

PHYSICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING ADVISORY PANEL

The Physical Sciences and Engineering Advisory Panel (PS&E AP) held their 6th meeting on 06 Feb 18.

The following items were discussed:

- The forthcoming establishment of UKRI and what that will mean for STFC.
- Implications of BREXIT on e.g. ERICs that the UK is a member of.
- The establishment of a UKRI Research Infrastructures Roadmap and the requirement of input from the PS&E AP to that Roadmap in the coming year.
- John Collier (CLF) provided an update on progress with the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) project. This was followed by a discussion on the proposed user consultation for ELI that will likely be organised during 2018.

The PS&E AP were:

- interested in ELI and the science that it would enable;
- noted that there was a current lack of awareness in the community about ELI outside of the (very strong) existing user community focused around plasma physics and fundamental physics;
- there were many other areas that ELI could be applied to which should also evolve into industrial applications;
- recommended that working in conjunction with the CLF there should be a way to create new user communities via a range of methods such as fellowships based at the CLF, through to a hub linking funding decisions with operational support in the UK;
- noted that funding of ELI should not be at the expense of the CLF or other national facilities.
- STFC provided updates on the following areas of activity:
 - Balance of Programmes Exercise – skills
 - Neutron Strategic Review 2016/17
 - The Panel noted that apprentices and students were critical for the future operation of the facilities.
 - Detectors and Instrumentation Strategic Review 2016/17
 - Accelerator Strategy
- The Panel agreed that there was no requirement for a community consultation exercise during 2018 outside of the proposed ELI consultation.

The next meeting will be held in Jan 19; exact date to be arranged in autumn 18.