Nominations are sought for two individuals to join the IPS Panel in September 2010. Panel members are drawn from the industrial community and the academic community with the latter representing the remit of the STFC science programme.

On this occasion we are looking for two from the academic community. Panel members are normally appointed for a period of three years.

Please submit nominations to Andi Kidd (Andi.kidd@stfc.ac.uk) by close of business Wednesday 31 March 2010.

Remit of the IPS Assessment Panel
The IPS Assessment Panel is a peer review body set up to make recommendations on grant applications received against IPS and the Follow on Funding scheme (FoF) whose objective is to further the exploitation and application of technologies developed through the Council’s science programme. It will undertake this task having regard to the overall strategy and policy of Council and the Science Committee, and to the broad financial situation as advised by the executive.
Terms of Reference:

- with reference to the assessment criteria, review and make recommendations to the Council executive on all grant applications to IPS and FoF;
- to provide referees comments on completed IPS and FoF;
- if required, to comment on and/or make recommendations regarding any other business or partnership applications;
- to liaise with other bodies as necessary;

Please note that the duties of Panel members are expected to include:

- review proposals (plus any supporting documentation such as referee reports, letters of support etc) received for each IPS closing date prior to each peer review meeting (normally four quarterly closing dates per year). This may typically take one to two days, dependant on the number of proposals received;
- attend the peer review IPS Panel Assessment meetings (normally four per year – usually one-day meetings although sometimes two-day, depending on the number of proposals received for each closing date;
- review and agree the minutes after each IPS meeting as a correct record;
- review Mini IPS proposals throughout the year, which can come in at any time, nominate a referee and complete a score sheet with comments for the PI;

Nomination Process

Candidates may be nominated by Heads of Departments, by a colleague or by self-nomination. Please note that although not exclusively, STFC are looking for strength in the data handling and control – Image/signal analysis, pattern recognition area to complement the existing expertise within the Panel.

Information about nominees for the IPS Panel (not more than the equivalent of one side of A4) should include the following information:

- the nominee’s scientific areas of research and interests;
- the nominees qualities, including academic/industrial background knowledge of the committees subject area;
- nominee’s experience of serving on STFC (formerly PPARC) and non-STFC committees;
- any possible conflicts of interest;
- justification as to nominee’s suitability to sit on the suggested committee.

Please also give contact details for the nominee, together with information on their current position and an indication of their status/seniority.

For more information on the approach that STFC takes to appointing Panel and Committee members, please visit http://www.scitech.ac.uk/SciProg/Plan/Plandocs/NomsProcessWeb3htm.aspx

Information on STFC’s honorarium and travel cost policy can be seen at http://www.stfc.ac.uk/About/Struc/Council/honallowances.aspx

Please submit nominations to Andi Kidd (andi.kidd@stfc.ac.uk) by close of business Wednesday 31st March 2010.
Reminder for
*RSE/STFC Enterprise Fellowships 2010

STFC are announcing a call for the RSE/STFC Enterprise Fellowships Scheme with a closing date of 4th May 2010 with a starting date of October 2010.

This scheme is funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) as part of the Council’s Industry Programme and delivered by the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

Enterprise Fellowships are designed to encourage exploitation of the STFC research programme. Applications may be submitted on any subject provided that the original research or technological developments have their origin as part of a programme largely funded by STFC (formerly PPARC and CCLRC), or in the case of nuclear physics programme previously funded by EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council).

Fellowships provide:
- one year’s salary costs and some additional support funding, and can be held at any UK Higher Education Institution or Institution that agrees to host the work.
- the Fellowships provide a unique opportunity for researchers to spend a year gaining business training whilst developing the commercialisation of their existing research. The training provided aims to support fellows through an active process of business planning and implementation.
- access to mentors and business experts.

Please contact afraser@royalsoced.org.uk for further details on the scheme and Sue.fuller@stfc.ac.uk on questions of eligibility.

*The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland’s National Academy, is Scottish Charity No. SC000470
Josh Thompson will work with Magna Parva for an initial three years while working towards his BTEC HNC qualifications. He will also receive training at the National Space Centre (NSC) on space exploration and communications skills.

