

Mobile VCE Industry Launch: Enabling the 2020 vision

# A Strategic Partnership



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## Who are EPSRC?

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council is the main UK government agency for funding research and training in engineering and the physical sciences, investing around £740 million a year in a broad range of subjects.

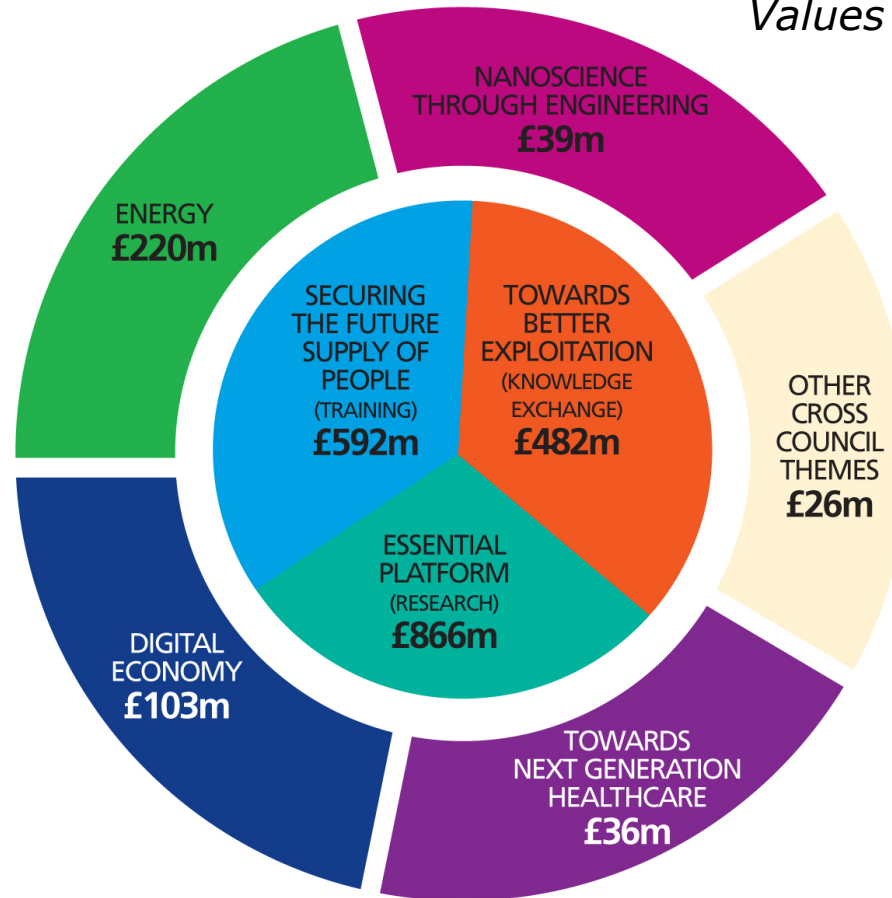
We operate to meet the needs of industry and society by working in partnership with universities to invest in people and scientific discovery and innovation.

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# The Whole EPSRC Picture

*Values are commitment 2008-11*



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

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# Towards better exploitation

An emphasis on excellence with impact and the importance of people, to achieve the vision: “for the UK to be equally renowned for knowledge exchange and innovation as it is for research discovery”

## Key strategies

- Increase business-focused skills development/postgraduate training (e.g Industrial Doctorate Centres)
- Accelerating the exploitation of research outputs to enhance business pull and address societal grand challenges (e.g. Knowledge Transfer Accounts, Follow on Funds)



TOWARDS  
BETTER  
EXPLOITATION  
(KNOWLEDGE  
EXCHANGE)  
**£482m**

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## What is a Strategic Partnership?

A Strategic Partnership is a formal arrangement between EPSRC and one or more organisations in which the various parties jointly fund and support research, training and other activities in UK universities.

The partnership provides a framework for support of mutually beneficial activities in areas of interest to the involved parties.

Such activities can include Research Chairs, research grants and consortia, and training activities such as support for doctoral students.

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# Working in partnership



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# Benefits of a Strategic Partnership:

## a) For EPSRC

EPSRC seeks strategic partnerships in order to:

- identify and fund areas of research/training that are of mutual interest to both EPSRC and our stakeholders.
- assist the academic community and stakeholders to work in collaboration.
- increase the opportunities for knowledge transfer from the funded activities.

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# Benefits of a Strategic Partnership:

## b) For Users

The companies involved will benefit from:

- Gearing on funding. When EPSRC agrees to co-fund an activity through a Strategic Partnership activity, it will generally match the partner's contribution to the project. The partner may effectively double the amount of funding available to perform research in their areas of interest.
- A tried and tested peer-refereed review process. The review of proposals for funding through the Strategic Partnership will be carried out by EPSRC, guided and aided by the partner organisation, helping them to identify research and researchers of the highest quality.
- Access to the knowledge and expertise of EPSRC staff e.g. in identifying key groups, organising workshops, writing and running calls for proposals, grant processing and peer review.

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# Benefits of a Strategic Partnership

## c) For Academia

Academics and research groups who submit proposals for Strategic Partnership activity funding benefit in several ways, such as:

- Opportunity to respond to `real world` problems with new research challenges.
- Access to increased funding pool.
  - Strategic partners have provided additional £15m research funding to universities over the past 3 years
  - `In kind` contributions such as know-how, equipment, materials and so on.
- Committed partners with whom to collaborate.
- Route to application/exploitation for outputs.
- Increase in the total level of resources available for an area/ theme.

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## EPSRC – Mobile VCE Strategic Partnership

On 8th February 2008 a joint venture announced to pursue strategic research in Advanced Digital Communications through a 3 to 4 year, £5M initiative.

The strategic partnership was formalised over a decade of interactions between Mobile VCE and EPSRC and aimed to provide an excellent opportunity for university researchers to pursue industrially relevant research while maintaining academic rigour.

The overall framework of the associated research programme was determined by the Industrial Members of Mobile VCE and reflected a global industry view of future commercial drivers and the accompanying technical advances.

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## EPSRC – Mobile VCE Strategic Partnership

The overall philosophy of the programme reflects a requirement for ‘transparent technology’, communication services that ‘just are’ – easily accessible to the technophobe and simple to use, indeed usable without even realising it.

Future communications technology will transform our industries and society, just as mobile phones and the Internet have transformed personal communications.

The partnership sought involvement from University research groups with *proven track records* in the *relevant activity areas* with potential to contribute at a *world class* level in a *collaborative* programme, and who possess relevant and appropriate *application area knowledge*.

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## Core 5 Research Programme activities

### ■ User Interactions (1 Jan 2009 – 30 June 2012)

Total funding: £1.5M (£0.76M EPSRC contribution).

### ■ Green Radio (1 Jan 2009 – 30 June 2012)

Total funding: £2.67M (£1.34M EPSRC contribution).

### ■ Flexible Networks: phase 1 (1 Jan 2009 – 31 Dec 2009)

Total funding: £0.7M (£0.41M EPSRC contribution)

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# What Core 5 Research Programme will deliver

- long term, world-class research
- strategic value for the future of the industry
- Tackle important industry-defined challenges
- Benefits of the previous decades track record of collaboration
- keep business partners ahead of industry trends

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**End of Presentation**

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