satellite Applications Catapult. She is also Vice Chair of the Royal Mencap Society and Chair of Atheras Analytics



**We still have 50:50 male:female balance on Council**



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# Funding Update



# STFC Strategic Delivery Plan

We have just entered the final year of the 3-year spending review allocation, FY22/23, FY23/24 and FY24/25

- STFC's Strategic Delivery plan set out our exciting plans for the three-year spending period
- **Many new activities and investments across all STFC areas**
- Also explains the role STFC will play in delivering UKRI's wider mission/vision
- Contains a lot of detail
  - **defined** our 3-year spending plan



# STFC Strategic Delivery Plan

## Part of our plan:

- An increase of ~£19 million over this SR period for STFC-supported frontier research programmes → **significant uplift to CGs**
- Enhancing UK scientific links globally, **including seeking funding for LHCb 2030** (CERN), Hyper-Kamiokande (Japan), US Simons Observatory (Chile), and Electron-Ion Collider (USA)
- Supporting the development of a pipeline of skilled apprentices, engineers and technicians by investing £2.5 million in the “STFC Skill Centre”
- Investment in a pipeline of novel technologies – new early-TRL R&D scheme
- Investing £7.5 million in a new ‘AI for Science’ initiative within STFC’s Scientific Computing Department
- New international partnerships: India, US and more.



# Delivering our SDP: Pressures

## The financial environment is not easy – inflation and more...

- In the planning for the 2021 Spending Review inflation was assumed to be 2%
  - Costs of construction and funding research (including university overheads) have increased much more rapidly...

## Major projects: schedule slippage and cost increases

- We are currently funding 3 major particle physics construction projects in parallel
  - ATLAS Phase-2 upgrade, CMS Phase-2 upgrade and LBNF/DUNE/PIP-II
- In all cases there are “challenges” with meeting the original schedules
- In all cases seeing cost increase (inflation and/or schedule slippage)
- This is manageable, but is putting a lot of financial pressure on our budgets
  - Currently little headroom for new activities

**We are largely on track to deliver our plan, despite challenges**





# Doctoral Studentships and Stipends

## Update

- UKRI announced several uplifts to the minimum PhD stipend level, which is currently £19,237 per year for 24/25, which is good news but comes at a cost
- STFC response
  - agreed position at STFC Council is to aim to maintain the balance between student numbers and the rest of the programme
  - for students starting in October 2024 we were committed to maintaining numbers at (or very close to) existing levels.
- STFC have issued DTPs grants covering October 2024 starts
  - 220 studentships awarded using our algorithmic approach.
  - Further work needed on how to future proof the algorithm given changes to astronomy grants process and moves to reduce bureaucracy

# Fellowship Programmes

## The main fellowship programmes for STFC are:

- Ernest Rutherford Fellowships (STFC):
  - A large number of applications received (again) this year (173 applications) – with interviews taking place during the week of 15 April.
  - A big **thank you** to all members of our communities for helping with the peer review – this is essential to operating this programme
- Stephen Hawking Fellowships (joint EPSRC/STFC): this scheme has now closed
- UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship
  - Round 8 applications received and sifted. Interviews will take place w/c 22 April
  - Round 9 opened 29 Feb and will close 18 June
- Discussions are starting on a more common fellowships offer across UKRI

# UKRI & Collective Talent Funding

## UKRI is continuing to transition to collective working on talent

- Update published recently  
<https://www.ukri.org/news/update-on-collective-talent-funding/>
- A common statement of expectations has been updated and published  
<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/UKRI-300124-StatementExpectationsDoctoralTrainingJanuary2024.pdf>
- UKRI is consolidating/harmonizing to two types of PhD award scheme
  - **Doctoral Landscape** awards – broad flexible funding with awards shaped to meet needs of discipline
  - **Doctoral Focal** awards funding for research training in specific tightly focused themes or challenges
- I do not expect this to have significant impact on the STFC approach



