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Smart Optics Gets Started!

Smart Optics' Announcement of Opportunity for Flagship Projects from £1M PPARC/ EPSRC funds was issued on 20th November with a closing date of 31st January 2002. The Smart Optics Technology Translator Team will be pleased to help assemble industry/academic partnerships and draft proposals for the initial and final rounds of this AO and other collaborative project funding opportunities.

Technology Translator contacts:

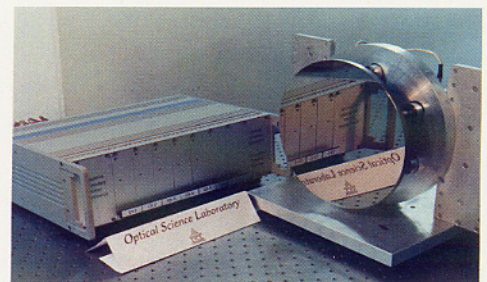
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Focus Group Meetings

We are organising 'Focus Group Meetings' to bring together people who are interested in a particular application area of Smart Optics, with the goal of fostering bids for the AO and other funding opportunities. Three have been held at the time of writing, in Free Space Optical Communications at Cablefree Solutions Ltd, in Lightweight Mirrors at QinetiQ Space Department, and in Medical Applications for the Eye at Keeler Ltd. These were very popular and we plan to repeat them and hold further meetings in other application areas in the future. We will keep you posted!



A 30 cm adaptive Aluminium mirror made by the Optical Science Laboratory, UCL

MEMS: Another Faraday?

QinetiQ Microsystems and Microengineering Dept., Sira and Heriot-Watt University are assembling a bid for another Faraday Partnership in MEMS for Optical Systems. We hope that projects will arise with a Smart Optics connection - after all Optical MEMS devices are Smart Optics. If you would like to be a Faraday Partner in the new Faraday Partnership, let us know - at this stage we are keen to show as much support as possible. Contact Jon Holmes (jon_holmes@siraao.co.uk) or Roger Carline at QinetiQ (rcarline@taz.qinetiq.com).

Future Smart Optics Technology Forums

Write these dates in your diary now! The next Forum will be on 1st March 2002 in London and we will review the successful bids to our Announcement of Opportunity. The following Forum will be held at the Electronics World Expo event at Earls Court (19/20 June 2002).



Mission to the US of A

The DTI International Technology Service supports fact-finding 'missions' to other countries by select teams of businesses and academics covering particular technology areas where the country has expertise. The DTI supports the visit by opening doors and paying for travel expenses (including all flights) and for the planning, organisation and post-mission seminar. Smart Optics is planning a mission on Deformable Mirrors to the United States. This is a great opportunity for business to find out what businesses and research organisations are doing in the USA with Smart Optics. If you want to find out more and express your interest, contact Jon Holmes. Details of the scheme are at www.dri.gov.uk/mbp/its/missions/missions.html

Support for Faradays from the Ministers



Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation 'launched' the Crystal Faraday Partnership in Green Technologies on 23rd October 2001. He said:

"The 18 FARADAY partnerships already established are producing a high and effective level of collaboration between industry, RTOs and universities. These partnerships offer a unique way of enabling businesses and researchers to work together, to find new opportunities for exploitation of research, to find new opportunities to bring change to the quality of our lives."



Patricia Hewitt, Minister for Trade and Industry was reported in the Observer on 2 December as supporting Faradays in the Government's drive for wealth creation through innovation:

"The science budget has risen; Hewitt believes that programmes such as Foresight, aimed at encouraging innovation, and the Faraday partnership between the universities and business can forge better links between science and industry to create innovation."

Smart Optics reaches out to healthcare

Over 45 people participated in a PPARC "optics for the medical industry" workshop held in London on 25 September 2001, including a number of clinical ophthalmologists, manufacturers of optical equipment, staff from other Research Councils, and representatives of the NHS and the Department of Health. There is a great demand for optical technologies and their associated detectors, image processing and pattern recognition techniques in medicine. The astronomical optics research community, with its strengths in detector and instrument development, data processing and pattern recognition, seems to be able to provide some of the answers required for a new generation of medical equipment. Such interdisciplinary, needs-focused technology transfer is at the heart of the Faraday ideology.

Professor Alistair Fielder of Imperial College gave us an insight into the practical requirements for more advanced optical systems in the field of clinical ophthalmology. In particular, access to the eye, wide field of view retinal imaging and fast image capture with low level illumination were familiar themes to the astronomers present. Astronomy groups from the Universities of Cambridge, Leicester, University College London and Imperial College presented advances in optical design and fabrication, adaptive optics, astronomical image processing and fast optical detectors for medical applications.

