

# The Maxwell Centre



Richard Friend, David Peet and Malcolm Longair

# Manifesto

The Maxwell Centre will be the centrepiece for industrial engagement with physical scientists working on the West Cambridge Science and Technology Campus. The Centre Will bring forward the scale of industrial engagement in West Cambridge by a decade. The scale of industrial involvement is already substantial, but the target is to double industrial funding through a combination of activities in the new building, in the collaborating Departments and in the commercial space on the West Cambridge site. The outcome will be that the associated industrial research, development and manufacturing will be retained and exploited within the UK. The consequent overall economic impact for the UK will be enormously greater than the co-investment committed to the programme.

# Enhanced Industrial Collaboration

There is latent demand for enhanced industrial collaboration which is currently unsatisfied for a number of reasons:

- a) There is the lack of a central coordinating facility for fostering academic, industrial collaborations in the area of the Physical Science;
- b) there is a serious lack of committed 'interaction space' within the existing Departmental buildings;
- c) there is an absence of central laboratory space for joint collaborative projects between internal and external users.

The Maxwell Centre is designed to resolve all these problems and greatly enhance industry's full involvement with Physical Science Departments.

# Key Activities in the Maxwell Centre

- (i) Space for industrial collaborative programmes, including laboratories and associated facilities as well as accommodation for University Technology Centres (UTCs) and visiting industrial scientists.
- (ii) A coordinating centre which will bring together and foster industrial-Physical Science initiatives, 'blue-skies' research of the Winton programme for the Physics of Sustainability and the various Centres for Doctoral Training (CDT), all of which have a clear industrial focus. The CDTs ensure that the graduate students obtain a broad research training in diverse aspects of their research area and that involves transferable skills of value to industry.

# Key Activities in the Maxwell Centre

- (iii) Research space for new projects that span the academic/industry interface and which will often be interdisciplinary. These will emerge from the various forums for Industrial Engagement which are proving to be an enormously effective vehicle for knowledge transfer.
  
- (iv) Accommodation for current and future EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training in which industrial training is a core component of the CDT curriculum.

The core message is that many of the most exciting and unexpected research opportunities lie at the interface between academia and industry.

# An Enhanced Research Programme

The research programme will be a synthesis of innovative projects derived from:

- a) The two-way interchange of innovative ideas within the context of the co-investments already pledged by industry, including the major initiative in many aspects of scientific computing
- b) Collaborations with the Winton programme and other research activities in the many research groups in the physical sciences.
- c) Research activities carried out in collaboration with other research departments in the University, in the UK and worldwide.

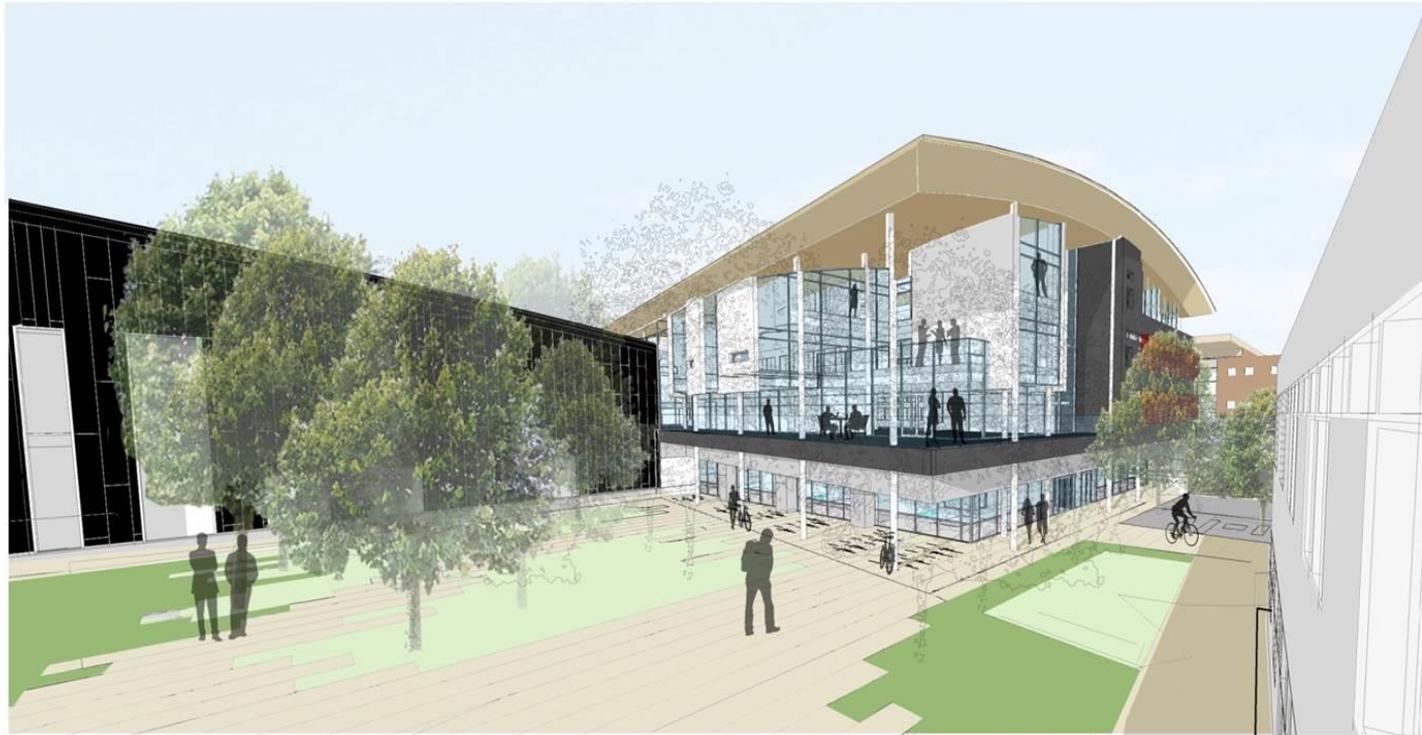
The Winton Programme provides the strategic direction for the organisation of research in the Maxwell Centre. The vision presented above is to place new 'blue-skies' ideas and research that are firmly placed in the realm of basic science in an environment where opportunities to take these ideas into practical and industrial contexts will be quickly recognised and realised.

# The Maxwell Centre



- Architect's drawing of the Maxwell Centre from JJ Thomson Avenue.

# The Maxwell Centre



- Architect's drawing of the Maxwell Centre from the Rutherford Building, showing the Physics of Medicine Building on the left.

# The Maxwell Centre



- Total of £25.6M allocated to the project
- Full planning permission received from the City.
- Now on a very fast-track design and building schedule
- Advisory committee fully involved in the design process