

Connect

Keeping you in touch with opportunities from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

www.epsrc.ac.uk

£20m for ambitious new programmes of research

EPSRC has announced a £20m investment in leading research as part of its flagship Programme Grant scheme.

Five grants were awarded in total – across a range of disciplines – and could lead to ground-breaking developments in areas such as communications, lighting, solar cells and geometry.

The grants were the first to be awarded as part of EPSRC's new Programme Grant scheme designed to address major research challenges.

The scheme is part of EPSRC's strategic drive to help support more ambitious research projects through longer grants.

Programme Grants can be awarded for up to six years duration, providing researchers with the flexibility to creatively address major research challenges across EPSRC's remit.

EPSRC's director of research base, Dr Lesley Thompson, said Programme Grants would play a significant role in delivering UK research that was internationally leading.

Dr Thompson said: "Programme Grants are large-scale managed proposals consisting of interlinked projects addressing a theme or issue.

"We want to ensure our best researchers have the support and flexibility they need to tackle major research challenges."

"They are likely to involve larger research groups and will tackle those issues that need longer than three or four years to solve."

She added: "We want to ensure our best researchers have the support and flexibility they need to tackle major research challenges."

Programme Grants are allocated within the responsive mode budget, but are assessed by separate panels.

In awarding Programme Grants, quality of research remains the key criterion. However, proposals are also judged against key additional criteria (including vision, ambition, leadership and management strategy). The application process includes an outline and interview stage.

Contact: Anne Farrow, anne.farrow@epsrc.ac.uk

Further information: www.epsrc.ac.uk/programmegrants



Lesley Thompson
Director of Research Base

Programme Grant awards

Nanostructured photonic metamaterials

Professor Nikolay Zheludev, University of Southampton
EPSRC funding: £5m

Heterointerface control of organic semiconductor devices

Professor Sir Richard Friend, University of Cambridge
EPSRC funding: £6.5m

Soft nanophotonics programme grant

Professor Jeremy Baumberg, University of Cambridge
EPSRC funding: £3.6m

Nanostructured functional materials for energy efficient refrigeration, energy harvesting and production of hydrogen from water

Professor Neil Alford, Imperial College London
EPSRC funding: £3.2m

Applied derived categories

Professor Richard Thomas, Imperial College London
EPSRC funding: £1.3m

For more information on these projects visit
www.epsrc.ac.uk/programmegrants

Inside

2 Support for early career researchers

3 Calls
Forthcoming EPSRC
funding opportunities

3 Showcasing mobile technologies
on the world stage

4 Final report submissions and
grant maintenance

Review of EPSRC People in Systems research

EPSRC held a one day event to review its portfolio of 'People in Systems' research – engineering and ICT projects with a human or social element such as sociology, psychology or ergonomics.

This research is strongly multidisciplinary and often lies towards the interface of EPSRC with the Economic and Social Research Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Seventy EPSRC grant holders presented their work to an international panel of experts from the US, Canada, France, Netherlands, Sweden and the UK at the event in January.

The projects included a study of people's behaviour and the design of accessible buildings and urban spaces for the elderly, a study of human spatial cognition in the design of databases and a network aimed at creating links between researchers in human-computer interaction (HCI) and the arts and humanities.

The panel were asked to assess the projects in terms of overall quality and creativity, as well as impact on other research and on end-users, in order to make an assessment of the portfolio as a whole.

During the event, delegates were also asked to discuss the challenges and barriers to undertaking multidisciplinary research in this field, and to share best practice in overcoming them, as well as to identify future research challenges. The event was also a useful opportunity for networking across disciplines.

Speaking on behalf of the panel, Professor Michael Holmes, of ARUP, said they had enjoyed seeing such a diverse range of projects and thought the review extremely valuable. The panel felt there was value in bringing the People in Systems community together for the event. Although they found the portfolio overall to be a healthy one, with a number of highlights, they felt there was plenty of scope for further knowledge sharing and cross-fertilisation of ideas within the community.

A full report of the event, including the findings of the panel, can be found on EPSRC's website www.epsrc.ac.uk/ResearchFunding/Programmes/ICT/RC/pinsreport.htm

Contact: Matthew Davis, matthew.davis@epsrc.ac.uk

Workshop for early career researchers in manufacturing



EARLY CAREER academics in the manufacturing field gained a greater awareness of how EPSRC operates thanks to a two-day interactive workshop.

