



# **NATIONAL CONTEXT AND DRIVERS**

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(bulleted summary of oral dialogue)



# DRIVERS - 1

- Public Accountability – ca £600M pa of taxpayers' money
- Support for Govt Science & Innovation Agenda (especially, the STEM strategy)
- Foster openness & dialogue, especially when there are issues
- Win public & political support for this type of work (basic science, facilities, energy research, etc)



## **DRIVERS - 2**

- Also note overlap with Corporate Communications strategy
- For example, STFC media releases and briefings on science and technology results
- This meeting not on 'corporate PR'



# CHANGING UK LANDSCAPE?

- Growing importance of public engagement as a culture – eg, National Trust, BBC, Universities
- Research Councils' (RCUK) collective programme: 'up the game' for P.E. across RCs and Universities
- Need for coherence and co-ordination in STEM support 'industry'
- Need for dialogue when there are issues of public concern
- Growth of science centres/museums
- New media, Web2.0, networking, etc



# STEM AGENDA

- What's big in this for STFC?
- One focus is increasing uptake of A-level Physics – a route into many SET areas and careers
- Ambitious Govt target, and we can help
- Idea of all those in UK interested in physics to work together



# MERGER TO STFC

- STFC – just the sum of its two previous Councils?
- No, real opportunity for exciting coherent outreach programme



# PARTNERSHIPS

- STFC within some – for example, RCUK and British National Space Centre
- RCUK progs include Researchers in Residence and Beacons for Public Engagement (with Funding Councils); and RCUK a single point of contact
- ‘Space’ a big education opportunity
- External – often working with delivery and educational partners, eg science centres, science learning centres, learned societies, academies, teacher organisations, etc



# INTERNATIONAL

- STFC science and facilities programmes highly international; it's a distinguishing feature
- We pay UK subscriptions to CERN, European Space Agency, European Southern Observatory, European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, Institut Laue Langevin
- Welcome that some here (CERN, ESRF, ESO)



# SIS PROG DEVELOPMENT

## **Advisory system** coming:

- High-level Education & Public Outreach Advisory Panel – for societal impact of STFC
- SiS Advisory Panel – programme strategy, policies and balance

▲ Aim to publish an STFC Science in Society Strategy, with Panel's advice, by late spring 2008