

Solid Earth Observing Systems

Liverpool, 14-15 April 2014

Dr Chris Franklin
Head of Earth Sciences

Overview

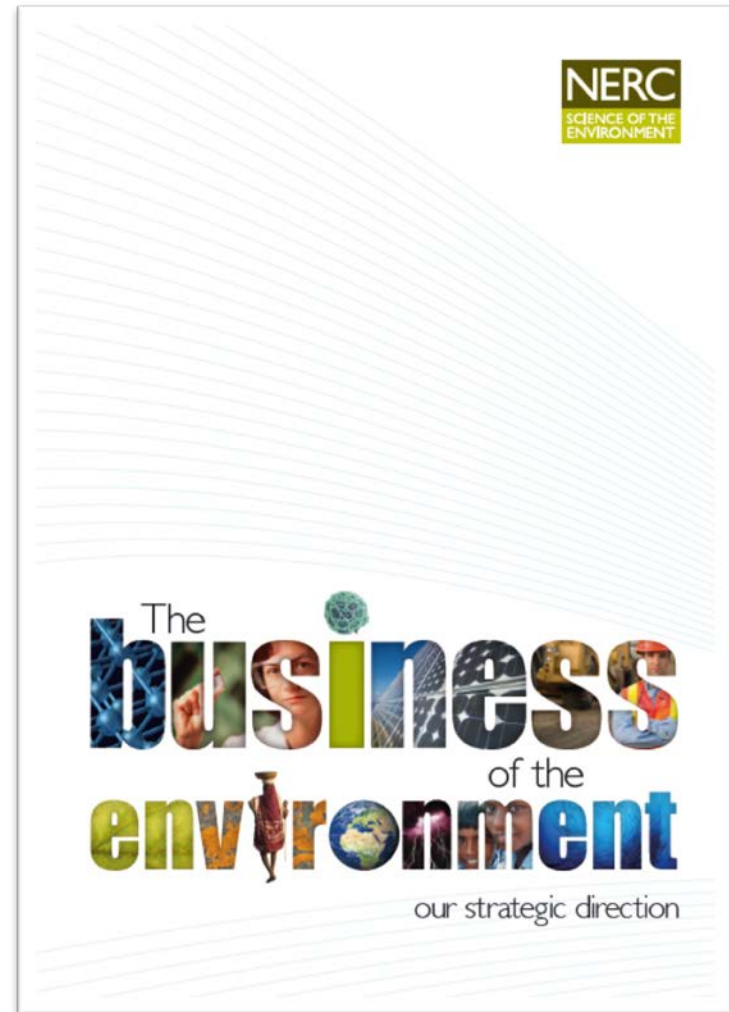


- i. NERC Strategy
- ii. Opportunities arising from NERC's new delivery mechanism
- iii. Capital

Vision

To place
environmental
science at the heart
of responsible
management of our
planet.

NERC Strategy published –
November 2013

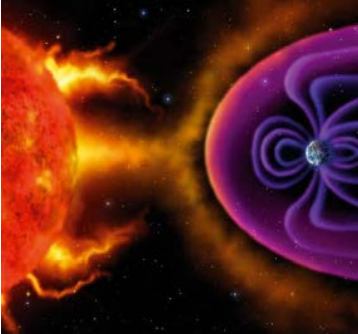


Meeting societies needs



Benefiting from Natural Resources

Using natural resources sustainably to support a growing world population and economy



Resilience to Environmental Hazards

Making vulnerable people, infrastructure and business more resilient to environmental hazards and emergencies



Managing Environmental Change

Making informed choices about our impacts on the environment and how we respond to environmental change

Strategic research – 3 mechanisms

i. Strategic Programme Area

For large scale complex programmes that take time to develop and deliver. Similar to current large Research Programmes.

ii. Highlight Topics

For smaller scale programmes, similar to current Research Programme large grants– typically up to £3.7m with a duration of up to five years.

iii. Joint Strategic Response

For investments with partners to be agreed over shorter timescales. Most likely in response to opportunities presented by partners to allow NERC to join initiatives.



Strategic research – ideas process

For **Highlight Topic** and **Strategic Programme Area** ideas:

- Community (academic and user) will be encouraged to self organise and generate ideas
- Ideas will be filtered, merged, developed and prioritised by the Strategic Programme Advisory Group
- Group will have around 12 academic/user members
- Call for ideas opens shortly..... to idea@nerc.ac.uk
- **Late 2014** - Highlights Topics first call for proposals
- **2015** – Strategic Programmes Areas first calls

Strategic research – ideas process

- Ideas submitted – up to 2 sides of A4
- Ideas will be assessed by SPAG on:
 - Potential for scientific excellence;
 - Relevance to NERC strategic priorities;
 - Timeliness and urgency of research question;
 - Extent to which the topic is currently funded;
 - Capacity of the UK community and infrastructure;
 - Potential partnerships;
 - Potential for economic and or societal impact.

Strategic research – ideas process

For **Joint Strategic Response** ideas:

- Community (primarily users) encouraged to explore potential ideas with NERC.

Contact NERC Head of Discipline

- Ideas must have new science that is timely and delivered in partnership (co-designed/co-funded)
- New ideas will be considered for funding by the NERC Executive every **3-months**
- First funding decisions in late **January 2014**
- First Joint Strategic Response programme call for proposals published in early **Summer 2014**

Strategic research – ideas process

- Questions, comments and ideas?
- Do you understand what we are asking of you?
- Do you feel able to put ideas in to the process?

