Message from EPSRC
Chief Executive,
Professor Philip Nelson

Dear Colleague,

EPSRC has launched a call for ‘EPSRC-UKRI Innovation Fellowships’ and I am writing to ask for your help in ensuring robust assessment of these proposals, which present us with some particularly challenging deadlines, especially given the relatively large number of fellowships available. The intention is for outline proposals to be considered by a sift panel. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal which will be assessed by reviewers, followed by an interview panel.

You may find that you’re asked to review one or more of these fellowship applications – particularly if you’re a member of our Peer Review College or Associate College. Reviewers’ input is the single most important element in the Peer Review process, providing advice on the quality of the many research proposals we receive each year. In this light, I’m asking you to complete the fellowship reviews for us, if asked, so that we are able to ensure only the highest quality applications are recommended for funding through these awards.

Of course, we’d encourage you to complete reviews in a timely manner, but if you cannot comment within the indicated timescale, I’d ask you to let us know straight away so we have time to approach an alternative reviewer or perhaps extend the deadline. In addition, please confirm if you do not feel qualified to comment at all. We recognise timescales are tight but we do need to work within them to secure this additional funding and we appreciate your support in helping us to do this.

Further information about the Innovation Fellowships is given in the article on page two and on our website.

Many thanks, in advance, for your help.

Professor Philip Nelson
Prosperity Partnerships

Eleven successful Prosperity Partnership projects were announced by Jo Johnson, Minister for Universities and Science in July. The partnerships will receive £31 million of government funding from EPSRC and the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF). This will be matched by a further £36 million from partner organisations in cash or in-kind contributions, and £11 million from universities’ funds, resulting in a £78 million investment.

More information on the announcement and short videos of each of the partnerships can be found on the EPSRC website.

A launch event was held in July and was attended by representatives from the successful partnerships as well as leading academic and industry professionals and members of Parliament. Lord Prior, who delivered the Ministerial address, stressed the need for the UK to continue producing productive and high-quality jobs in industry to aid a future prosperous nation and praised the work undertaken between EPSRC and the Prosperity Partners as ‘critical to the Industrial Strategy’.

A second call for Expressions of Interest for Prosperity Partnerships was held recently, this will fund between four and eight programmes.

For more information: https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/prosperitypartnerships2/
Call for exhibitors at Science for a Successful Nation 2018

EPSRC is holding a showcase event on Wednesday 21 February 2018 at the Royal Society, London to promote the importance of EPSRC investments, in the context of UK prosperity. Addressing industry, government departments and researchers, the event will feature a research exhibition and panel discussions and debate.

We are looking for researchers to be part of the exhibition to showcase their EPSRC-funded projects. There will be around 10 static ‘table-top’ exhibits, with an additional 3-5 roaming ‘buskers’ that will circulate throughout the event. Full details, including an application form can be found on the website.

For more information: https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/science-for-a-successful-nation-2018/

Future Manufacturing Research Hubs

The Manufacturing the Future Theme, subject to confirmation of available funding, intends to issue its third call for Future Manufacturing Research Hubs in the autumn. We will invite outline applications for large-scale, multidisciplinary research Hubs to address major, long-term challenges facing manufacturing industries, as well as capture opportunities from emerging research areas. These new Hubs will supplement the existing portfolio of Hubs.

The previous call, on which the third call would be based, can be found on our website.

For more information: https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/centres/manufacturinghubs/

All SATs Conference

Our annual All SATs Conference took place on 11/12 September, bringing together representatives from the advisory teams across the EPSRC portfolio. The two-day conference focused on EPSRC strategy in the context of UKRI, skills investments - and the place agenda.

A report of the discussion which took place during the conference will be published on our website in due course.

EPSRC Blog

Our latest blog posts include a discussion on the challenges and opportunities of manufacturing cell and gene-based medications and a contribution from Professor Nick Eyre, newly appointed Energy Demand Research Champion for the Research Councils’ Energy Programme.

If you would like to be a guest blogger, please contact epsrcblog@epsrc.ac.uk

EPSRC Science Photo Competition

We are pleased to launch our fifth Science Photo Competition. Showcasing some of the most striking images of research in action, the competition is open to all EPSRC-supported researchers and EPSRC-supported doctoral students. Entries must be submitted by Wednesday 6 December 2017. Visit our website for terms and conditions.