



BALANCE OF PROGRAMMES

Advisory Panel Questions

13 July 2016

1. Please provide an update on any changes to your most recent science roadmap. Specifically, please ensure that:
 - the scientific priorities of your area are clearly listed, taking into account any recent changes;
 - you list activities/projects to cater for potential involvement in new or emerging opportunities;
 - in order to enable support for new opportunities and the stated priorities, you identify any areas where the level of support could be reduced.
2. The last programmatic review advocated broadening the programme whilst maintaining the most appropriate balance between R&D, construction, operation and scientific exploitation.
 - Do you believe the current programme activities have achieved this?
 - Please highlight any particular successes (or failures).
3. It was recognised at the time of the last programmatic review that should a flat-cash funding environment continue the balance of programmes should be re-examined to ensure sustainability. In the light of this, could you consider the following? (Please note that we recognise that the Advisory Panels do not normally consider financial details of the programme, so the responses must be educated assessments of the situation).
 - What steps should be taken to obtain the appropriate balance of adequately supported projects in your field?
 - How can the field be scientifically sustainable in a continuing flat cash/no inflation environment over the next 5 years?
 - At a strategic level, broadly speaking what would be the impact of reduced/increased funding (+/- 5%)?
4. In addition to supporting our science we recognise that the science programme results in the development of enabling technology that builds capability for UK.
 - What are the key technologies in your area where the UK is world leading and how do they generate benefit for the UK?

- How could STFC support the development of critical technologies that will be essential to support the field in the future?
5. Our science programmes depend on a pipeline of skilled people.
- Do you feel the current balance that exists for students, PDRAs, academic staff, technicians, engineers, software engineers etc. is roughly correct in your field?
 - Are there sufficient skills, experience and leadership for the current and projected future programme or are there areas where these are lacking?
 - Please comment on how this field generates skills impact for the UK.
6. Our science areas are increasingly reliant on mid and high level computing needs (including software development).
- Is the current computing resource available for the field adequate?
 - What are the foreseen future computing resource needs of the field?
 - Do you have access to adequate computing resources for archive/open data support in your field? Please comment on how you consider this will develop in 5 years.

Computing Advisory Panel specific question

- As part of the computing strategy review you were asked to comment on the balance and level of support of High Performance Computing (for theory) and high throughput computing for data-intensive science. What, if anything, has changed since your response at that time?