When Mars quakes - a UK-built instrument will listen

On 26 November NASA’s Mars Insight lander successfully touched down on the surface of Mars in a mission to study the heart of the Red Planet, and be the first to measure ‘Marsquakes’. One of its key instruments has been built in the UK with the assistance of STFC RAL Space. Read more here.

One of the world’s brightest lights celebrates 30th birthday

One of the UK’s key international research facilities, the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF),

How space tech is improving future food security

A mobile phone app to diagnose wheat disease, a robot to harvest tomatoes and drones to assess the health of
recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. STFC manages the UK subscription to the facility as one of its 22 partner countries, so hundreds of users from the UK can make use of the world’s most intense X-ray source. Read more here.

Potato crops are just some of the technologies being developed by the Agri-Tech in China Newton Network. Read more here.

Putting the hard graft into bone implants

Did you know that surgeons sometimes use bone grafts from cadavers and even pigs and cows? ISIS Neutron and Muon Source is helping scientists develop techniques to remove as much of the previous owner’s organic material as possible to make them safer. Read more here.

Doing business @ CERN

24 UK companies were at CERN recently with STFC and the Department of International Trade hoping to win contracts to supply goods and services to the world’s largest lab. Read more here.

Algae investigation marks completion of Diamond phase 3

First users from the University of Southampton investigated proteins involved in nutrient uptake of how specific microscopic marine algae thrive under scarce nutrient conditions. The work has immense global significance for biofuels production and biotechnology. This beamline marks the completion of Diamond’s original Phase III funding on time and within budget. Read more here.

UK becomes shareholder in world’s largest X-ray laser

The UK has officially become a shareholder of European XFEL GmbH, the company that builds and runs the world’s largest X-ray laser, based near Hamburg. The facility offers UK researchers access to the most advanced crystallography technology in the world, allowing them to use a cutting-edge technique that can determine the three-dimensional shape of biological molecules at high resolution and incredible speeds. Read more here.
Harwell campus SME featured on Tomorrow’s World Live

Harwell Campus SME OxSyBio, that is working on the 3D printing of artificial cells to help develop new therapies that could be personalised for patients, was featured on the one-off BBC Tomorrow’s World special broadcast in November. Read more here.

Keeping an ion future particle accelerators

At our Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, a team have built a ‘particle accelerator simulator’ that, instead of high-energy particles, uses argon ions, and, instead of being many miles in length, fits on a desktop. The device will help scientists to design future generations of particle accelerators. Read more here.

We’ve been celebrating our fabulous apprentices over on our social media channels...

We celebrated the hard work and success of our Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Apprentices at our Apprentice Awards Evening 2018. Congratulations to all winners!

Take a look at some of the exciting research, engineering and computing projects that our apprentices are involved with. Read more here.

This week, we were proud to celebrate the graduation of our class of 2014 apprentices.

Our apprenticeship programme represents the world-class skills present within the organisation; it is going from strength-to-strength and this is reflected in the aspirations of the young people joining us and their incredible achievements. Read more here.