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# Infrastructure Fund



# UKRI Infrastructure fund (IF)

## Scope of the Infrastructure Fund

- The UKRI Infrastructure Fund (IF) is aimed at supporting significant investments that enable a **step change in research and innovation infrastructure**
- Focus is on infrastructure providing national or international-level capability
- Funding is time bound to cover the costs of the significant change in capability
  - does not support longer-term maintenance needs, operational costs or uplifts beyond the life of the proposal
- The infrastructure must provide access, resources or related services to the wider, community outside the infrastructure host institution itself
- Two types of funding routes:
  - **Full proposals:** delivery of the infrastructure (typically £10m-£300m)
  - **Preliminary activities:** design/development/scoping work (typically £500k - £5m)

# UKRI Infrastructure Fund

## Recent Updates:

- Wave 3 full activity outcomes – announced a few weeks ago!
  - **£48.8m for Electron-Ion Collider (US) being constructed at BNL**
  - **£124.4m for Relativistic Electron Diffraction and Imaging (RUEDI)**
    - EPSRC sponsored project hosted at Daresbury Laboratory with Liverpool University providing the scientific lead
- Wave 4 Preliminaries were submitted in December 2023
  - **STFC Council prioritized: XLZD (International Dark Matter Experiment) and AION**
  - **IAC discussed these projects in March – announcement expected this month**
- Wave 4 full activities will need to be submitted to UKRI in Summer 2025
  - **Deadline for Sol submissions targeting Wave 5 will be 1st May 2024**
- Future planning – full (major) proposal rounds every two years



# STFC Infrastructure Fund projects

## STFC has been successful in securing IF funding

- Both STFC supported (PPAN Science) and STFC facilities projects supported by the UKRI Facilities Strategic Advisory Group
- Funded portfolio
  - **6 Preliminary Activities:**
    - EIC, Boulby, ITRF, Next Generation GW, ELT Instrumentation
    - Diamond-II (CDR), UK-XFEL, ISIS-II
  - **8 Full Proposals:**
    - Hyper-K, Simons Observatory, SKA, LHCb upgrade, EIC
    - Diamond-II, ISIS Endeavour, Vulcan 20-20, HiLUX and RUEDI (EPSRC)
  - Total investment of over £800m

This is a significant shift to STFC's approach to resourcing major PPAN capital projects



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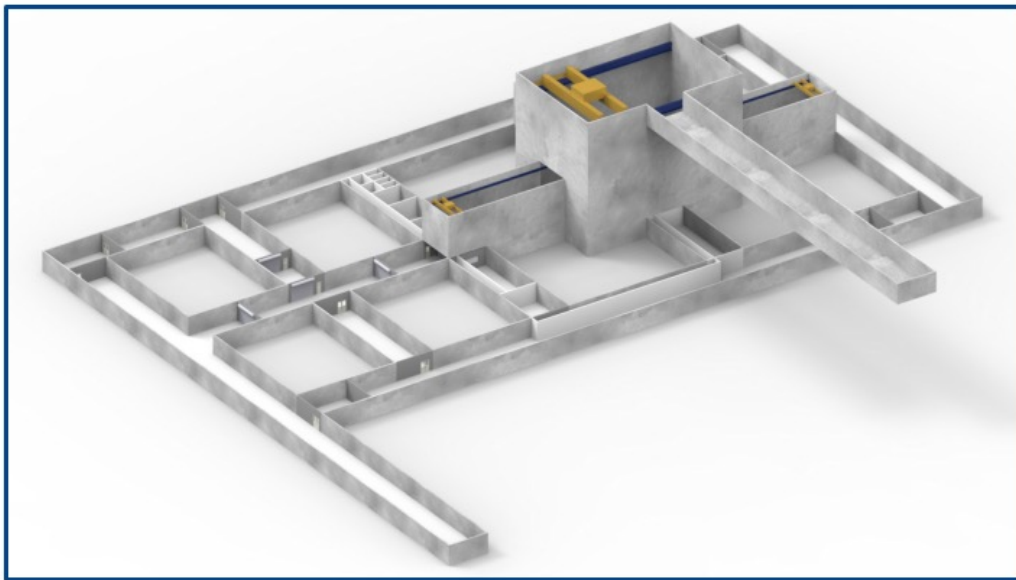
# Major Strategic Initiatives & Opportunities



