




ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL

Strategic Packages



Some Characteristics of the Landscape

- All things to all people: EPSRC funding in 900 departments (55% of which < £1M; more than a third < £500k)
- Effort and resources (universities' and our's) widely diffused
- Duplication of coverage across UK (and globally) in sub-optimal groupings
- Low success rates/high sift rates
- EPSRC role predominantly reactive






Key Messages From Council

- Clarity of position: 10-50 years timeframe
- Appropriate balance of breadth in skills and depth in research
- Funding driving culture change
- Better demand Management – on agenda
- More effective relationships with univs, business and other users



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Greater leadership of change

Greater Leadership of Change

- Portfolio management:
 - Take a landscape view: differentiation between individuals, departments and universities, industries
 - Demonstrate growth and decline of areas over time
 - Timeliness and flexibility
 - Fast-changing world – quick decisions
 - New models – out of comfort zone






Excellence with Impact

In a tight financial environment how do we effect any change?

Table 2.1: PSA target metrics for the UK research base

Research field	World ranking	Trend 94-05	Highlights
Bioscience	2	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK increasing overall citation and highly cited share
Business	2	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK very high on citation "productivity"
Clinical	2	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agile research base – second in seven out of ten broad research disciplines
Environmental sciences	2	↔	
Humanities	2	↔	
Pre-clinical	2	↔	
Social sciences	3	↑	
Mathematics	4	↑	
Physical sciences	4	↑	
Engineering	4	↔	

But...

We don't need any more new schemes....

...however is there space for us to act more strategically in developing packages with university partners...

And can we package schemes more intelligently...offering a single review process?



Two possible approaches

■ **Commissioning Mode:** Work with universities around their leading international recruits to offer a package of support to enhance UK research capacity

■ **Responsive Mode:** Our own internationally leading researchers apply in responsive fashion to enhance UK leadership in a critical theme



What might a Strategic Package look like?

■ No fixed Model...tailored to the circumstances...all integrated packages with a single pass review

■ Potential Options:

■ **Option 1:** A fellowship research chair – programme grant and doctoral training center.

■ **Option 2:** A large responsive mode research grant and career acceleration fellowships.

■ **Option 3:** A Funding Council/EPSCRC partnership to develop a new laboratory

Goals of Strategic Packages

■ To substantively back the best researchers with a goal of putting EPS on the same footing as medicine and biology

■ To develop a closer more strategic relationship with our key partners

■ To enhance UK Research Capacity and Leadership in critical areas

■ To simplify and be more flexible in our support processes

Questions For Discussion?

■ What's the potential for strategic packages?

■ What are your concerns and how might these be overcome?

■ What opportunities might we focus on initially?