

EPSRC announces opening of call for investment in Centres for Doctoral Training

EPSRC have recently opened a new call for applications to support the next group of Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs). The CDTs will focus on cohort-based doctoral training in areas where both breadth and depth of research training are required to address UK skills needs at doctoral level across the engineering and physical sciences landscape.

EPSRC welcomes applications from eligible institutions that are able to demonstrate the ability to host a CDT by meeting all the criteria detailed in the call; one aspect of which is a critical mass of supervisors (around 20-40) exists across the partnership of the application.

The call will run over two stages. An outline stage assessed by expert panels and a full proposal stage consisting of external peer review and an interview panel.

Some details of successful outline proposals will be published to enable wider engagement with the user community ahead of the full proposal stage.



Funding decisions are expected to be announced in December 2018 so that successful Centres can begin their preparations for student recruitment in 2019.

The call has a dual-stream approach:

- A priority area stream – for excellent proposals delivering against priority areas set out in the call
- An open stream – for excellent proposals in areas outside the identified priorities (but still

predominantly within the EPS remit) which are best delivered through a CDT approach.

Due to the scale of the exercise it is expected that members of the community will be approached to help assess applications and we are grateful for any support you are able to provide.

For further information:
www.epsrc.ac.uk/skills/students/centres/2018-cdt-exercise/



EPSRC, alongside the UK's other Research Councils and Innovate UK, is supporting the Year of Engineering, a year-long government-wide campaign to celebrate UK engineering and inspire a new generation into engineering careers.

Throughout 2018, hundreds of organisations across the UK will

Year of Engineering

showcase the world of engineering and look to inspire the next generation of engineers by bringing young people face-to-face with engineering experiences and role models.

To celebrate the launch on 15 January, we announced funding for 28 new engineering projects (<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/>

dozens-of-projects-announced-as-epsrc-welcomes-year-of-engineering/).

For further information:
<https://www.yearofengineering.gov.uk/>
or follow: @YoEgovuk on Twitter



New Years Honours



Professor Philip Nelson, Chief Executive of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has been

honoured in the New Year's list. Philip is to become a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in recognition of his services to UK Engineering and Science. The New Year's list also featured other scientists and engineers proudly supported by EPSRC.



For more information:

<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/nelsonnewyearhonours/>



Konfer released in Beta

UKRI Chief Executive Designate, Sir Mark Walport officially launched the beta release of Konfer in November 2017. Created by the **National Centre for Universities and Business** (NCUB) with the Research Councils (RCUK) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (England) **Konfer** will make it easier to find collaboration opportunities and partners.

For businesses, charities and individuals Konfer opens the treasury of research, researchers and services in UK universities and research institutions. For academics, it is a way to search for impact and funding partners, or just to share knowledge.

Konfer gives direct access to:

- 119,000+ academics
- 15,000+ facility and equipment listings
- 1.5 million web pages
- 62,000+ YouTube videos from university channels
- 200,000+ news, funding and events opportunities from curated feeds
- 50,000+ publicly funded research projects



For more information:

<http://konfer.online>

UK Advanced Materials Research & Investor Showcase 12-13 March 2018 | London | www.mre2018.co.uk

The 2018 Materials Research Exchange & Investor Showcase (MRE2018), organised by the Knowledge Transfer Network and Innovate UK and supported by EPSRC and Dstl, provides an excellent platform to help develop commercial success of UK-generated materials research and innovation. Taking place on 12 and 13 March, 2018 at the Business Design Centre, London it will provide an ideal opportunity to absorb current trends and take a glimpse of future innovations. The UK is an acknowledged global hub of excellence in materials research and know-how. This event will demonstrate the ground breaking new materials and

processes to industry to accelerate the process of taking these through to commercialisation.

MRE2018 is inviting UK universities, research groups working on Advanced Materials as well as industry research centres and SMEs based in the UK to register to exhibit.

Delegate and exhibitor registration is now open for the event with a FREE early bird offer until **31 January 2018**.



To register please visit:

<http://www.mre2018.co.uk>

Recruitment Campaign for EPSRC Executive Chair launched

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has launched the recruitment campaign for the first Executive Chair of EPSRC.

As part of UK Research and Innovation's Executive Committee, the Executive Chair will have a critical role within UK Research and Innovation

and in championing and increasing the impact of the physical sciences.

EPSRC's Executive Chair may also be responsible for leading and delivering one or more cross cutting areas for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), on behalf of all the councils.

Applications are open until **2 February 2018**.



For more information visit:

<https://www.ukri.org/news/recruitment-campaign-for-epsrc-executive-chair-launched/>

Industrial Strategy White Paper

EPSRC welcomes the Government's commitment to raising investment in R&D to 2.4 percent of GDP by 2027 and to reach 3 percent of GDP in the longer term, while emphasising the need to grow and sustain capability to discover in order to be able to achieve the translation to create the value in the future.

EPSRC's strength in skills and talent has been recognised through successfully securing additional investments through the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF), with 500 new Doctoral places and 80 new Innovation Fellowships.

Recognising the continued importance of EPSRC's Delivery Plan **Prosperity Outcomes** and our interests in the Industrial Strategy, EPSRC is working with UKRI partnering organisations to contribute to the AI sector deal and other related areas. Following investment secured during the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) wave one, which included £42 million in RAI in Extreme Environments and £78 million for the Faraday Battery Challenge, EPSRC will continue to work closely with partners on ISCF wave 2 and future opportunities.