# UK Hosting a Major International Project

As part of our SDP we committed to progressing the potential for the UK to host a major international fundamental science facility at Boubly

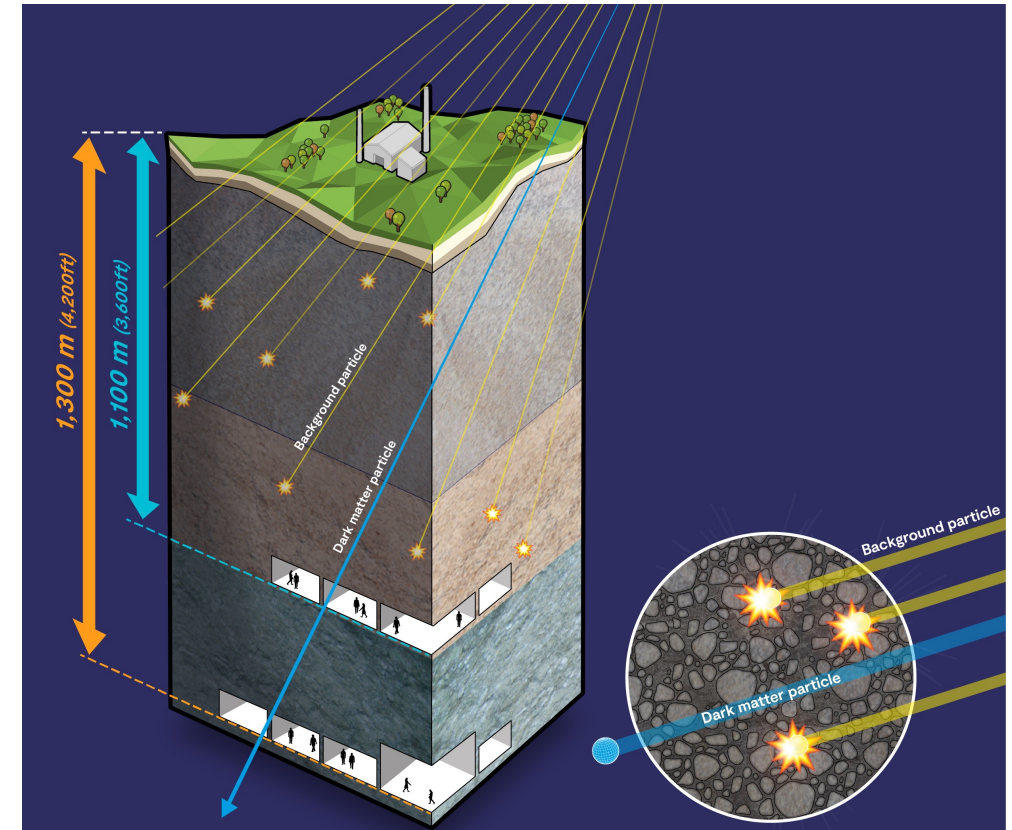
- This ambition to host an international science facility is also in the governments Science and Technology strategy
- Plans are progressing...



# Boulby Status

## We are discussing Boulby “Dark Matter Observatory” with DSIT

- **Stage 0:** £6m for excavation at 1.1km
  - Will commence “at risk” in 2024
- **Stage 1:** ~£50m for a new Boulby Lab at 1.1km
  - Will enable essential pre-construction work for e.g. XLZD
- **Stage 2:** ~£500m for new large experimentation lab at 1.3km plus UK’s share of an international project e.g. XLZD



**This is ambitious and we are at an early stage, but without ambition...**

# Space Gateway at Harwell

## Flagship to scale up the UK's Space Capability

- Proposed new base for UKSA, staff from MOD's Space Command, the facilities of the Satellite Applications Catapult and part of STFC's RAL Space
- Proposal to fund through a **novel public-private partnership**, with the private sector funding the office and business incubation facilities and the public sector funding advanced scientific facilities
- We have a lot of interest and support support from influential people within
  - but funding source still unclear, but have by asked for funding options, e.g. public – private balance