The scheme, managed in collaboration with the NSC, offers professional apprenticeships to young people between 16 and 18 who have at least six good GCSEs and an interest in space.

Magna Parva’s first apprenticeship appointment has come just as the Government’s Space Innovation and Growth Team (IGT) has published its report into the future of the UK space industry. The report, which has been widely welcomed, recommended that the number of space apprenticeships in the UK be doubled.

Josh has a challenging but interesting time ahead as he will be working on projects such as MIXS Optics designed for use in Mercury missions, the Life Marker Chip for Martian exploration and so on. General day-to-day work could involve testing hardware, recording test results, assembling manufactured equipment for testing and taking responsibility for hardware quality assurance.

Andrew Bowyer, Director at Magna Parva, was selected as a member of the Innovation and Growth Team, participating in the Science sub-group. Mr Bowyer said: We hear much about the importance of leading edge engineering to the UK economy, yet much undiscovered talent lies unused, especially among young people who have chosen not to follow an academic route.

Dr Sarah Hill, Space Academy Project Manager at the NSC agrees: We are delighted to see Magna Parva taking a fresh approach with this scheme. We are sure Josh Thompson will benefit from his time at Magna Parva and make a valuable contribution to the work of the high quality team there.

Magna Parva was recently shortlisted for a Lord Stafford Award for Innovation in Development, recognizing the collaborative approach that has delivered a string of innovations in engineering for hostile environments.

Company contact:
Andrew Bowyer
DirectorTel: +44 (0)1530 811305
andrew.bowyer@magnaparva.com

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About Magna Parva Ltd
Magna Parva is a fast growing, international provider of engineering services, hardware and innovative product solutions. It specializes in engineering for extreme environments such as space, defence and aerospace. The engineering know-how of Magna Parva covers innovative concept generation, detailed design, development, testing, integration and qualification of hardware during the entire project lifecycle.

Strict project management procedures and quality accreditations have allowed Magna Parva to gain the confidence of national and international agencies. It enjoys close relationships with a number of research organisations, and its customers include Rexam, the European Space Agency and Rutherford Appleton Laboratories.

Magna Parva’s head office, design, analysis and laboratory facilities are in Loughborough UK, with a sister facility in Milton Keynes enabling manufacturing and large-scale assembly.

www.magnaparva.com

About The National Space Centre
The National Space Centre has pioneered the use of space in science education since opening in 2001 with over 50,000 school children and 2,000 teachers annually undertaking short education visits to the Centre. The Space Academy will build on these existing programmes by providing progressive, sustained curriculum support for 14-19 year olds and their teachers whilst sharing with them the excitement and discoveries of space scientists from our region’s world leading space universities.

According to trade body ADS, the value of the space global market is estimated to be c.£200 billion) by 2015.

On the 28th January the Innovations Club hosted the biennial Healthcare Technology Forum. The forum promotes the interaction between STFC funded research and the healthcare community and this year focussed on Radiotherapy, particularly at the user interface employing techniques in imaging and dosimetry.

Hosted within the hub of University Hospitals Birmingham, run by NHS Foundation Trust, the event attracted over 80 delegates from a mixture of industry, academia, charities, and government organisations. This venue provided an opportunity for local medical professionals and clinicians to attend, in an effort to interact with radiation oncologists from an academic background.

The day was divided into three sessions, each within a theme. The first session chaired by Major Chahal (Innovations Directorate, STFC) provided an overview of radiotherapy from a clinicians’ perspective. In this session Dr Paul Sanghera from the local Oncology department spoke broadly about the application of radiotherapy based on his specialist interests in central nervous system tumours and other malignancies arising within the head and neck. He clearly delineated the effects of radiation on the brain and the interpretation of imaging following chemotherapy, as an introduction to the theme of the day.

Session II (a) was chaired by Professor Alan Perkins (University of Nottingham) and touched on the current research in imaging and dosimetry across academia and industry. Although radiotherapy has been used in cancer treatment for nearly a century, progress requires uncertainties in beam delivery to be improved. Such uncertainties have reduced the efficacy of the well established treatment. Professor Bleddyn Jones (Radiation Oncology, University of Oxford) and Dr Glen Flux (Royal Marsden) delivered an informative account of particle therapy research, where currently quality assurance of beam characteristics is the key factor in treatment planning. Ongoing developments in industry were represented by GE Healthcare and Siemens, providing an industrial view to this research activity and highlighted current shortfalls in many cancer treatments in the UK.

