

**Imperial College
London**

RCUK Energy Strategy Fellowship

Interim findings

**2013 Nuclear Academics Discussion Meeting
University of Birmingham**

18-19 September 2013



Areas for discussion

- Research Planning
- Cross-Council
- Data and infrastructure
- Training
- Connections
- Anything else?

Research Planning

- Strategic research planning could extend beyond budgetary cycles to enable and exploit longer-term investments in infrastructure, surveys, trials and experiments.
- Where there is clear evidence and justification of the benefits, be prepared to make selective long-term research investments (10 years or more).
- Long-term plans should take account of wider energy/economic policy goals and acknowledge uncertainties.
- The Research Councils should be more transparent over how they prioritise research and choose funding mechanisms. Consult over long-term plans?
- Keep the volume of resource under review

Cross-Council

- Greater transparency of the approach to applied/fundamental science, with consistency across the Research Councils. TRLs are not suitable for every application!
- Strong co-ordination mechanisms and collaboration between Research Councils, e.g.
 - EPSRC-NERC: resource extraction; geological storage
 - EPSRC-STFC: access to experimental facilities

Data and infrastructure

- Capital bias in infrastructure – money flows more easily for equipment than for using it. Life-cycle planning of facility use?
- Building on what went before – more systematic approaches to data collection/curation; materials archiving etc.

Training

- Blend Centres for Doctoral Training and project-based studentships, allowing students to choose what approach would best suit them.
- Safeguards to ensure students are embedded in a research community, and not isolated.
- Stronger engagement with industry through secondments and industrially-supported doctorates.

Connections

International

- International collaboration should be 'best-with-best'; collaboration on a topic-by-topic basis rather than focusing all efforts on a small group of priority countries.
- Greater co-ordination of input into EU programmes

Along the innovation chain

- Further developments of mechanisms to engage with ETI, TSB and other later-stage funders.
- Low Carbon Innovation Coordination Group (LCICG) the starting point?

Anything else?

Any further thoughts to:

rcep.energystrategy@imperial.ac.uk