**Alongside Boulby, Space Gateway is likely to be one of our major Spending Review priorities with support from UKSA**



# Future of Compute Implementation

Multiple government investment in UK large-scale computing

## AI Resources (AIRR) - £300m investment announced

- DAWN (Cambridge), deployed by end of the year
  - 1000 GPU system in collaboration with Intel/DELL
- Isambard-AI (Bristol)
  - 5000 GPU system based on top-end NVIDIA GPUs

## AIRR+ - additional £500m investment announced

- Dec 2023 – Initial engagement with potential hosts
- March 2024 - Panel selection process

**AIRR Programme is being managed by STFC**





# UK Strategy for Engagement with CERN

## Purpose of the strategy

- **Maximise** the mutual **benefits and impact** of UK investment in CERN *for both the UK and CERN*
- **Raise awareness** of the opportunities afforded by CERN membership to multiple stakeholders
- Provide an **action-oriented framework** for delivery

**Our vision** is to unlock the full potential of our investment in CERN and remain central to its continued success, by working with our partners to lead scientific discovery and inspire the next generation



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

## UK Strategy for Engagement with CERN

Unlocking the full potential of UK  
membership of CERN

# UK Strategy for Engagement with CERN

## Activities already underway

- **Goal 2:** world class skills
  - Working with CERN Talent & Acquisition team to advertise CERN employment and training opportunities in the UK, supported by Brits@CERN champions
  - Improving process for CERN placements of STFC graduates and apprentices
- **Goal 3:** commercial impact and innovation
  - Active and ongoing collaboration between STFC's CERN Industrial Liaison Office and CERN procurement and KT – already seeing results in our industrial return!
- **Goal 5:** engage and inspire
  - Increased senior visits in recent months and reinstated UK CERN teacher programme
  - Please contact STFC if you/your university is planning a CERN70 event

[UKatCERN@stfc.ukri.org](mailto:UKatCERN@stfc.ukri.org)

# VIP Visits to CERN – raising the profile

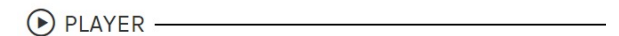
## 26 January: House of Common's Science, Innovation and Technology Committee

- They were particularly interested in:
  - UK contributions to CERN and why investments matter
  - Knowledge transfer and spin-out technologies
  - Growing the STEM pipeline from schools
- This has resulted in a Select Committee on 6 March:
  - Dr Pippa Wells and Christopher Hartley
  - Dr Sabine Hossenfelder and Professor Sir David King
  - Professor Mark Thomson



## 23 February: Civil Service Leadership Group (CSLG)

- CSAs, Director Generals, Cabinet Office



Science, Innovation and Technology Committee  
Wednesday 6 March 2024 Meeting started at 9.30am, ended 11.15am





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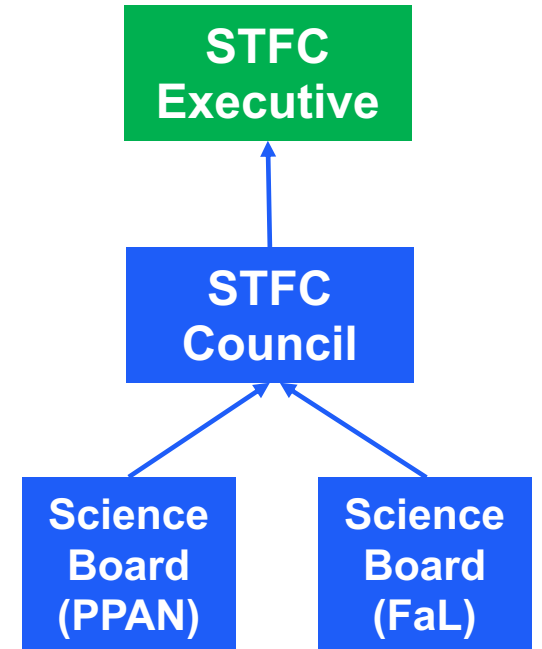
# Governance Update



