STRATEGIC ADVISORY TEAM

SUMMARY OF MANUFACTURING THE FUTURE MEETING NOTES
AND DISCUSSION ITEMS: 13th October 2020

Zoom

Attendees:

Members:  Mark Price, Queen’s Belfast (Chair)
Laura Baker, Tata Steel
Kate Black, University of Liverpool
Fiona Charnley, University of Exeter
Adam Clare, University of Nottingham
Paul Dalby, University College London
Chris Dungey, TWI
Robert Eason, University of Southampton
Martin Jones, AstraZeneca
Katy Milne, Manufacturing Technology Centre
Linda Newnes, University of Bath
Susan Reiblein, Independent
Ash Tiwari, University of Sheffield
Bob Tooze, Drochaid Research Services Limited
Robert Walker, Nissan
Sophie Walton, CPI
Charlotte Williams, University of Oxford

EPSRC:  Tochukwu Ajare, Manufacturing the Future
Becky Cheesbrough, Manufacturing the Future
Nick Cooper, Circular Economy & Manufacturing the Future
Stephen Gilligan, Manufacturing the Future
Elizabeth Saunders, Manufacturing the Future
Katie Walker, Manufacturing the Future
Stephanie Williams, Manufacturing the Future
Lisa Woolford, Manufacturing the Future

Maisie England, Head of Universities (Place only)
Kathryn Magnay, Deputy Director (Theme Update only)

Apologies:  Lydia Gardner, Head of Manufacturing the Future
Richard Bailey, Manufacturing the Future
Welcome and Introductions
Mark welcomed SAT members and EPSRC staff to the meeting, particularly Elizabeth Saunders who has recently joined the team.

Theme & Corporate Update
In Lydia’s absence, Becky Cheesbrough introduced this item, giving an accompanying presentation. Specific points arising from the slides are below:

- ISCF Manufacturing Made Smarter calls:
  Any specific questions should be directed to Richard.
- New Horizons call:
  Has been deemed successful. It was run as a pilot and part of the agenda for Reforming Our Business, so it will be reviewed to see if it achieved what it set out to do and how it fits with the bigger picture across UKRI.
- Adventurous Manufacturing call:
  Demand for this call was very high with unsuccessful applicants being directed to Standard Mode or to other themes if out of manufacturing remit.
- Future Manufacturing Hubs and their effectiveness:
  An independent review of the Hubs mechanism will be conducted in 20/21, upon which future critical mass funding decisions will be based. The Mid-Term Review process will be revised if required.

A question and answer session then followed regarding fellowships, recruitment to the Early Career Forum and a request for 'good news stories' from its cohorts, and further detail about the Spending Review.

Equipment
A 'round-table' discussion was run to gather input from the SAT on potential actions that the theme/EPSRC could take regarding equipment funding. The outputs from this session were recorded separately on the Zoom whiteboard. The importance of procurement and developing the right equipment were emphasised.

Impact
This session was a series of small group discussions facilitated by the MtF team, for a wide-ranging discussion about potential ways of collecting impact; benefits management. The outputs for this session were again recorded separately. To summarise, the mapping shown was generally appropriate and community engagement would be vital in helping to assess impact by gathering the right information.

Business Engagement
This session saw the SAT divided into two groups to offer their thoughts on the ways in which the theme has and could engage with business. The outputs for this session were recorded separately, with many suggestions put forward about how to engage with industry.

Place
This session was a presentation on the background and update of EPSRC’s Place Strategy.
Future Items
The Chair asked for members to think about what items they would like to be discussed at future meetings.

Close
The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting

Date of next meeting: 15th April 2021