

## STFC Technology Strategy

The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) is one of seven UK research councils. STFC was created in 2007 as an inherently cross-disciplinary organisation with a uniquely broad remit. We engage with research, business and innovation and our mission is delivered through three distinct but interrelated functions:

- We support research, innovation and skills in particle physics, astronomy, nuclear physics and space science through UK universities and participation in major international collaborations
- We design, build, operate and exploit world-leading, large scale facilities in the UK for the physical and life sciences, we enable access to international facilities and we support innovation in these areas
- We are developing the UK's Science and Innovation Campuses to promote academic and industry collaboration

We are tasked not only with the core goal of delivering world leading scientific research, and the technology to achieve it, but also to mine the boundaries between these sectors and other research fields to generate new applications and greater impact for the UK.

The Corporate Strategy set out a framework for the next 10 years toward achievement of our Vision –'to maximise the impact of our science and technology for the benefit of the UK and its people'.

In recognition of the importance of technology development in delivering our strategic goals of world class research, innovation and skills, we have developed our technology strategy.

Technology underpins our strategic goals and is core to a successful delivery of our mission. Our technology strategy sets out our ambitious aims for technology development in the long term. Whilst specific deliverables may change over time, this framework provides our technology programme with long term vision and focus to help us achieve greater impact for both STFC science and the UK.

*STFC's technology strategy describes how STFC will focus its investment in technology research and development and maximise the scientific and economic impact of this investment. It underpins STFC's three strategic goals.*

## **Ambition**

To drive important technological developments to advance our science and facilities and support the UK in being at the forefront of the high technology economy

## **Technology Strategic goals**

STFC's technology strategy is based around three strategic goals that encapsulate the underlying philosophy for this strategy:

- a. STFC will develop technology first and foremost to underpin STFC's science and facilities;
- b. STFC will strategically manage a technology programme encompassing blue-skies R&D to working systems;
- c. STFC will support exploitation technology developed for STFC's science and facilities for other applications and through industry.

## **Objectives**

In driving technological developments, we will:

- i. Push the boundaries of technology development in order to develop STFC science and facilities
- ii. Have a strategic overview of the technology programme needed to underpin the operation of STFC's world leading science and facilities
- iii. Focus STFC technology expertise in the most appropriate manner to maintain the most efficient and effective technical capability
- iv. Ensure the UK has a critical mass of technology expertise in key areas covered by our remit through for example the development of strategic partnerships
- v. Maximise the exploitation of technology developed for STFC science and facilities

## **Technology Decision Criteria**

We will give priority to new and existing R&D projects, programmes and activities that position the UK for future leadership in areas of science and facility development that are of the highest priority. These activities ideally should also:

- Give the UK researchers and / or industry a unique capability
- Be novel and cannot be procured cost effectively on the open market
- Be complementary to those which already exist within the UK
- Give STFC the potential to deliver high economic or societal impact

## **Measure of Success**

Underpin STFC's strategic goals, measured by a regular review of performance in meeting these goals