# Improving our governance structures

## General Structure

- **STFC Executive Chair and STFC Executive Board**
  - Decision-making with responsibility for STFC budgets
- **STFC Council**
  - Advisory to STFC Exec Chair and STFC Exec Board
  - Our **top-level advisory body** where all aspects of STFC come together, PPAN, Facilities and Laboratories, Innovation, ...
- **In 2023 we changed our advisory structure to establish two parallel Science Board's with specific focus**
  - Provide detailed scientific/technology advice to STFC Council
  - Make recommendations on strategy and priorities/roadmaps
  - Chairs: Keith Grainge (PPAN) and Jacqui Cole (Facilities & Labs)



# Improving our governance structures

## Changing role for Science Board (PPAN)

- New structure is bedding in
- Science Board (PPAN) will be tasked with asked fundamentally different questions
  - advise on long-term prioritized plans within “guide rails” of **realistic** financial budget assumptions
  - in this context, provide advice on balance of activities
- Greater transparency over current financial planning
  - boards will have sight of the possible trade-offs between activities
- Opportunity to change what business comes to the Science Boards
  - focus discussions on what really matters, so that STFC gets maximum value out of the Boards



# PPAN Roadmap

**During 2024, Science Board (PPAN) will develop a long-term prioritised roadmap to set the guiderails on future investments**

- Balanced programme of excellent science across the PPAN research areas over a 10-year timeframe, within a realistic financial planning envelope
  - taking account of health and breadth of discipline
  - maintaining appropriate support to ensure return on past investments
  - exploiting UK leadership and capability in strategically important areas
  - engaging in future projects
- Rolling 10-year plan for STFC PPAN core programme
  - balance of exploitation, M&O, development projects, R&D etc.
  - balance of projects small/medium/large
  - studentships, fellowships, and skills pipeline
  - cross cutting themes e.g., quantum, R&D etc.

# Role of our advisory panels

## The Advisory Panels have been asked to provide input to SB (PPAN) to inform the PPAN Roadmap

- Advisory Panel should continue to update their roadmaps on regular basis as usual and no additional work is anticipated to update the current roadmaps to prepare for the PPAN Roadmap.
- The Advisory Panels will be asked key questions to inform the PPAN Roadmap, highlighting:
  - significant changes or discoveries that impact the current roadmap
  - new opportunities or risks that are not included in the current roadmap
  - recommendations that require significant update or revision
  - questions related to skills and new programmes e.g., quantum
- Input required by the September SB (PPAN) meeting (deadline likely early September)



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# New Sol Process



# Process for Statements of Interest (Sol)

## Mechanism for identifying new opportunities and assessing them:

- Statement of Interest route refreshed to ensure:
  - Clear strategic case
  - Benefits of an investment understood
  - Future commitment estimated, e.g. future M&O
- Process
  - Biannual call for Sols to be submitted to Science Board (PPAN) – 1 May & 1 Nov
  - Project teams should engage with programme managers throughout the year
  - Demand managed through alignment with the PPAN Roadmap
  - Further information available on the Sol webpage:
    - <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/stfc/how-we-are-governed/advisory-boards/science-board/science-board-statement-of-interest-for-new-projects/>

# Process for Statements of Interest (Sol)

## Infrastructure – Wave 5 Preliminary Activities (PAs):

- Deadline for Sol submissions is **1st May** and should use the standard Sol template provided on the [Sol webpage](#)
- De-risking PAs
  - De-risk a future infrastructure fund investment such as the delivery mechanism or technical design, better understand the costs, or to run a pilot
  - Up to £8m total over 4 years, but most PAs are expected to be £5m or less
- Environmental sustainability PAs
  - Understand, plan, and mitigate environmental sustainability aspects of an IF project
  - Up to £2m over 4 years
- **PA submissions must be a high strategic priority, with strong evidence for the timeliness of submissions**



