



## Minutes

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**Meeting:** UKRI-BBSRC Bioscience for Advanced manufacturing and Clean Growth STRATEGY ADVISORY PANEL

**Date and Time:** 13.00-17.00 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 and 9.00-15.15 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

**Venue:** The Wesley Hotel & Conference Venue; (Euston House, 81-103 Euston Street, London, Greater London, United Kingdom, NW1 2EZ)

**In-person meeting and Zoom teleconference**

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## Attendance

Panel Members
Dr Reuben Carr (Ingenza) - <b>Chair</b>
Prof Louise Horsfall (University of Edinburgh)
Dr Alison Mohr (Independent Consultant)
Dr Jhuma Sadhukhan (University of Surrey)
Dr Amgad Moussa (Syngenta)
Prof Dimitris Charalampopoulos (University of Reading)
Dr Ellis O'Neill (University of Nottingham)
Dr Sarah Hosking (Unilever)
Invited Experts
Prof Saul Purton (Algae UK)
Prof Alison Smith (Algae UK)
Prof Neil Bruce (BBNet)
Dr David Bott (BBNet)
Dr Alan Burbidge (Carbon Recycling Network)
Prof Martin Warren (E3B) – 22 <sup>nd</sup> June only
Prof Jon Lloyd (E3B)
Prof Sonia Heaven (EBNet)
Prof Tom Curtis (EBNet)
Prof Ian Graham (HVB) – 21 <sup>st</sup> June only
Prof Anne Osbourn (HVB) – 22 <sup>nd</sup> June only
Mr Simon Saxby (HVB)
Dr Adrian Higson (NNFCC)
BBSRC Office
Mr Jamie Whitford - <b>Secretariat</b>
Dr Jef Grainger
Dr Colin Miles
Dr Stephen Webb – 22 <sup>nd</sup> June only
Dr Rod Westrop
Dr Chrysanthi Michelaki
Ms Chloë Heywood

Mrs Abby Craigie Mrs Diana Jackson
<b>Other Attendees</b>
Mr David Elson (Innovate UK) Mr Paul Bello (Innovate UK) Ms Lydia Gardner (EPSRC)
<b>Apologies</b>
Professor Nigel Minton (Carbon Recycling Network) Dr Amanda Collis (BBSRC)

### Agenda – Day One (21<sup>st</sup> June)

Item	Description	Time	Duration
-	<b>Arrival/Lunch</b>	13.00-14.00	60
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	14.00-14.15	15
2	<b>SAP Declarations of Interest</b>	14.15-14.30	15
3	<b>Director's Update</b>	14.30-15.00	30
-	<b>BREAK</b>	15.00-15.15	15
4	<b>Setting the Scene: BBSRC NIBB evaluative presentations</b> Presentations 10-15 minutes each	15.15-16.30	75
5	<b>BBSRC perspective and IB Evaluation (if ready)</b>	16.30-17.00	30
-	<b>BREAK</b>	17.00-19.00	-
-	<b>Private Dinner</b>	19.00	-

### Agenda – Day Two (22<sup>nd</sup> June)

Item	Description	Time	Duration
6	<b>Recap on previous day's discussion</b>	9.00-9.15	15
7	<b>IBB community: looking towards future opportunities and options to develop impact</b> Presentations 10-15 minutes each	9.15-10.45	90
-	<b>BREAK</b>	10.45-11.00	15
8	<b>Discussion of potential models</b> To include comfort break	11.00-13.00	120
-	<b>Lunch</b>	13.00-14.00	60
9	<b>UKRI and SAP session only</b> To include Previous Meeting Minutes and Action	14.00-15.00	60
10	<b>AoB</b>	15.00-15.15	15
<b>END OF MEETING</b>			

### Meeting summary

Item	Paper ID.	Summary and actions
1	-	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Colin Miles welcomed meeting participants and all introduced themselves.

