

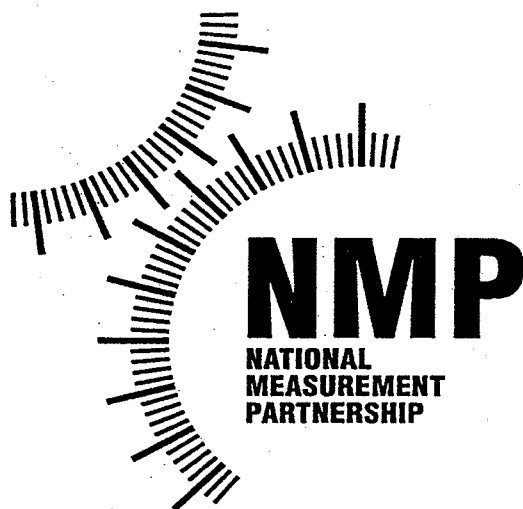
National Measurement Conference 99

AT

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FORESIGHT ASSOCIATE PROGRAMMES AT THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY

Bernard F Berry, Peter Kennell, and Markys G Cain, NPL

The National Physical Laboratory, NPL, is planning to run two Associate Programmes during the new round of the Government's Foresight Programme.

- Measurement and Instrumentation (with SIRA)
- Nanotechnology

Measurement and Instrumentation Associate Programme

This Associate Programme will provide the instrumentation, measurement and standards community with the input and coupling necessary to relate this important topic to the work of the main sectoral Foresight panels. The Programme will be centred on the existing National Physical Laboratory (NPL)/SIRA managed Intelligent Sensors for Control Technology Faraday Partnership (INTERSECT) but will seek to expand its industrial coverage and debate across a wider community of interests related to those of the Partnership, focusing at least initially on applications in manufacturing, processes and related areas.

The scope of the work to be undertaken is intended to cover primarily:

- physical and chemical measurements
- applications in manufacturing, processes and related research
- requirements for research and technology development
- measurement standards
- business growth and development including non-technology centred factors
- linkages to other sectors using related technology and/or common suppliers

The Programme will tackle the following agenda of questions and issues:

- Visions of the future - what will the industry look like in 20 years?
- Aligning interests - can we do better in achieving joined-up demand pull and research exploitation, and if so how?
- Supporting investment prioritisation and decision making - where is money best spent on applying sensors and instrumentation to manufacturing processes?
- International dimensions - how to stay in step with and exploit European connections?
- Funding growth - how to attract money to the sector in competition with more glamorous and high return sectors?
- Training and skills - how to attract good people to the sector and give them the appropriate experience in specialist and generalist subjects?
- Dissemination - how to make it easier for people to go to a central source of information, help and advice?

Nanotechnology Associate Programme

The Programme, centered on Nanotechnology, will focus on defining the supporting scientific, technological and information infrastructure that are required to underpin a national strategy in Nanotechnology. Attention will be concentrated in areas where the UK wishes to retain or gain an internationally competitive presence.

NPL are looking to work with organisations including The Institute of Nanotechnology

and others in delivering Foresight recommendations regarding;

- the uptake of Nanotechnology within the UK
- barriers to the adoption of the wide scope of its technology and science, and
- short, medium and long term views on issues likely to influence future business.

NPL's key role will be assessing industry's views on the metrology related issues pertinent to Nanotechnology.

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