



Science & Technology
Facilities Council

STFC UPDATE UKON Meeting

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Spending Review Outcome

- Chancellor announced BIS's overall settlement in June 2013
 - Flat cash for science areas
 - Minus 10% for non-science areas
 - £1.1 billion year in capital until 2021
- RC Allocations announced in February 2014
 - Science ring fence intact
 - Research Councils 2014/15 settlement untouched at flat cash
 - Research Councils 2015/16 resource settlements ~1% higher than flat cash



STFC's Spending Review outcome

- With inflationary pressure small shortfall within STFC's core programme
- Capital allocation that recognises that STFC is a capital intensive organisation
- We may secure some of 'Newton Fund' for ODA activities
 - £75million per year over 5 years
 - To promote economic development and strengthen research and innovation partnerships between UK and emerging powers
 - Position UK as international partner of choice



Core Programme

- Resource allocation of £165.1 million – flat cash
 - Will need to develop a prioritised programme for all areas of Core Programme using Programmatic Review and other interests
- Capital allocation of £53.3 million
 - Includes £14.2 million provision for core programme as CSR10
 - Specific commitments, £4.1 million Higgs Centre and £7 million Regional Growth Fund award
 - Capital could relieve some of the pressure caused by resource shortfall



Programmatic Review

- Programmatic Review was published on 26 March
- Will guide preparation of 2015-16 programme
- Goal is approval by STFC Council in May
- In the longer term, Review will guide our plans including the Spending Review to be undertaken by the next Government
- We will work for a better-than-flat-cash settlement in the next CSR (for 2016-17 to 2020-21); but we cannot depend upon it



15/16 Programme

- Prioritised programme for all areas of core programme being developed using programmatic review and other interests
- Decisions already made on some projects where there are time critical decisions
- Will optimise favourable capital outcome across the organisation
- 15/16 Delivery Plan to Council on 10 May 2014 – publication expected shortly after



BIS Capital Consultation

- Spending Review increased capital from £500 million p.a. in 2014/15 to £1.1 billion p.a. in 2015/16 and through to 2020/21
- BIS to launch formal consultation on 25 April on priorities to 2021
 - deadline for input will be 4 July
- Expected to ask two questions: -
 - Balance between capital spend on ‘small’, regional investment relative to large scale inter/national projects?
 - Priorities for UK investment in large projects? (either UK or international)
- Concerns HEFCE funded capital as well as Research Councils



BIS Capital Consultation cont.

- Consultation document expected to have many STFC examples of opportunities and new projects. Not prioritised!
- Part of a larger Science and Innovation Strategy to be published in the Autumn
- Will set direction for a number of years
- Community encouraged to take seriously and respond
- Science Board and Advisory Panels coordinating input within STFC



ESO/ELT

- No further progress on the Brazilian accession to ESO
- ESO's Working Group and Strategy planning groups meet in May to look at options if Brazil does not complete
- E-ELT instrumentation will go through PPRP in July
- Top being blown off the E-ELT mountain in May
- ALMA completion continues apace but all antennae will not be operational until year end
- VISTA performing well and coating plant building now handed over to ESO



SKA

- Programme Manager, Matthew Johnson now in post; already started working with key players
- Minister Willetts announced in February funding of £119million as it moves towards construction in 2017
 - £19m over four years to support design of the SKA project
 - £100 million as UK's 15% of construction cost of phase 1
 - Capital investment in Big Data of £11m, and a further £2m p.a. in on-going core research programme
- Goal of securing the headquarters of the future international SKA organisation
- Having declared our support for Phase A we are working with BIS to encourage other international partners to do the same



JCMT/UKIRT

JCMT

- Discussions with various interested parties on-going
- UK community Sol for access to JCMT is about to be submitted to PPRP

UKIRT

- Lease and ownership arrangements are being finalised
- Delay in completing the UKIRT transfer process is hopefully passed and the change of ownership has now been publicised in Hawaii – expect completion in May



ING/WEAVE

- Negotiations regarding the future ownership of the ING continue; the legal documents for a new 'association' have been drafted and with the lawyers
- WEAVE - convergence on the various funding streams and technical work packages are underway.



Projects in Peer Review System

- MOONS multi-object spectrograph for the ESO VLT in Chile
- ATST - Advanced Technology Solar Telescope being built on Maui, Hawaii
- DESI – Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument to go on the Mayall Telescope at Kitt Peak in the USA
- LSST – Large Synoptic Sky Telescope US led 8m class optical telescope to be built in Chile



LSST

- Science Board invited a full proposal and expected to go through PPRP in the Autumn
- Project is seeking operational money from non-government resources (incl. overseas). STFC expected to join on behalf of UK community
- Some UK universities already joined – at modest levels
- STFC is seeking a role in big data processing and would need to be funded by new capital funds - could be eligible for "big data support"



Liverpool Telescope

- Ranked as medium priority in Programmatic Review
- National School's Observatory is a great strength
- Contributes to Government's STEM skills strategy
- Agreed to continue to support at a reduced level along with other partners
- Hoping to leverage funding from BIS and DfED; talks on-going with BIS at high level



Questions



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