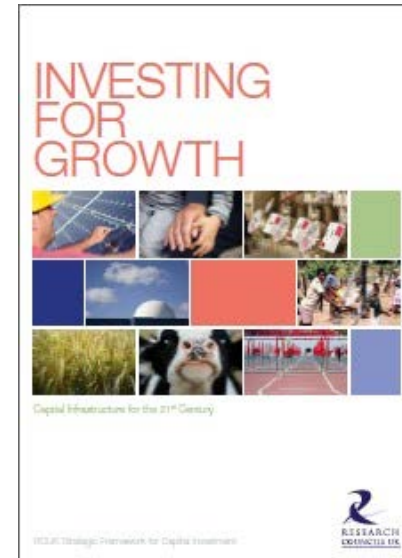
Email: idea@nerc.ac.uk

Research Programmes & Highlight Topics

Email: **idea@nerc.ac.uk**

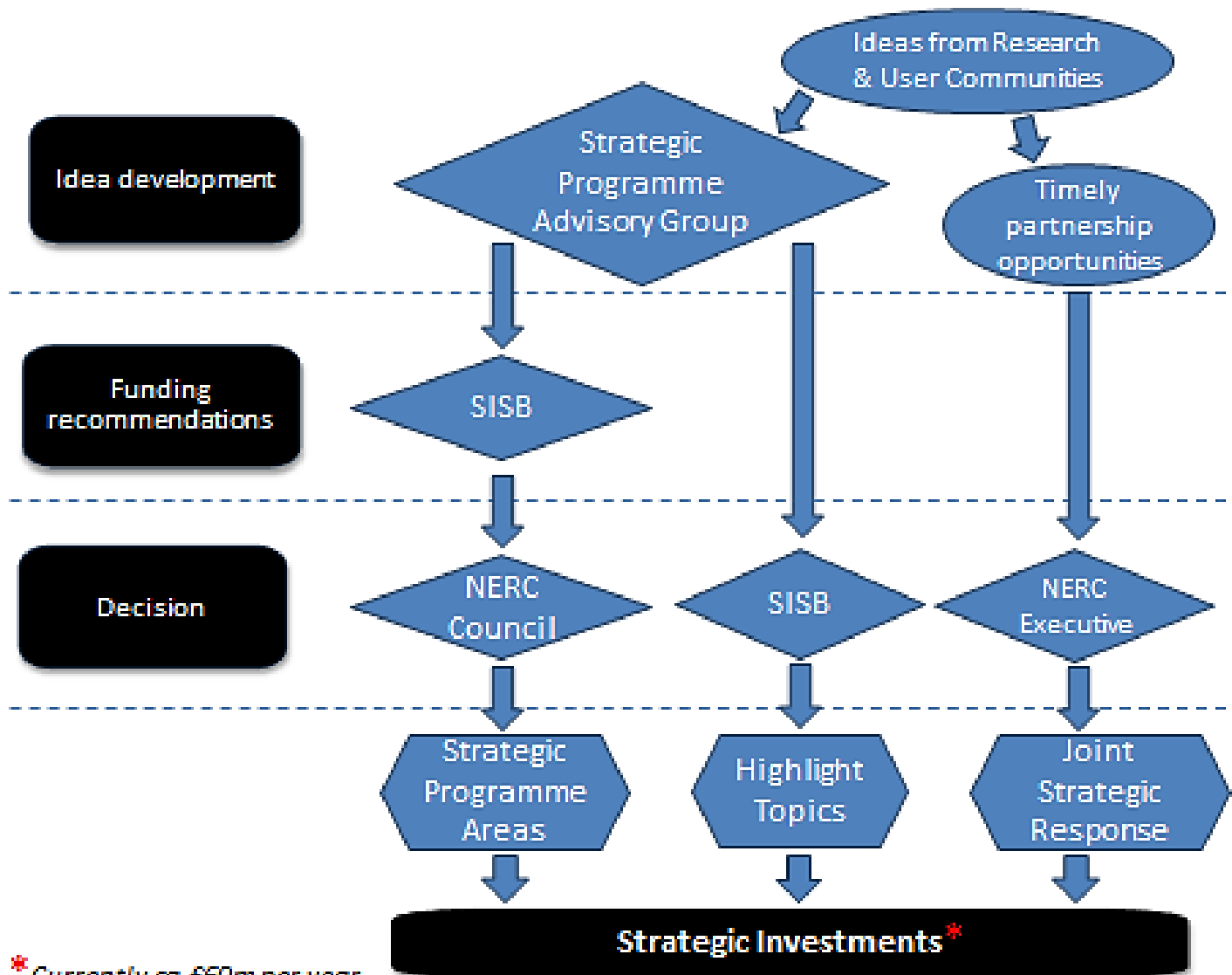
Capital – future opportunities

- NERC's capital investment priorities in 2012 RCUK *Investing for Growth*
- New capital in autonomous robotics and big data in 2013 aligned to BIS priorities in *Eight Great Technologies*
- HEI 2013 capital call allocated £6.5M of new investment
- HMT recent announcement: capital increased to **£1.1Bn/yr**
- BIS-led consultation on long-term capital investment in science and research – Spring 2013
 - Central question on balance between project/institutional investment for a “well found research and innovation environment” and new large scale projects
- Development of a new NERC Capital Funding Model



Contact: Bill Eason (wre@nerc.ac.uk)

Strategic research – three mechanisms



* Currently ca. £60m per year