Supporting Innovation
Invest £3 billion a year in excellent knowledge creation and its translation:

- World-class research
- Facilities and technologies
- High-level skills, PhD training
- Public engagement, knowledge exchange and commercialisation
BBSRC – what we do:

• Fund **world-class bioscience research** in UK Universities and Institutes

• Fund **bioscience training and skills** for the next generation of bioscientists

• Drive the widest possible **social and economic impact** from our bioscience in industry, policy and public goods

• Promote **public dialogue** on bioscience
Three major strategic priorities

Agriculture and food security

Industrial biotechnology and bioenergy

Bioscience for health

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Agriculture and Food Security

Bioscience for sustainable and productive agriculture, supplying not only sufficient, nutritious and safe food but also non-food products, in a rapidly changing world

- Crop Science
- Animal health and livestock production
- Soil science and agri-systems approaches
- Healthy, safe and nutritious diets
Enabling Impact

Widest possible benefit to the UK economy and society

Enabling research outputs to improve UK competitiveness in global marketplace

Economic and Social Impact

Engagement with users

Partnerships & People

Maturing Idea

Excellent Research
Delivering impact through Knowledge Exchange & Commercialisation

Research Councils

- Invest in research to achieve the widest possible benefits & impact, not just commercial exploitation

Host institutions

- Effective management of intellectual assets
- Develop and deliver strategic vision for all aspects of KE&C, including wider benefits to society and economy
- Sharing and combining of Intellectual Assets between institutions in the interest of public good
- Recognise and reward people taking part in KE&C activities
BBSRC working with business

- Enabling the bioscience research base to respond to industry challenges
- Strengthening and developing BBSRC’s links with bioscience research users
- Creating opportunities for engagement

Bioscience Research Base

Business
From the research base to the user...

Collaborative Research

Collaborative Training

Driving Innovation

People Exchange

Commercialisation
Research Industry Clubs (RICs)

Aims

• Support high quality, innovative, pre-competitive research to underpin the UK industry in addressing significant challenges to future competitiveness

• To strengthen the research community in the areas that underpin the long-term needs of industry through interdisciplinary research and provision of training

• To ensure the exchange of knowledge between the science base and industry through effective networking leading to impact
Research Industry Clubs

- DRINC • DIET AND HEALTH RESEARCH INDUSTRY CLUB
- CIRC • CROP IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH CLUB
- ARC • ANIMAL HEALTH RESEARCH CLUB
- SARIC • SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & INNOVATION CLUB

Strategic Collaboration Schemes

- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform

Skills and Knowledge Exchange

- BBSRC Advanced Training Partnerships
- BBSRC CASE Training Partnerships
- BBSRC Follow-on Fund
- BBSRC FLIP Flexible Interchange Programme

Collaborative Initiatives

- IPA Industrial Partnership Awards
- LINK Collaborative Research
- HAPI • HORTICULTURE AND POTATO INITIATIVE

www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business
Helping to Commercialise UK Agricultural Innovation

The Agri-Tech Catalyst has been set up by Innovate UK, DFID and BBSRC with £70M investment to make the UK a world leader in agricultural technology, innovation and sustainability.

Proposals are invited relating to:
- primary crop and livestock production, including aquaculture
- non-food uses of arable crops (for example, for biomass)
- food security and nutrition challenges in international development
- challenges in food processing, provided the solution lies in production

Industrial research registration deadline: 7 Oct 2015
Early- and Late-stage registration deadline: 13 Jan 2016
A partnership between BBSRC, NERC and 12 Company members – launched Spring 2014

£10M to provide solutions to key challenges affecting the efficiency, productivity and sustainability of UK crop and livestock sectors

Structured around two interlinking themes:
1. Resilient and robust crop and livestock production systems
2. Predictive capabilities for sustainable agriculture
SARIC – Second call for proposals

New partner – Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

Two funding streams:

• **Research proposals (£3.5M)** - providing new data and knowledge. Two-stage process, outline and full stage.

• **Research translation (£1.5M)** - supporting innovative approaches to translating existing research data and knowledge into new tools, technologies and other outcomes that create tangible economic or societal benefit

Key challenge: Predictive capabilities for sustainable agriculture
SARIC – Second call key dates

Research and Research Translation Calls running simultaneously

Research Translation Call Deadline: 16 Sept 2015, 4pm
Call assessment: Nov 2015
Project start dates: Winter 2015/16

Outline Research Call Deadline: 16 Sept 2015, 4pm
Call Assessment: Nov 2015
Full Research Call deadline (invitation only): Feb 2016
Project start dates: ~August 2016
Supports the translation of fundamental research into practical application with up to £2M of funding over 2 years

Take ideas through to the stage at which the route to application is clear

Enables activities essential to preparing a robust business plan and secure, where appropriate, further funding and support to progress
Follow-on Fund

A proof-of concept fund to support translation of fundamental BBSRC-funded research into practical application.

**Pathfinder:** up to £20K for up to 6 months, apply at any time

**Standard:** up to £250K for up to 18 months

**Super:** up to £2M for up to 24 months, 2-step application

We advise you to discuss your application with your technology transfer office to ensure it demonstrates commercialisation potential.

http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/commercialisation/follow-on.aspx
Follow-on Fund Successes

Jan 14
New drug for bipolar

Feb 28
Commercial future for model

May 14
Wheat breeding science offers greater yields

The Dynamic Gastric Model, developed by Oxford University research, has taken significant strides worldwide.

UK wheat yields could be boosted by up to 30% with the introduction of a new wheat bred from a wild grass species.
Funded by BBSRC and delivered by the Royal Society of Edinburgh

Designed to encourage the development of a new business, building on previously funded BBSRC research, around a technological idea developed by the Fellow.

Provides a year’s salary to develop a full business plan and seek investment, access to mentors, business experts and professional advisors, and business training to help develop the required skills.

With the support of an Enterprise Fellowship, Dr Almond has made rapid progress towards commercialisation and formed the spin out company Conformetrix (now C4X Discovery Ltd).
Follow-on Fund

• Take forward NERC funded research that has commercial potential

• End of a research grant before market able to pick up where route to commercialisation still unclear and very risky

• So it works in the lab but: Does it work at scale? Does it work in an industry setting? Does it work on industry material? Does it meet industry standards? SOP?

• Proof-of-concept model – able to secure market interest e.g. through licensing, spin-out company (seed or venture finance) in the future
  
  – **NERC FOF** for up to £125k at 100% FEC (£100k NERC contribution at 80% FEC) for commercialisation of research. (Closing date 22 October 2015)
  
  – **NERC Innovation Projects** up to £125k (details same as for FOF but for projects that cannot be commercialised but will still benefit end-users).
NERC runs both open and directed translational calls.

If you would like to receive information and alerts relating to NERC innovation and knowledge exchange funding schemes, please sign up to our email updates at [http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/schemes/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/schemes/).

For further information and queries: innovation@nerc.ac.uk
Thank you

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