



**Chemical Sciences Scotland Conference 2009
Innovation Breakout Sessions Feedback**

1. What do you feel about the issues raised in the presentation (progress of Innovation topic group to date)?

Industry academic links

- SPIRIT industrial studentships are a cost effective mechanism to link SMEs and academics but would like to see more if these – needs to be an ongoing programme as the studentships strengthen and provide conduit into academic expertise. Need more time to get SPIRIT industrial collaborations brokered pre-application
- Once academic/industrial collaborations are established improves networks significantly
- Time constraints can be an issue (academic/industry) takes too long to get collaborations in place
- KTP also an important scheme
- Require business led projects (pull) rather than push from academia
- Reputation of Scotland's academic expertise can sell projects
- Difficult to bridge academia – industry due to IP, funding challenges – more pragmatic approach required
- Are we focusing our efforts in the right place; costs of R&D versus product and process development and commercialisation. Think about scale – finance to support projects in HEIs only 2% of total development costs
- Route to market needs to be addressed in all proposals
- Are we utilising expertise within colleges enough?

Networks

- Breakfast networking events very useful
- Generally CSS are good are networking across own group but need to strengthen links across other priority industries to lead to more awareness
- Use SE account managers network more (operational level -> CSS-> PoCP associates)

Companies

- Greater recognition of good management in private sector



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2. What ideas would you like to suggest to CSS?

Business – Business and Improving Networks

- Business to business innovation scheme (e.g. PoCP for business) – require cross sector mechanism to undertake this. May require matchmaking service for business to business.
- Ensure value for money from professional advisors
- Source book for companies listing all contact details
- Establish mechanism to build virtual community for networking
- Establish funding pool for Scottish collaboration across sectors e.g. SMEs/academics/ large companies (current mechanism via FP7 requires European partners)
- Facilitate local and European collaborations and consortia to access large scale funding e.g. framework 7 (FP7) funding

Industry academic links

- Develop database/central sources of information of what companies require that could be identified from academia (via Interface) or business to business matchmaker. Company pull required to identify opportunities. Need central knowledge bank of competence to ensure cross industry communication
- Promote collaborations between sectors (academia to act as clearing house)
- Promote one stop shop (Interface) for accessing technical and software expertise available in HEIs
- Facilitate easier access for SMEs for equipment and facilities available in Universities (via Interface)
- Develop academic expertise directory or website listing capability
- Facilitate access to new technologies (e.g. Chemistry KTN) and look at Dutch model
- Provide greater access to expertise both technical expertise and funding available to companies and SMEs
- Scottish Colleges Association and Interface to work together to improve connectivity for colleges
- Promote successful and unsuccessful case studies via database
- Look at model of Computer Users Information Service (<http://www.cuis.co.uk/>) as a model that could be adopted as a first approach
- Practical help to strengthen propositions e.g. Issue guidelines for “rules of engagement” e.g. exemplar contracts for University – business collaborations or commercial engagements, consistent approach to CDAs, financial assessments / evaluations
- Funding scheme to support industrial post-doc positions
- Upskill employees to use college training to fill employment gaps and prevent redundancy (PACE scheme already in operation but may require further development)



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3. What would you like CSS to do?

Vision

- CSS to have clear 10 year strategy and vision – to help position efforts globally. Have we developed the strategic picture of innovation (i) what sectors should we focus on (ii) need to articulate vision (iii) contribution of market value and effective focus required
- Learn from other sectors and countries e.g. Canada

Improving connectivity Company – academic links

- Require strong global vision for connectivity for both CSS and academia
- Continue with SPIRIT industrial studentships
- Improved access to information for SMEs
- Events to bring parties together along with funders e.g. TSB, FP7 etc.
- More PR and promotion for SPIRIT industrial studentships and for Interface partnerships

Investment

- Facilitate access to large funding opportunities e.g. CSS/ Scotland Europa to work together to ensure better access to Framework 7 funding
- Initial support from financial sector to ensure robust valuations of processes

Skills

- Support better ways of career development pathways for industry e.g. develop a skilled people pipeline
- Project management support required to prepare cases for investors, research etc.

Other

- Improve Business to Business technology transfer mechanisms
- Ensure strong links to other support services e.g. Intellectual Assets Centre etc.
- Discourage duplication
- Improve access for companies based in more remote parts of Scotland to CSS network e.g. via virtual networking, events available via webinars