The event, held in Swindon, covered criteria for standard grants – excellence, impact, track record, and planning and management – and a brief introduction to EPSRC and the general peer review process.

Many of the practical sessions were based on research ideas that groups had formed at the start of the workshop.

General feedback was positive and the event enabled the attendees to discuss issues such as creativity, potential impact of their research and the importance of risk management in management strategy with both EPSRC staff and their peers.

The attendees left the workshop with a greater awareness of how EPSRC works, an understanding of the importance of enabling those reviewing their proposals to answer the criteria questions; a pocket full of exchanged business cards and the knowledge that EPSRC staff were very approachable and willing to help.

Contact: Anne Farrow, anne.farrow@epsrc.ac.uk

Discuss your science with confidence

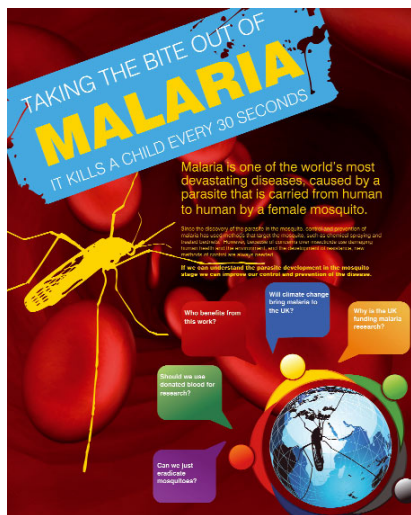
SCIENTISTS have to be aware of the social and ethical context of their research, yet most early-career researchers have little time set aside to consider this.

Perspectives, sponsored by Research Councils UK, is a poster session with a difference – providing the opportunity for researchers to discuss their work with a non-specialist audience. It is an interactive training day that gives researchers a chance to learn about poster design and sharpen communication skills. Their posters will then be presented at the British Science Festival in September, at the University of Surrey in Guildford. Cash prizes will be awarded by a panel of expert judges.

Perspectives is open to postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers funded by the UK Research Councils. The application deadline is 8 May 2009.

Further information:

www.britishecienceassociation.org/perspectives



Overall Winner – 2008
Georgina Humphreys (BBSRC)
Infection and Immunity, FBL5
University of Glasgow

EPSRC goes 'mobile'

EPSRC joined forces with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), the Government's trade and investment promotion organisation, to showcase the UK's most promising mobile technologies at the GSMA Mobile World Congress.

The 2009 event, held in Barcelona, was the world's largest exhibition for the mobile industry – attracting 50,000 attendees.

It brought together prominent leaders and personalities from mobile operators, equipment vendors along with internet and entertainment professionals.

EPSRC's international manager Hannah Foreman said: "Improving the uptake and exploitation of research from UK universities is a key priority for EPSRC and through our sector teams we are working with industrial partners to understand their needs and to tackle the challenges of integrating knowledge transfer with the process of research."

She added: "Members of EPSRC's Software, Media and Communications and Electronics Sector teams were invited to exhibit on the UKTI stand at the show alongside some interesting technologies including a 'hug shirt' which simulates a hug when a text is sent to it.

"The EPSRC stand, which included a show reel featuring EPSRC-funded research in the field, was visited by numerous delegates looking to connect with cutting edge UK research – including Lord Davies of Abersoch, UK Minister for Trade and Investment."

Contact: Hannah Foreman, hannah.foreman@epsrc.ac.uk
Andrew Lawrence, andrew.lawrence@epsrc.ac.uk



(From left to right) Andrew Lawrence, Hannah Foreman, Lord Abersoch and Mark Birchall of Tradefair at the GSMA Mobile World Congress

Calls

To receive all the latest EPSRC call information direct to your inbox sign up for our weekly e-mail alert: www.epsrc.ac.uk/emailalert

Cross-Disciplinary Feasibility Account – Expressions of Interest

Closing date: 1 May 2009

Expressions of interest are invited for a Cross-Disciplinary Feasibility Account, to be held by an established cross-disciplinary research group, and used to support a suite of short-term research activities.

