

## **Notes of a meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 at Defra, Ergon House, London SW1P 3JR, London.**

**Present:** Keith Attenborough (IoA), Abigail Bristow (Loughborough University), Yvette Hood (Defra), Kirill Horoshenkov (Chair), Ray Kirby (Brunel University), Alan McAlpine (ISVR), Shahram Taherzadeh (Open University), Stephen Turner (Defra), Bajram Zeqiri (NPL).

**1. Apologies:** Jian Kang (University of Sheffield), Yiu Wei Lam (Salford University), Michael Postema (Bergen University, Norway), Eleanor Stride (UCL/IoP), Peter Thorne (University of Liverpool), Duncan Williams (DSTL).

### **2. Report of meeting held at DEFRA on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2012**

2.1 The report of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2012 was agreed as an accurate record.

2.2. Michael Postema has tendered his resignation as a Tier 1 member.

**Action KA/YH**

2.3 It is desirable to continue to make efforts to bring members of ultrasonics community to RCC meetings. **KA** promised to talk to Dr. Eleanor Stride and Prof. Constantin Coussios in another attempt to bring at least one them to this Committee.

2.4 **ST** agreed to arrange a 1/2-day briefing meeting on the HOSANNA project and Q&A session for officials across government, which should be separate from the final dissemination event organised at the Royal Society on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2013. This meeting may be organised by Defra after the January meeting in the Royal Society. It would include three or four members of the HOSANNA project, including overseas members who can speak about the key findings from HOSANNA project at the technical level relevant to the government officials. Meanwhile, it makes sense to publicise the Royal Society event amongst government officials who may be interested to attend (**KA**).

**Actions ST, KA**

2.5 **KH** suggested it was time to draw a close on the IoA/IoP issue and refer it to the IoA Council. This issue concerns running of the Joint Physical Acoustics Group, Group meetings, reporting to the Council and joint IoA/IoP membership. **KA** noted that it is important for us to continue to be involved in the discussions related to this issue. This will help to coordinate the research that spans the interests of the members of the two Institutions. **KH** will speak to Prof. Bridget Shield. He will pass to her the details of his conversations with Mr. Geoff Kerry and Prof. Victor Humphreys.

**Action KH**

2.6 **ST/YH** tried to contact Dr. Tracy Hanlon without much success. **KH** has been in contact with Dr. Hanlon. She indicated that there may be the opportunity to meet her in November. **KH** will circulate a copy of her letter together with the meeting notes. It still makes sense for **ST** and **YH** to have a separate meeting with Dr. Hanlon. **ST** suggested pursuing parallel paths to arrange an initial meeting and another joint meeting with Dr. Hanlon. **ST** made a point about other Research Councils which can fund acoustics-related research.

**Action KH/ST**

2.7 There was a discussion about possible research collaboration through Research Councils in some countries within the EU. RCC should encourage researchers in the UK to explore funding opportunities which exist in the UK and in the EU for collaborative research. It was noted that Research Councils in Germany, France and Netherlands support collaborative projects with researchers overseas. **KA** mentioned that there is scheme (DAAD) for collaboration between the British and German researchers. **KA** will attend a related meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November in London. **KA** noted that EPSRC run joint calls with the NSF in the USA. **KH** reported that the EPSRC may develop in cooperation with other EU Research Councils a permanent scheme which will be available to bid for collaborative research within the EU. This matter should be discussed with Dr. Hanlon. **BZ** enquired about the acoustics-related research sponsored by the TSB. **KH** will try to obtain this information for the next RCC meeting in May 2013.

2.8 **ST** informed the Committee members about his forthcoming meeting with Prof. Ian Boyd. **KH** suggested to **ST** to try to raise the issue about acoustics and acoustics-related research at this meeting. The RCC will return to his issue at the next meeting in May 2013. **KH** reported that a note about the appointment of the new Chief Scientific Advisor to Defra had been published in the September/October issue of the Acoustics Bulletin.

**Action ST**

2.9 **KH** reported that he published a note in the September/October issue of the Acoustics Bulletin asking the IoA members to identify challenges which acoustics faces as a discipline. These reports will be collated by **KH** in November and passed on to Dr. Hanlon by **KH**. **KH** asked **AM** to discuss this matter with the Head of the ISVR, Prof. Jeremy Astley to obtain a list of topics in acoustics which are considered by the ISVR as research challenges. **RK** noted that there was an EU project on future directions of acoustics, which was industry focused. The results of this work might be available in the public domain. **KH** asked **RK** to provide him with more information on this project. **KH** asked **BZ** to provide the views of the staff at the NPL on future challenges in acoustics. **KA** suggested contacting Prof. Constantin Coussios at Oxford and asking for his views on future challenges.

**Actions AM/RK/BZ/KA/KH**

### **3. Defra report**

3.1. **ST/YH** reported on a several completed and on-going projects at Defra. The Historic Policy Intervention project report has been finalised and peer-review process is now on its way. Defra will continue to concentrate on gathering data on the outcomes of other on-going research. Defra completed an attitude study of noise and complaints analysis. It was found that approximately 1100 noise-related complaints per day are made in England. Defra will continue to keep politicians and civil servants aware of noise-related issues. Defra will press them to allocate sufficient funding to enable the needed noise-related research. This is a reason why Defra are keen to work with the Research Councils to identify priorities in noise-related research and find sufficient funding to support this work.

**KA** asked **ST** about the status of the Noise Policy Statement and any successor document for the current PPG24. **ST** responded that there is a need for new guidance. The expertise within many local authorities is thinning out, but the local authorities cannot effort the services of external consultancy firms. Apparently, there is a gap in the market for it, but it needs to be sold to the ministers. The principle for the existing PPG was reinforced by the ministers and it is unlikely that the immediate successor to the existing document will be developed in the near future.

A recent consultation document produced by HPA identified the need for more acoustics-related expertise. The HPA document asks for comments on road, rail and aircraft noise. It was suggested to invite a representative from HPA (e.g Dr Jill Meara) to the next RCC meeting. There is a need to organise within the next three months a 1/2-day IoA workshop with a representative from HPA to provide a feedback on the HPA report. **ST** is going to meet with Dr. Jill Meara (HPA) soon and ask her if she would be prepared to attend this workshop. **ST** will talk to Dr. Meara. **KA** will contact Roy Bratby, **KH** will talk to Linda Canty regarding this workshop and possible venue.

**On-going actions ST/YH/KH/KA**

3.2 The item is deferred to the next RCC meeting in May 2013.

#### **4. Challenges in Acoustics**

**KH** to collect responses and report to Dr. Hanlon.

**Actions KH**

#### **5. Research Funding**

5.1 A number of the relevant issues were discussed **KH** presented a list of current EPSRC grant portfolio with relevance to acoustics. It was noted that a relatively small proportion of this funding goes to researchers who are IoA members.

5.2. **KH** noted that there will be a considerable reduction in the EPSRC funding from April 2013. These cuts will be uneven though a range of disciplines. The European Research Council (ERC) has funded around 3000 projects (up to 1.5M Euros per grant) out of which only a handful are acoustics-related. Not many IoA members are aware of this funding body and they should consider the ERC as an alternative to the EPSRC funding. RCC members are encouraged to find out more about the ERC funding mechanisms and discuss these at the next RCC meeting. **KH** is to attach information on the ERC to the notes of this meeting.

**Actions KH**

#### **6. IoA**

6.1 This issue was referred to the Council.

6.2 No changes were reported.

#### **7. Any other business**

No other matters were reported.

#### **8. Next meeting.**

21 May 2013. The venue is to be confirmed in March 2013.