Summary of the Information and Communication Technologies Theme Strategic Advisory Team (ICT SAT) Meeting
Monday 8th & Thursday 11th March 2021

Attendees:

ICT SAT
Professor Tony Kenyon (CHAIR) University College London
Professor Prudence Wong University of Liverpool
Professor Harald Haas University of Strathclyde
Professor Gerard Parr MBE University of East Anglia
Professor Geoff Merrett University of Southampton
Professor Michael Fisher University of Manchester
Dr Vivien Kendon Durham University
Professor John Collomosse University of Surrey
Professor Alan Winfield University of the West of England
Professor Yvonne Rogers University College London
Professor Weiru Liu University of Bristol
Professor Chris Johnson Queen's University Belfast
Professor Susan Stepney University of York
Professor Dimitra Simeonidou University of Bristol
Professor David Ritchie University of Cambridge
Dr Nick Polydorides University of Edinburgh
Professor Roger Woods Queen's University Belfast
Dr Andrea Kells (First Meeting) ARM
Professor Mathini Sellathurai (First Meeting) Heriott-Watt University
Mr Paul Caseley (First Meeting) DSTL

EPSRC Staff:
James Dracott Head of Theme
Melanie Buckley Senior ICT Portfolio Manager
Bethany Turner Senior ICT Portfolio Manager
James Coombs O'Brien ICT Portfolio Manager
Joanne Humphries ICT Portfolio Manager
Rhys Perry ICT Portfolio Manager
Robert Deller ICT Portfolio Manager
Jess Phillips ICT Portfolio Manager
Jasmine Harvey ICT Portfolio Manager
Maryam Crabe-Mann ICT Portfolio Manager
Cameron Ross ICT Portfolio Manager
Heather Large ICT Portfolio Support Manager
Nina Cox ICT Portfolio Support Manager
Rhian Jacob-Barclay AI & Robotics Portfolio Manager
1. Agenda

Monday 8th March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Session lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introduction</td>
<td>James Dracott, James Coombs O’Brien, Tony Kenyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Public Engagement Champions</td>
<td>Rhys Perry, Melanie Buckley, Joanne Humphries, impact team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Wrap up session</td>
<td>James Coombs O’Brien</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thursday 11th March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Session lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:10</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>Maryam Crabbe-Mann, Joanne Humphries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:25</td>
<td>Digital for Research</td>
<td>Melanie Buckley, Robert Deller, Rhian Jacob-Barclay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:25</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
<td>James Coombs O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15</td>
<td>Wrap up session</td>
<td>James Coombs O’Brien</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Welcome & Introduction

Tony Kenyon (SAT chair) opened the session and welcomed new members. James Dracott (head of ICT) provided an overview of EPSRC and UKRI updates since the previous meeting. These included Horizon Europe, ODA, EPSRC’s long-term goals and implications of government policy drivers. He also provided a snapshot of the ICT portfolio as it stands.

3. Public Engagement Champions

The ICT SAT were updated on EPSRC’s vision and goals in relation to public engagement and advocacy. This included information on a SAN workstream, the UKRI published vision for public engagement and a summary of past EPSRC activities.

This was followed by a facilitated session covering the challenges and opportunities of public engagement for UK ICT researchers. The SAT discussed the potential benefits of a funded public engagement activity and how this could build on other ongoing activities in the landscape.
The outputs of the session will shape future planning for EPSRC to deliver its strategy to develop a research culture that inspires the public, attracts people to STEM careers and values interaction with the public in all stages of the research process.

4. Communications Research & Advocacy

The ICT SAT were given an update on the existing work of the Communications research community in driving the future strategy of research in this area. The update covered how the opportunity to influence strategy was identified, who has been engaged with, and the potential impact of the work.

A facilitated session followed the update, which encouraged SAT members to consider opportunities to influence strategy and advocate for ICT research within the broader community. The SAT were specifically asked to reflect upon areas where this type of activity is already taking place, other areas of ICT that would benefit from this type of activity, the key stakeholders required to influence broader strategy, and how EPSRC can encourage these types of activities.

Overall, the SAT were able to input and provide feedback on the work of the Communications community in driving the future strategy. The facilitated session also increased EPSRC awareness of ongoing advocacy within the community, opportunities for further advocacy, as well as the potential role of EPSRC.

5. International

The ICT SAT were updated on the details of Horizon Europe and the status of the UK’s involvement. Other International updates included current discussions with the Science & Innovation Network Japan on potential future strategies on AI, Robotics and HCI research.

A facilitated session was held where SAT members were asked to share their understanding and views on the UK’s participation in Horizon Europe, and share any links they have had with researchers based in Japan.

6. Digital for Research

The Digital for Research workstream is looking to identify the role ICT disciplines can play in enabling and improving research outputs across the broader science and research. During the session EPSRC sought guidance from the SAT in order to better understand the benefits, barriers and opportunities for the co-creation of research proposals involving researchers from ICT and non-ICT disciplines and the implementation of new ICT approaches, verification and technologies with other departments and research areas.
7. Open Session/AOB

The ICT team provided quick updates on equipment funding changes, the ongoing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion project (as part of the data exercise) and actions for the team resulting from this project, and introduced the Community Engagement Initiative.