Contact: Katie Finch, katie.finch@epsrc.ac.uk

EPSRC-NPL Post-Doctoral Research Partnerships

Closing date: 6 May 2009

The second call for proposals under this Partnership is now open for applications in the areas of Photonic Technologies, Information Security, Emerging Materials, Integrity Metrology, Advanced Coordinate Metrology, Single Molecule Biometrology, Biophotonics and Image Processing.

Contact: Robert Heathman, robert.heathman@epsrc.ac.uk

Cold Water Cleaning – Call for Expressions of Interest

Closing date: 07 May 2009

EPSRC and Procter & Gamble invite expressions of interest to participate in a five-day residential event near Bath, 15-19 June 2009.

Contact: Tracy Hanlon, tracy.hanlon@epsrc.ac.uk

Industrial CASE Studentship Competition 2009

Closing date: 7 May 2009

Funding for at least 40 PhD studentships for businesses to take the lead in arranging projects with an academic partner of their choice. Industrial CASE provides funding for PhD studentships where businesses take the lead in arranging projects with an academic partner of their choice. Funding for at least 40 3.5-year PhD studentships is available.

Contact: Anita Howman, anita.howman@epsrc.ac.uk

Science and Heritage

Closing date: 14 May 2009

AHRC and EPSRC are making funding available to support creative, cross-disciplinary research activities through Interdisciplinary Research Grants.

Contact: Louise Tillman, louise.tillman@epsrc.ac.uk

Designing Effective Research Spaces – Call for Participants

Closing date: 28 May 2009

The Digital Economy Programme, in conjunction with AHRC and the British Library, are running an IDEAS Factory Sandpit focussed on the interaction between research practices, the physical environment and Digital Economy.

The aim of the sandpit is to bring together participants from a wide range of disciplines to develop a fresh and innovative approach to generating high-quality research programmes which offer the potential for a significant step towards addressing challenges in this area. This is a call for participants to attend a three-day residential event near Southampton, 7-9 July 2009.

Expressions of Interest should be sent to DESandpit@epsrc.ac.uk by 12:00 midday, Thursday 28 May 2009 using the form at the end of the call document.

Contact: Paula Duxbury, paula.duxbury@epsrc.ac.uk

Software Sustainability

Closing date: 23 June 2009

Outline applications are invited to provide a research infrastructure which will aid the long-term sustainability of software which enables high quality research.

Contact: Sarah Fulford, sarah.fulford@epsrc.ac.uk

Complexity Science for the Real World – Call for Proposals

Closing date: 30 June 2009

The EPSRC Cross-disciplinary Interfaces Programme invites proposals for internationally leading, cross-disciplinary programmes of research which will develop and apply the tools and techniques of complexity science for tackling major societal research challenges. Grants funded against this call may be up to six years long, and will provide funding to support a suite of related research activities focusing on one major theme. Up to £10 million has been earmarked for this targeted activity; it is anticipated that we will fund three or four proposals.

Contact: Gavin Salisbury, gavin.salisbury@epsrc.ac.uk
Samantha Madden, samantha.madden@epsrc.ac.uk

For upcoming 'Future Calls' go to www.epsrc.ac.uk/ResearchFunding/Opportunities/FutureCalls.htm

EPSRC Contacts

Head of Materials Mechanical and Medical Engineering
Clive Hayter 01793 444440 clive.hayter@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Information and Communications Technology
Liam Blackwell 01793 444217 liam.blackwell@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Energy Multidisciplinary Applications
Rachel Bishop 01793 444241 rachel.bishop@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Peer Review
Susan Morrell 01793 444462 susan.morrell@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Digital Economy
John Hand 01793 444394 john.hand@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Nanotechnology and Next Generation Healthcare
John Wand MBE 01793 444335 john.wand@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Knowledge Transfer
John Baird 01793 444047 john.baird@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Mathematical Sciences and Public Engagement
David Harman 01793 444304 david.harman@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Energy Research Capacity
Jason Green 01793 444208 jason.green@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Engineering for Sustainability
Philippa Hemmings 01793 444378 philippa.hemmings@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Cross Disciplinary Interfaces
Kedar Pandya 01793 444317 kedar.pandya@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of User Led Knowledge and Skills
Alan Thomas 01793 442806 alan.thomas@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Infrastructure and International
Jane Nicholson 01793 444065 jane.nicholson@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Physical Sciences
Andrew Bourne 01793 444358 andrew.bourne@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Research Careers Strategy
Lucy Brady 01793 444147 lucy.brady@epsrc.ac.uk
Maggie Wilson 01793 444333 maggie.wilson@epsrc.ac.uk