The networking opportunity over lunch facilitated a fruitful interaction between delegates and speakers from all corners of industry, academic and clinical sectors. Promptly, session II (b) continued after lunch, chaired by Dr Barbara Camanzi (RAL) and disseminated the future directions in this field from ICR (Institute of Cancer Research) and Medical Physics department at University Hospitals Birmingham (Dr Stuart Green). The next step was competently presented, and promoted the use of biological information to change treatment strategy, which requires fast measurements of a biological response to the treatment.

Session III concluded the day’s event by showcasing three types of STFC knowledge exchange funded projects bridging research expertise between physics and biotechnology. The talks which will shortly be available on our web page, demonstrated the use of knowledge exchange funding and the far reaching transfer of fundamental physics research in biological imaging.
AURIL engaging staff in Knowledge Exchange

AURIL is looking to run a best practice event around enthusing and engaging academic and non-academic staff in knowledge transfer/knowledge exchange.

We are looking for around 10 institutions (HEIs, PSRPs, NHS Innovation Hubs) to make fifteen minute presentations and be part of a panel discussion. The event will be split into three of four sub-themes driven by the methods and approaches you have used to enthuse and engage colleagues, stakeholders, funders etc.; e.g. off site courses, in house courses, sabbaticals, internships, shadowing, embedding externals in the department, entrepreneurs in residence, KT seminars, competitions, titles eg Professor of Academic Entrepreneurship

We hope to run the event in May or June at Woburn House, Tavistock Square, Bloomsbury, London.

If you would like to take this opportunity to showcase your institution and your KT Office please respond with a brief description max of 50 words.

Please contact:

Linda Baines
Treasurer and Chair AURIL CPD Steering Group
c/o Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Harwell Science and Innovation Campus
Didcot
OX11 0QX

Tel: +44 (0) 1235 445467
Mobile: +44 (0) 7770 652509
Linda.Baines@stfc.ac.uk
Website: http://www.auril.org.uk
UK-Russia Collaboration: PARTNER DISCUSSIONS

Unique opportunity to meet Rusnano – the Russian state corporation responsible for commercialising innovation in Russia.

Rusnano was established in 2007 with the aim of developing Russia’s nanotech industries. In practice, Rusnano’s remit is much wider, as the Russian Government expect Rusnano to deliver a large part of their knowledge-based, hi-tech agenda to transform the economy. Rusnano are currently identifying opportunities for foreign technology companies to work with, using a business model which evolves around public–private partnerships and government support to cutting-edge research and innovations in business.

This is a key time to engage with Rusnano.

They are currently undertaking a road mapping exercise to guide their investment programme of $8.55 billion. Collaboration with foreign countries is key to their strategy and they are very keen to engage with the UK hi-tech sector. In addition, Rusnano do not have research facilities but will fund applied research with foreign partners, often as part of public private partnership funding – another key area of commercial opportunity for UK firms and institutions.

Two seminars have been arranged to facilitate UK engagement with Rusnano.

London
Thursday 25th March
The Royal Society

The aim of this day is to bring together a group of the UKs leading manufacturers who have an interest in partnering opportunities within Russia. We are keen to engage senior staff at this event i.e. Industry Policy Makers, Chief Technology Officers and Research Directors.

Cambridge
Friday 26th March
Møller Centre

This seminar is aimed at research institutions, start-up and spin out companies. There is the opportunity for companies attending to bid for a presentation slot, as well as ample 1:1 partnering opportunities throughout the day.

Both days will aim to continue and deepen UK engagement with Rusnano, showcase UK excellence in research and development and innovation, and explain Rusnano’s business models. The days are structured to allow unique Business-to-Business access to Rusnano’s senior leadership, and, in particular, their influential CEO - Anatoly Chubais.

Interested?

If you are interested in attending the events, please click below to email Craig Jones detailing which day(s) you would like to attend.

You will then be sent further details regarding the event and a full registration form.

