Innovation Advisory Board (IAB)
21 September 2016

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting

Medical Research Council, Kemble Street, London

Present:

Richard Worswick – Chair
Debbie.Buckley-Golder - Innovate UK
Phil Kaziewicz – GI Partners
Frank Salzgeber – European Space Agency
Jennifer Thompson – Durham Innovations Services, Durham University

Apologies:
Paul Beasley – Siemens plc
Tim Bestwick – Executive Director, Business and Innovations Directorate
Massimo Noro – Unilever

STFC:
Philip Amison - Head of Corporate Strategy
Malcolm Booy – Strategy Manager, Secretary to the IAB
Sharon Cosgrove - Executive Director; Strategy, Planning and Communications
Kate Ronayne - Head of Innovations
Janet Seed – Associate Director; Strategy, Planning and Communications
Michaela Simpson - Strategy Manager
Ling Xu - External Innovations Programme Manager
Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Paul Beasley (Siemens), Massimo Noro (Unilever) and Tim Bestwick (STFC). Kate Ronayne attended the meeting in place of Tim Bestwick.

2. The Board were informed that Heather Dunlop-Jones had retired from IBM and had stood down from the Board. A recruitment process is underway to fill this vacancy.

Item 2 - Minutes and Actions 2 March 2016 (IAB.16.02.02)

3. The Board approved the Minutes from the March meeting without amendment.

4. All of the actions were agreed as completed, superseded by events or addressed later in the meeting.

Item 3 - Corporate Strategy Refresh (paper IAB.16.02.03)

SOME REFERENCES IN THIS SECTION HAVE BEEN REDACTED AS OFFICIAL

5. Philip Amison provided an update on the STFC corporate strategy refresh. The published document will be a communication tool for the wider community which also intends to engage and obtain buy-in from STFC staff. The document had been redrafted since the previous meeting of the Board.

Item 4 - CERN Business Incubator

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6. Kate Ronayne gave a presentation to outline the current status of work regarding the STFC CERN Business Incubator Centre. A small amount of funding was available for companies to obtain use of CERN intellectual property at favourable conditions and access up to 80 hours of CERN and STFC technical expertise. It was noted that the centre provided useful access to collaboration and networking opportunities that could prove of significant value to the UK.

7. The Board was informed that the intention is to ramp up the number of companies that utilise the scheme. It was noted that CERN is currently content with how the scheme is operating and promoting the use of CERN technology.

8. It was noted that the UK currently has a low industrial return from CERN and that whilst the situation has improved in recent years, there was still a need to further integrate UK businesses with CERN to generate further revenue.
Item 5 - BID list of upcoming interesting Innovation possibilities

9. Kate Ronayne gave a presentation to outline the current status of this work. Possible future inventions and patent opportunities were outlined and the Board were informed of the ongoing effort to foster collaboration and innovation with new and established partners.

10. The proof of concept fund, which currently allocates £1.3M a year, is used to identify suitable projects, with a healthy number of potential projects in the pipeline. It was felt that a major selling point to new projects was guidance from people on other projects which have previously gone through the system and can outline the potential benefits that can be obtained.

Item 6 - Innovation Schemes Review (paper IAB.16.02.04)

11. Malcolm Booy updated the Board on the progress of implementing the recommendations made from the recently completed review of the various Innovation schemes currently being run by STFC.

12. The Board were informed that the IPS and Mini-IPS schemes had been successfully merged. It was also noted that the relevant scheme Information for the community had been brought together in one place on the website, rather than being structured by STFC department: The current interactive diagram, has been added, along with amended text to http://www.stfc.ac.uk/innovation/ways-to-work-with-us/, which will simplify the information available to potential applicants. Links have been added to the separate sections of the diagram to help enable potential applicants to navigate easily around the site to gain an understanding of the various funding opportunities.

13. The Board were informed that the recommendation to merge the CLASP and Global Challenges programmes had been superseded by events. A new STFC programme, 21st Century Challenges (21CC) had been agreed that will encompass the STFC Global Challenges programme in addition to certain activities under the Newton Fund and the recently announced Global Challenges Research Fund.

14. To help speed up the call cycle for the key challenge areas, the current CLASP call had combined applications for both Energy and environment. It was noted that opening up the calls completely (to potentially include areas such as robotics) would not be feasible if the schemes continued to be user led, requiring some limit to be put on the scope to focus effort. It was suggested that STFC could consider looking at a model used by InnovateUK which alternates between open and themed calls.

15. The review recommended that STFC should identify Universities that actively participate in CASE and KTP in other science areas to try to understand why the demand in STFC research areas was low. The Board were informed that
since the last meeting, Stephen Loader from the STFC Innovations group had
held informal meetings with the regional KTP advisors and raised awareness
of the STFC scientific capabilities in their areas. It was also noted that an
STFC representative will attend a future KTP advisors meeting to continue to
foster relationships and raise awareness of potential areas of collaboration. It
was agreed that the target audience need to be provided with good examples
to illustrate what they can obtain from STFC research.

Item 7 - Formation of UKRI & BEIS (paper IAB.16.02.05)

16. Janet Seed updated the Board on the current status of the integration of
Innovate UK into UKRI. The Board were informed that the advert was now out
to recruit the UKRI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and that once this position
is filled, BEIS will recruit the UKRI Board.

17. The discussion addressed the issues of how accountable the new
organisation will be and the range of power that will be given to the CEO. The
Board focused on opportunities for STFC & InnovateUK to work more closely
within UKRI. It would be important for STFC and IUK to have active input into
the operational model of UKRI.

Item 8 - STFC Innovation Activities Status Report (IAB.16.01.06)

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18. Kate Ronayne provided the Board with an update on the status of STFC
innovation activities.

19. It was noted that the recent Daresbury Open Week (5-9th July) had been
viewed as a success. BID led the organisation and delivery of the Corporate
Day. This was attended by 139 external delegates (figure includes 14
speakers and 31 attendees from our corporate supporters). The members of
the Board who had attended the event expressed the view that the experience
had been extremely positive.

20. It was noted that STFC would soon publish the 2016 impact report. It was
agreed that the STFC reports are seen as credible as they don’t over
attribute, however they strongly demonstrate high levels of achievement
through hard data.

Item 8 - AOB

21. The Chair thanked the members of the Board who had provided input to
responses to respective government reviews are looking at Managing
intellectual property and technology transfer and Industrial strategy. The Chair informed the Board that he would submit the responses independently.