Head of Business Relationships
Emma Feltham 01793 444321 emma.feltham@epsrc.ac.uk

Associate Director Research Capability
Neil Viner 01793 444310 neil.viner@epsrc.ac.uk

Associate Director Mission Programmes
Neil Viner 01793 444360 neil.viner@epsrc.ac.uk

Associate Director Research Base Programmes
Clive Hayter 01793 444440 clive.hayter@epsrc.ac.uk

Associate Director Economic Impact
Vince Osgood MBE 01793 444084 vince.osgood@epsrc.ac.uk

Senior Manager International
Edward Clarke 01793 444438 edward.clarke@epsrc.ac.uk

Senior Manager Public Engagement
Katherine Miller 01793 444196 katherine.miller@epsrc.ac.uk

IDEAS Factory Contact
Susan Morrell 01793 444462 susan.morrell@epsrc.ac.uk

For current grant maintenance and grant assessment queries

Engineering
Chris Elson 01793 444504 chris.elson@epsrc.ac.uk

Technology
Valerie Hibberd 01793 444560 valerie.hibberd@epsrc.ac.uk

Science
Jan Tucker 01793 444046 jan.tucker@epsrc.ac.uk

EPSRC, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1ET
Telephone: 01793 444000 www.epsrc.ac.uk

Editor: Christopher Buratta, christopher.buratta@epsrc.ac.uk
Circulation amendments: connect@epsrc.ac.uk

© Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council 2008.
ISSN 1476-6485

Material may be reproduced providing the source is acknowledged.

Heriot-Watt IMRC Conference

THE INNOVATIVE Manufacturing Research Centre at Heriot-Watt University is currently involved in an exciting expansion of manufacturing-related research activity.

This involves embedding the current IMRC within a new and larger structure – to be known as the James Watt Institute for High Value Manufacturing.

As part of the launch of this new Institute, a one-day conference will be held on 23 April 2009. The event will focus on photonics and microsystems in high value manufacturing. It will feature some outstanding keynote speakers along with a series of exciting presentations from new members of Heriot-Watt staff.

For the technical programme and web registration form for the Heriot-Watt Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre conference and the launch of the James Watt Institute for High Value Manufacturing visit:

www.smi.hw.ac.uk/JWI/

Contact: David Nisbet, D.J.Nisbet@hw.ac.uk

New ways maintain EPSRC grants

NEW functions are available to EPSRC researchers to manage their current grants through Je-S. Grant holders are asked to use Je-S for the following types of grant change requests.

- Update Research Organisation grant reference
- Request grant title change
- Request grant exceptional slippage
- Request grant extension
- Request extensions to deliverable due dates (e.g. final reports, final expenditure statements)
- Request waiver of deliverable
- Request grant suspension
- Request grant resumption
- Request grant termination
- Request grant transfer
- Request grant holder change
- Generic change request (for any other type of change not covered above)

Detailed instructions on how to use the Je-S system to create such requests are available from the Je-S Helptext in the system.

Requests submitted through Je-S will be forwarded to EPSRC staff for action. Researchers will be notified of the outcome of a request via email and not through Je-S.

Contact: Douglas Niven, douglas.niven@epsrc.ac.uk

Further information:
www.epsrc.ac.uk/ResearchFunding/GrantHolders/ManagingInJe-S.htm

Final Reports Reminder

EPSRC-funded researchers are being reminded to ensure final reports are submitted.

Researchers are contacted and asked to return a completed final report form to EPSRC within three months of the end date of a grant.

The information provided on the form helps inform EPSRC of the outcomes of your project and to analyse and evaluate the grants it supports.

Researchers can complete the form using Je-S and some of the form will have been pre-populated with details from the original grant application.

If a significant portion of the grant funds have been transferred from one fund heading to another, a document will need to be attached to the form detailing the reasons for the transfer.

Failing to submit the final report form within the allotted time may result in a financial sanction.

Contact: Douglas Niven, douglas.niven@epsrc.ac.uk

Further information:
www.epsrc.ac.uk/ResearchFunding/GrantHolders/FinalReports/