

Making Industry and University Collaboration Work

8th March 2007

With £21 billion in the UK and £600 billion globally spent on knowledge creation, why is there still a lack of Industry and University Collaboration? Firms in the UK are often striving for higher levels of Innovation and Value added because they cannot compete on cost alone. Yet the “innovation through knowledge system” within universities remains to an extent untapped; how can we achieve Industry and University Collaboration and what is preventing it from taking place.

On the 12th March 2007 AIM Research will be holding an evening seminar at London Business School titled ‘The Challenges of Industry – University Collaboration in a Globalising Economy’ as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science 2007. Drawing on research conducted as part of the AIM Research Programme and EPSRC funded Innovation and Productivity Grand Challenge as well as practical experience from the Research Councils and business sector, this seminar will seek to explore the challenges of the Industry – University Collaboration debate.

Speakers include:

- Professor Andy Neely – AIM Deputy Director, Professor of Operations Strategy and Performance, Cranfield School of Management;
- Professor Julian Birkinshaw – AIM Senior Fellow, Professor of Strategic and International Management at London Business School;
- Mr Adrian Alsop – Director of Research, Training and Development, ESRC;
- Dr Malcolm Skingle, Director, Academic Liaison, GlaxoSmithKline;

Professor Neely says “I am really looking forward participating in this important and topical seminar. Building on the best of AIM’s research, along with thought provoking impact from business and policy makers, I am sure the event will be rich and entertaining”.

From politicians to the general public – the ESRC Festival of Science week aims to offer everyone the opportunity to discover what the UK’s social scientists are doing and how social science research can contribute to better policymaking and, ultimately, a better society.

For further information on this exciting event please view the AIM Website <http://www.aimresearch.org/socsci2007.html>

Notes for Editors

The **Festival of Social Science** is organised by the Economic and Social Research Council, and runs from March 9th to 18th, alongside National Science and Engineering Week. It celebrates some of the very best British social science research, as well as highlighting the ways in which social science makes a difference to everyday lives. Press releases detailing some of the varied events are available at www.esrcfestival.ac.uk or for more information please contact the ESRC Press Office on 01793 413032 or via e-mail: alexandra.saxon@esrc.ac.uk

AIM Research is funded by the ESRC and EPSRC and was launched in November 2002. AIM's mission is to improve understanding of management's contribution to organizational performance, and thus UK well-being. AIM's more specific objectives are: (i) to conduct research that will identify actions to enhance the UK's international competitiveness; (ii) to raise the scientific quality and international standing of UK research on international competitiveness; (iii) to expand the size and capacity of the active research base for UK research on management; and (iv) to develop the engagement of that capacity with world-class research outside the UK and with practitioners as co-producers of knowledge about management and other users of research within the UK. For more information on AIM visit www.aimresearch.org

The **ESRC** is the UK's largest funding agency for research and postgraduate training relating to social and economic issues. It provides independent, high quality, relevant research to business, the public sector and Government. The ESRC's planned total expenditure in 2006/7 is £169 million. At any one time the ESRC supports over 4,000 researchers and postgraduate students in academic institutions and research policy institutes. More at <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk>

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (**EPSRC**) is the UK's main agency for funding research in engineering and the physical sciences. The EPSRC invests more than £500 million a year in research and postgraduate training, to help the nation handle the next generation of technological change. The areas covered range from information technology to structural engineering, and mathematics to materials science. This research forms the basis for future economic development in the UK and improvements for everyone's health, lifestyle and culture. EPSRC also actively promotes public awareness of science and engineering. EPSRC works alongside other Research Councils with responsibility for other areas of research. The Research Councils work collectively on issues of common concern via Research Councils UK. Website address for more information on EPSRC: www.epsrc.ac.uk/

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