



## **STFC'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

**Version 2: October 2008**

### **Introduction**

*STFC has been in existence for 18 months, during which time it has successfully merged the two previous Councils, won wide stakeholder endorsement of a detailed Programmatic Review despite tough funding decisions and significant initial external criticism, and delivered through its staff and funded researchers an excellent and often world class science and technology programme.*

*STFC inherited clear goals from its predecessor Councils in respect of their specific science and technology communities. STFC is however expected to be more than a merger of PPARC and CCLRC, and strives to deliver broader and more far-reaching goals. Our strategy development has therefore concentrated on identifying these wider goals.*

*During this process, STFC has made a series of crucial decisions about where we want to be, and how we want to get there – these are incorporated into our strategic framework and will guide and direct our future development of strategy.*

*The following document is therefore an outline of our Strategic Framework. As we consult, and assess in detail our ability to deliver in terms of money and resources, we expect this framework to be refined and developed.*

### **Mission**

The STFC's Mission, as set out in the Royal Charter granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II, states that STFC is required to:

- promote and support high-quality scientific and engineering research by developing and providing, by any means, facilities and technical expertise in support of basic strategic and applied research programmes funded by persons established in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.
- promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related post-graduate training in astronomy, particle physics, space science and nuclear physics and research in any other field which makes use of scientific facilities where access is provided, arranged or otherwise made available by the Council, having regard to the objects of the other research councils.



- promote and support the advancement of knowledge and technology (including the promotion and support of the exploitation of research outcomes) and to provide trained scientists and engineers, and thereby to contribute to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom and the quality of life of its people, meeting the needs of users and beneficiaries.

STFC is also charged to:

- generate public awareness;
- communicate research outcomes;
- encourage public engagement and dialogue;
- disseminate knowledge, and;
- provide advice.

## **Vision**

Working within an international context, STFC will deliver maximum scientific, economic, societal and international benefits to the UK by providing and promoting a unique combination of knowledge, expertise, facilities and associated technologies.

## **STFC's strategic framework**

### ***Science***

We will continue to:

- support a balanced programme including both curiosity-driven and application-led science.
- support university groups in particle physics, astronomy, space science and nuclear physics.
- provide facilities covering a broad range of physical and life science applications, both in our own laboratories and through international collaborations.
- prioritise this programme based on scientific excellence, impact and leadership (our Programmatic Review).



### ***Technology***

We will continue to:

- support the development of technologies to optimally exploit and develop our facilities and programmes.
- seek to exploit the technology we develop across a wide spectrum of disciplines.
- seek to maintain and develop a UK lead in the technologies that we consider to be critical to the next generation of facilities and programmes.
- seek to maximise the economic benefit of the technology that we develop.

### ***Economic impact***

- STFC believes that delivering world-leading science and technology is the necessary first step in delivering economic impact. Investment in science and technology will therefore continue to be STFC's primary objective.
- We believe that an assessment of economic impact must include the delivery of societal, human and international, as well as financial, benefits.
- We will strive to maximise this broad economic impact of our science and technology and we are developing a corporate economic impact strategy with the goal of maximising the economic impact from our investments.

### ***International***

STFC strategy for international engagement is driven by, and follows from, our science and technology goals.

Based on this principle, we will continue to:

- collaborate internationally and measure ourselves against international peers.
- use international facilities and organisations to deliver our science where appropriate.
- seek greater international influence, especially in Europe given the growing importance of European-wide decision making.
- recognise the strategic value of engaging with global partners.
- have a long term aim to attract inward investment and bring international science facilities onto UK soil.



### ***People***

STFC's staff alongside the research community, are key to the delivery of our mission and strategy.

We will continue to:

- develop their skills.
- identify the skills and capabilities we need for the future.
- encourage mobility both inside the STFC and through the campuses and delivery partners.

### ***Our sites***

STFC's establishments are national assets. We will:

- exploit and develop their potential as a central part of the UK's research base.
- continue to support and develop vigorous science and technology communities at both Daresbury and Rutherford Appleton Laboratories, to ensure they are credible sites for future large scale research investments and that they can act as the scientific and technical focus of the national science and innovation campuses.
- exploit synergies across the organisation in relation to the UK Astronomy Technology Centre to broaden the portfolio without diluting its reputation in astronomy, as we believe it is an important component of STFC's technology development and delivery capabilities.

### ***Stakeholder relationships***

STFC is inherently interdisciplinary and collaborative in its approach. We will continue to work as part of the Research Council family, as well as with universities, and with industry, to exploit the UK science base to its maximum potential.

### ***Campuses***

We are committed to developing the Daresbury and Harwell Science and Innovation Campuses. They are a key part of the national strategy for delivering economic impact. They will be delivered through joint venture partnerships with the private sector.