2	-	<p><b>SAP Declarations of Interest</b>          Jamie Whitford addressed SAP Declarations of Interest and acknowledge Reuben Carr, Jhuma Sadhukhan, and Dimitris Charalampopoulos involvement on management boards of some NIBBs.</p>
3	-	<p><b>Director's Update</b>          Jef Grainger gave an update on the UKRI funding landscape at present. JG informed participants of the changes of Executive Chairs across the relevant Research Councils, and gave an update on Horizon Europe association. JG also updated on the Cross Council Responsive Mode pilot and the new Funding Service. JG informed the panel of UKRI's five Strategic Themes and the new National Engineering Biology Programme. Lydia Gardner announced EPSRC's Complex Supply Chains funding call. In further discussion, the functionality of The Funding Service was addressed, assurances were provided on plans for Horizon Europe association or dissociation, and the 'Moonshots' initiative was explained.</p>
4	-	<p><b>Setting the Scene: BBSRC NIBB evaluative presentations</b>          Each network was invited to present an evaluation of their network to date. Common themes include rising memberships, successful project funding, policy engagement, training and ECR support, successful conferences and outreach events, new spinouts and SME support, leverage secured from private sector. Some networks showcased support for entrepreneurship. It is clear the NIBB to date has been very successful.</p>
5	-	<p><b>BBSRC perspective and IB Evaluation (if ready)</b>          Colin Miles shared the aims of the Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Growth (AMCG) team within BBSRC, to provide context for future strategy. He then went to present a collective view of the NIBB achievements and the history of the NIBB from phase 1 through to phase 2 presently, from BBSRC's perspective in satisfying AMCG's aims. CM added that the Industrial Biotechnology Evaluation is not yet ready for release.</p>
6	-	<p><b>Recap on previous day's discussion</b>          Due to time constraints, this item was skipped.</p>
7	-	<p><b>IBB community: looking towards future opportunities and options to develop impact</b>          Each network was invited to present their ideas for the future model of the NIBB. Across the presentations, two governance models stood out: a Super NIBB in which the networks pull together in a decentralised collective; and a Hub and Spokes model in which a central hub coordinates the networks and acts as a centre for collaboration. Various financial models were explored, self-funding was put to the communities of some networks and was unpopular, some networks proposed securing an Engineering Biology Hub grant, or similar hub or CDT grants, or private investment. Additionally, some form of Innovate UK funding was identified as critical, given the cross-network appetite for increased scale up support. Other common themes include the continuation of networking events and project funding, an</p>

		increase in training opportunities, and increased entrepreneurial and business involvement.
8	-	<p><b>Discussion of potential models</b></p> <p>Participants discussed the models posed in the previous item. Securing an Engineering Biology Hub grant was not well supported as it would stand to restrict the NIBB remit. Further discussion was had on the difficulty of defining engineering biology. Learning from the difficulties the BioPilots programme had, self-funding models were rejected. The collective view was that efforts to support scale up and business interaction would be central to the next phase of the NIBB. With this, Innovate UK would need to be more involved which Paul Bello agreed to. Given the success of the NIBB to date, the networks were encouraged to improve external communications about the NIBB's achievements.</p>
9	-	<p><b>UKRI and SAP session only</b></p> <p>The discussion primarily focussed on governance models, in which the positive and negative aspects of the two proposed governance models were explored. Of the two, the Hub and Spokes model was the preferred option.</p>
10	-	<p><b>AoB</b></p> <p>The panel supported the proposition to explore food loss and waste as a strategic area. Jhuma Sadhukhan tentatively expressed an interest in being involved with the Exascale Supercomputer Project.</p>

Item	Paper ID.	Actions	Owner	Due
3	-	<b>Action 1:</b> Seek permission to share Director's Update slides with meeting participants.	Jef Grainger	ASAP
9	-	<b>Action 2:</b> Formulate a proposal for the next phase/iteration of the NIBB, by the end of 2023.	BBSRC	End of 2023
10	-	<b>Action 3:</b> Share more information with Jhuma Sadhukhan, regarding the Exascale Supercomputer Project, when it is available.	Jamie Whitford	ASAP
-	-	<b>Action 4:</b> Canvas dates for the next SAP meeting.	Jamie Whitford	Late 2023