Email Craig Jones to register your interest in these events.
HiPerNano 2010
at Cranfield on 28th April

This unique event will focus on the engineering challenges facing automotive and aerospace manufacturing and present new developments in materials and coatings.

There will also be opportunities for exhibiting, presenting a poster, and networking with a highly targeted audience.

Details are attached and can also be found at: http://mnt.globalwatchonline.com/epicentric_portal/site/MNT/hipernano_2010/

Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation (CEOI)
2010 Annual Conference

The 2010 CEOI Annual Conference will be held on 22 and 23 April 2010 in Warwick.

The theme this year will be ‘Technologies for Future EO Missions’. It will cover some of the ideas being prepared for the current ESA Earth Explorer call, look at emerging technologies of relevance to EO and review the current activities and future plans of the CEOI. Further details and an agenda will be issued later this month.

Please register your interest in the Conference with Lesha Carratt at lesha.carratt@astrium.eads.net
http://www.ceoi.ac.uk/
The Gannochy Trust and The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) are calling for entries to their 2010 Innovation Award, which carries one cash prize of £50,000 and a specially commissioned gold medal. The closing date for entries is 14th May 2010.

Targeted at the next generation of Scottish innovators, any individual aged 45 and under, working in Scotland is eligible to enter provided they have an innovation which has reached or passed “Proof of concept” stage and will make an important contribution to Scotland’s well being.

John Swinney MSP, Scotland’s Minister for Finance and Sustainable Growth says: “Scotland has a long and proud record of innovation. The Gannochy Trust Innovation Award will help ensure that a new generation of Scots innovators will maintain that tradition. The Scottish Government’s economic strategy highlights the crucial importance of innovation to improving productivity and increasing sustainable economic growth and we welcome the excellent work by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Gannochy Trust in spreading that message.”

The award has helped past winners to raise the profile of their companies and their unusual innovations, both in Scotland and overseas and the cash prize has proved invaluable since it can be multiplied with matching private and public sector funding.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, is Scotland’s “National Academy of Science and Letters. It was founded in 1783 by Royal Charter for the “Advancement of Learning and Useful Knowledge”. It has 1500 Fellows whose expertise encompasses the full spectrum of sciences, medicine, engineering and technology, education, law, the arts, humanities, social sciences, business, industry, the professions and public service. This multi-disciplinary perspective makes the RSE unique amongst the UK’s learned societies. The Gannochy Trust is a grant-making trust founded in 1937 by Arthur Kinmond Bell, whisky distiller and philanthropist.
“Scotland is famous the world over for its talent. Scottish inventors have created penicillin, lime cordial, the telephone, the television, and pneumatic tyres to list a few. That contribution to Scotland’s economy and well being is enormous. The Gannochy Trust Innovation Award of The Royal Society of Edinburgh seeks to encourage younger people to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology and research which promote Scotland’s inventiveness internationally. It also recognises outstanding individual achievement which contributes to the common good of Scotland,” says RSE President Lord Wilson of Tillyorn.

Past winners of this prestigious award are Dr Andrew Mearns Spragg and Dr Colin Urquhart. Dr Spragg of Aquapharm Bio Discovery in Oban, developed new technology making compounds from a new species of marine micro-organism which have the potential to make an important contribution to the fight against hospital acquired infections such as MRSA. Dr Colin Urquhart’s breakthrough technology is the first commercial application in the world that uses passive stereo photogrammetry to instantaneously capture accurate, high resolution 3D surface images. These are now being used worldwide in the field of facial surgery to capture photo-realistic 3D models of patients before and after facial surgery.

It’s easy to enter – a nomination form must be completed in full, with an additional two A4 single-sided pages attached. The names of two referees must be provided, and a one-page CV must be included with the nomination papers. The individuals nominated must be based in Scotland, or have other substantial connections with Scotland, be able to demonstrate outstanding innovation and achievement, and the potential for social and economic benefit and must be aged 45 and under at January 1st 2010. The closing date for entries is 14th May 2010.

Application forms are available from The Royal Society of Edinburgh E: gannochyaward@royalsoced.org.uk tel 0131 240 5013

This information and further details from: Carol Anderson The Business tel 0131 718 6022 carola@thebusinesspr.co.uk

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland’s National Academy, is Scottish Charity No. SC000470