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# Very brief PPAN Programme Update





# Particle Physics Programme

## Consolidated grant (CG)

- Particle Physics Experiment 2024 CG round has started – submitted in February and now in peer review.
  - Change from a three-year to a four-year grant cycle: next period October 2025 to September 2029
  - This round included proposals to support the coordination of large-scale R&D activities.
- Particle Physics Grants Panel chaired by Professor Mitesh Patel, Imperial College London.
- CG outcome due to be announced in November 2024

# Particle Physics Programme

## Consolidated grant funding basis

- In our SDP we implemented an uplift in CG funding by ~20% (for FY23/24 and FY24/25) relative to FY22/23, i.e. **roughly 10% per annum**
  - This commitment addressed the historically too low level of PRDA exploitation effort relative to large capital investments through international subscriptions
- Aim for further substantial annual increases in CG funding for another 3+ years
  - Likely rate of increase: somewhat less than 10% p.a. due to financial constraints
- But. The cost of research is increasing and there are wider challenges
  - Inflation for both materials and staff costs remains high
  - Expectations from European Detector and Accelerator R&D roadmaps
  - Projects are under greater financial scrutiny – emphasise the key role of project managers across STFC including the RAL PPD Project Office.

# Particle Physics Programme

## Highlights

- **ATLAS Phase II upgrade construction** – ongoing and next stage of funding expected to go through peer review in 2025
- **CMS Phase II Upgrade construction** – peer review April 2024
- **LHCb Upgrade 2** - £49.5M IF over 10 years covering pre-construction to 2026, then construction
- **Hyper-Kamiokande** – £15.5M UKRI IF supported construction
- **DUNE** – Separated into three projects DUNE APA, DUNE RS&DC and DUNE DAQ from 2024 onwards. APA and RS&DC have completed peer review, DAQ going through peer review April 2024.
- **GridPP7** – funded for four years from April with a focus on achieving further efficiencies and improving environmental sustainability

# European Strategy for Particle Physics

## CERN Council has approved the timetable for the next European Strategy for Particle Physics Update

Summary of key dates	
June 2024 CERN Council	Council appoints the Strategy Secretary and establishment of the Strategy Secretariat Council establishment of the ESG Call for venues for the Open Symposium and the Strategy Drafting Session
31 March 2025	Deadline for submission of input from the community
July 2025	Open Symposium
Early December 2025	Strategy Drafting Session
March-June 2026 CERN Council	Discussion of the Draft Strategy Document by the Council followed by the updating of the Strategy by the Council.

Will link with the community engagement to develop the PPAN Roadmap



FCC Feasibility Study due to be available by the Drafting Session



# UK Representation on the ESPPU group

## Previous ESPPU exercise

- UK has two representatives on the ESPPU drafting group:
  - Mark Thomson (STFC) – UK CERN Council delegate and funding agency
  - Jon Butterworth (UCL) – UK scientific advisor to CERN Council

## We are now looking to establish the new UK representation

- We are now inviting expressions of interest for the UK scientific delegate to CERN Council supporting the STFC Executive Chair and DSIT, and who will also be the UK representative for the EPPSU
- The decision is taken by the UK CERN Council delegates (from STFC and DSIT) on advice from UKCC (United Kingdom at CERN Committee)
- If interested, please send an email to [jess.atkinson@stfc.ukri.org](mailto:jess.atkinson@stfc.ukri.org) by the end of April with few lines on your interests and suitability

# Computing

## Highlights

- **DiRAC** - High Performance Computing - distributed computing, national, supporting the STFC theory community. Operations funding April 2023 – March 2026.
- **DiRAC Resource Allocation Committee** – peer review of RAC16 proposals complete, computing allocations to start April 2024. RAC17 will open in due course.
- **IRIS** – delivering distributed computing, supporting STFC science.
- **STFC Exascale requirements** – the STFC Exascale Working Group has been working with the community to gather STFC's requirements for an Exascale ecosystem. Any comments welcome: [STFC Exascale WG@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:STFC_Exascale_WG@leicester.ac.uk)
- **UKRI opportunity** - [Access to High Performance Computing facilities 2024](#) – open and flexible route to computational support. Closing date 23 April 2024.