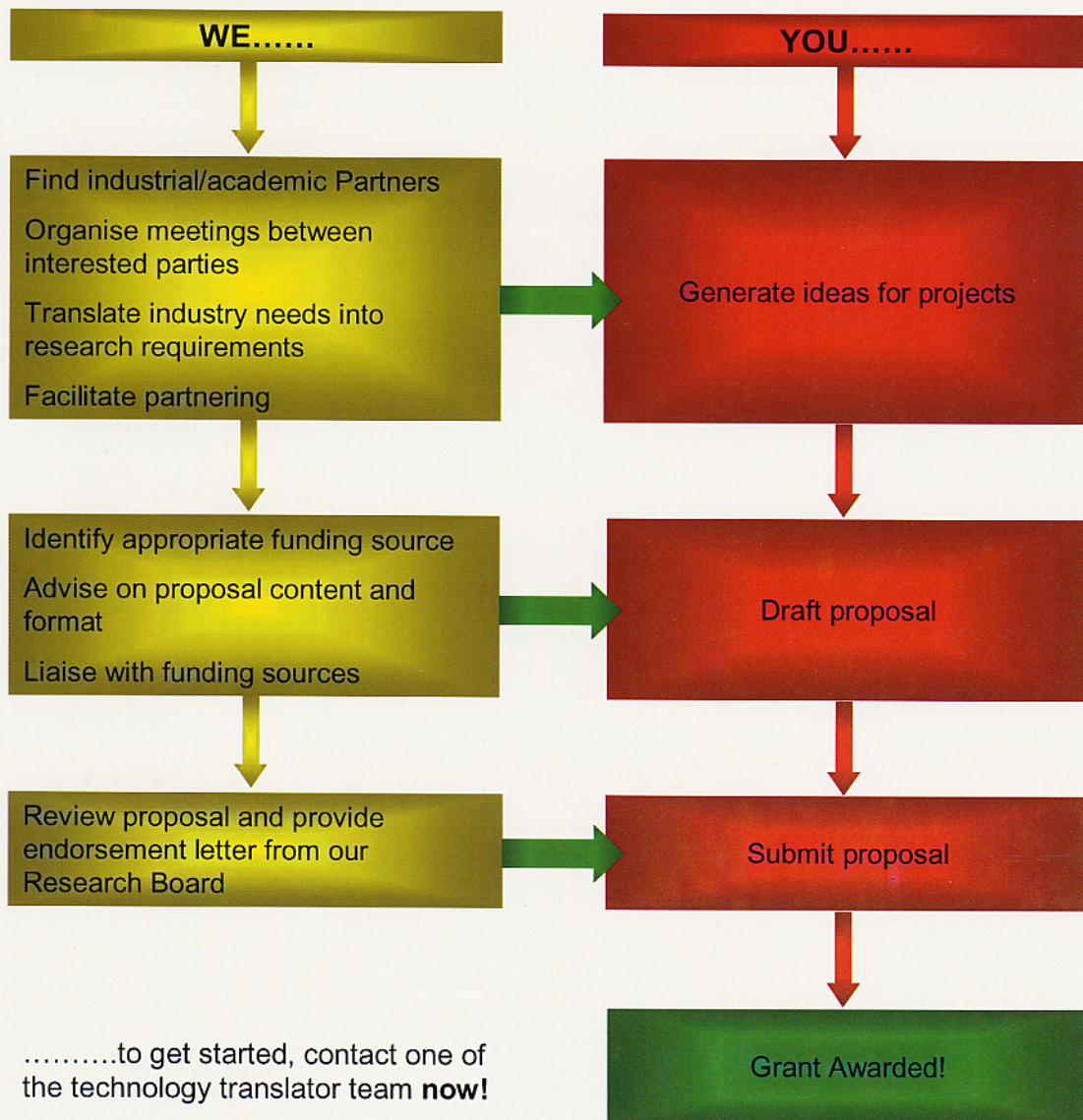
A number of the participants are now forming collaborative partnerships to bring lasting benefit for healthcare. This represents an opportunity for companies in the medical optics industry to participate in the Smart Optics Faraday Partnership in order to gain access to these novel technologies, and several ideas for projects are being prepared as applications to PPARC PIPSS industry partnerships funding scheme. For further information on PPARC's Industry Programme and PPARC Technologies for Healthcare, email Nathan at nathan.hill@qi3.co.uk or telephone 01223 304568.

PIPSS

The next call for PIPSS proposals (up to £50K collaborative projects) is opening Jan 1st 2002. PIPSS is a PPARC scheme aimed at small collaborative projects. Once again, Smart Optics can help by supporting your bid and assembling partners. Contact a technology translator for help. Details of the PIPSS grant scheme are at www.pparc.ac.uk/rs/fs/rg/pipssguidenotes.asp

How Smart Optics can help you obtain project funding

Even after the £1M earmarked PPARC/EPSRC funds are allocated, Smart Optics will be actively working to get **more** projects funded, through other schemes such as LINK, TCS, Smart Awards, EU Framework 6 etc. The diagram below shows how we can help at the various stages of applying for funds, from generating the ideas and partnerships, through to endorsing a proposal application to a funding body.



Smart Optics Industrial Partners

AEA Technology Plc	Image Automation Ltd	Qi3
Astrium UK	Keeler Ltd	QinetiQ
BAE Systems Ltd	Keymed Ltd	Quality Laser Optics Ltd
Barr Associates Ltd	Loughborough Surface Analysis Ltd	Quotec
BJR Systems Ltd	MAST Carbon Ltd	SEA
Cablefree Solutions Ltd	Micropix	Sharp Laboratories of Europe Ltd
CDL Systems	MSSL	Sira Electro-optics Ltd
CLRC	Observatory Sciences Ltd	Starpoint Adaptive Optics
CRL Opto	Optisense Ltd	Technology Partnership
Davin Optronics	Oxford Instruments	Telescope Technologies Ltd
Exitech	Oxford Technology Consultants Ltd	Thales Optics Ltd
Federation of Electronics Ind	Pilkington	TWI Ltd
Fujifilm Electronic Imaging Ltd	Precision-Optical Engineering	UK Astronomy Technology Centre

Academic Partners

Imperial College	University of Oxford	University College
University of Durham	Liverpool John Moores University	Heriot-Watt University

Technology Translator Team

The Smart Optics Faraday Partnership has recruited 10 Technology Translators, of whom three are devoting most of their time to Faraday Partnership activities. A Technology Translators' Workshop was held in November to plan and co-ordinate activities and training. Eight of the team are shown below:



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Mike Cutter

Chris
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BarnesBrett
PattersonSteve
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Alan Smith

Colin
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Contact Details

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