

# Research Councils' Energy Programme: materials for energy

#### Dr Alison Wall Associate Director, Mission Programmes

Jason Green; Claire Wagstaffe

**EPSRC** 

## The Energy Landscape: Public Sector funding







### Mission

To support world class research and postgraduate training to help meet the UK's energy and environmental targets and policy goals.

- tackling climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions both within the UK and abroad;
- ensuring secure, clean and affordable energy supply.













## **Energy Programme Objectives**

To support a **full spectrum of energy research** to help the UK meet the objectives and targets set out in the 2007 Energy White Paper. To **work in partnership** to contribute to the research and postgraduate training needs of energy-related business and other key stakeholders.

To increase the **international visibility** and level of international collaboration within the UK energy research portfolio.

To expand the **UK research capacity** in energy-related areas.

## Energy 2008 – 11

£319M planned investment by the Research Councils

#### **Priorities**

- •A whole system approach to energy options, supply and usage
- •Rapid exploitation through ETI
- •Growing portfolio in demand reduction and transport
- •Enhanced research in sustainable power generation & supply / alternative sources

•Focused postgraduate training in energy themes





#### EPSRC 2004-05 to 2010-11 EXPENDITURE







#### THE WHOLE EPSRC PICTURE

Living with environmental change (£9M) Global Uncertainties: security for all in a changing world (£6M) Life-long health and wellbeing (£11M)

Values are commitment 2008-11





### ESSENTIAL PLATFORM FOR A HEALTHY RESEARCH BASE

Longer term international quality research to provide a vibrant and sustainable research environment able to respond to future challenges

Key strategies:

- Supporting transformative research
- Community-led challenges
- Even more ambitious and flexible programmes of research for leading edge groups
- Signposting strategic areas
- Encouraging user collaboration



### Energy materials funding



Materials for energy 2006 (£6.69M)

Solar cells Battery storage Fusion Fission Nano Grand Challenge 1 (£6.7M)

Hybrid PV Block copolymer solar cells Heterojunction solar cells Nanocrystalline photodiodes Scaleable organic photovoltaic TSB (£2M)

High temperature electronics Novel energy harvesting products Power cables PV

Sensor coating





#### 13 consortia

38 academic partners 80+ business and other collaborators £57M in total With the Carbon Trust



energy

Materials research in many consortia including: PV (£6.2M) Organic PV (£1.1M) Storage (£2.2M) Plant lifetime extension (£4.3M) Hydrogen UKSHEC (£6M)

### **Fusion**



- Major block of funding over £20M pa
- EPSRC funding for ITER, JET and UK domestic programme (alongside EURATOM funding)
- Getting the right balance with the energy portfolio and the changing fusion research landscape



### **Nuclear Fission**

**Current Activities** 



- Keeping the Nuclear Option Open (KNOO) –focus is on current and future reactor systems, materials and waste management.
- Nuclear skills Engineering Doctorate Centre with MoD, BE, BNFL, Nexia and AWE.
- NTEC Nuclear Technology Education Consortium (masters)
- Sustainability of Nuclear Power (SPRing)
- Nuclear Waste Management & Decommissioning working with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority - DIAMOND: Decommissioning, Immobilisation And Management Of Nuclear wastes for Disposal

#### Where next?



- Fission and fusion?
- Demand reduction?
- Successor to Supergen?
- Focus vs breadth in the portfolio?

### **Energy team contacts**



Head of Programme: Jason Green – jason.green@epsrc.ac.uk

Energy manager: Claire Wagstaffe -<u>claire.wagstaff@epsrc.ac.uk</u>