# Accelerator Programme

## Update

- The breadth and depth of the programme is provided via support for the Cockcroft and John Adams Institutes.
  - both are under peer review during 2024 for funding for the 2025-2028 period.
- Accelerator R&D Consortia Call – one proposal selected for peer review in June:
  - H3+Beams to “Develop scalable high beam quality high-gradient plasma technologies for future high energy physics colliders and light sources”
- Due to the first call concluding later than planned, the next call is currently on hold, with funding likely to start from October 2026 at the earliest.
  - In the interim period, an Sol may be submitted and will be tensioned across the PPAN programme.

# Quantum

## Update on Quantum Technologies for Fundamental Physics (QTFP)

- Applies the latest advances in quantum science and technology to explore and answer long-standing research questions about the universe and its evolution.
  - £32m for 7 large consortia over 5 years
  - £6.3m for 17 small projects over 2 years
- Key question is exactly what comes next – still uncertain due to the linkage with EPSRC and the National Quantum Technology Programme

## More widely across STFC

- Strengthening links with the US DOE
  - Held a high-level workshop at RAL to discuss UK-US laboratory-laboratory collaboration on quantum and AI/Computing
- An STFC Quantum Strategy is under development

# Nuclear Physics Programme

## A relatively small but strong UK community

- Total STFC NP core programme funding in 2023/24 - £7.5M
- ~70 academics in 11 groups
- STFC funds exploitation (consolidated) grants:
  - £6-7M per year from 23/24 onwards
  - Uplifting in line with PP and AP

## Recently announced UK Electron Ion Collider Funding will be a significant ramp up

- This is an interesting project that sits at the boundary between NP and PP



# Nuclear Physics programme

## Current Projects

- **AGATA** - £4.95m (Oct 19 – Sep 24)
- **Electron Ion Collider R&D** – £2.8m (Oct 21 – Sep 25)
  - Future detector development at the EIC in the US
- **FAIR R3B TRT Silicon Tracker** – £3.3m (Aug 23 – Jul 25)
  - Detector modules for R3B experimental set up at GSI/FAIR in Germany
- **FAUST** – £3.2m (Jan 24 – Dec 27)
  - Exploiting the full range, intensity and energy of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB), at Michigan State University, USA
- **RIBF** – £2.5M (Jan 24 – Dec 27)
  - Construction of a novel (position-sensitive)  $\gamma$ -ray spectrometer to be used at the Radioactive Isotope Beam Factory (RIBF) at RIKEN Nishina Centre, Japan

# Particle Astrophysics Programme

## Projects and calls

- Gravitational Waves Consolidated Grants 2024
  - Exploitation, R&D and operations for activities within LIGO programme
  - Open 2nd April 2024 – 6th August 2024 with awards starting October 2025
- Future Underground Dark Matter Searches
  - Dark Matter Science Experiments at Boulby.
  - Closing May 2024, invitation only based on prior Expression of Interest
- Current Projects:
  - £8m from UKRI Infrastructure Fund - Next Gen GW detectors.
  - Two dark matter R&D projects: Xenon Futures and Silicon Detector Development for the Low Background Frontier



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# Outlook



# Outlook

## Overall, the STFC is in decent position

- As always, there are many highlights
  - I was delighted that we secured approval of EIC funding
  - More generally, we are on track to deliver our Strategic Delivery Plan objectives

## But there are mounting challenges

- Financial pressures are beginning to bite
  - Inflation, including pay and overheads, has reduced our financial flexibility

## Next year will be interesting...

- There will be an election and the outcome will impact UK science policy
- There will be a spending review – but this could be a one-year rollover

**I believe STFC is in a strong place going into this time of uncertainty/change**





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# Questions?