
Call for Expressions of Interest to participate in the Oxfordshire SIA 2018

Science and Innovation strengths of Oxfordshire to be promoted for UK Government strategy, by data Audit

Invitation

Contributors and stakeholders in Oxfordshire's science and innovation strengths are invited to participate in a Science and Innovation Audit capitalising and expanding on the region's first such audit. Expressions of Interest should be submitted by 27 November 2017 (i.e. the Monday after the Autumn Statement).

Purpose

To inform UK government's strategy and investment around science and innovation, for sectors in which Oxfordshire has UK-leading potential for transformational economic growth, social benefit, and industrial impact.

SIA is...

SIA is 'Science and Innovation Audits', a BEIS¹ process to describe UK innovation strengths mapped to regions. Regions (self-defined) state their proposed strengths, with long-term funding and benefit propositions.

Outputs and Outcomes

Output: a published report supported by UK partner regions and industrial representatives. It is anticipated that the Oxfordshire SIA 2018 activities will be recognised by BEIS as contributing to UK strategic prioritisation. Report length is approx. 150 pages including annexes. An executive summary of approx. 10 pages is also produced.

Outcomes: prioritisation for funding of regional strengths. This can be at levels significant enough to make a region become (or remain) the established national region of strength for a technological sector, to attract infrastructure funding and inward investment. This is not guaranteed: achieving it remains up to sector leads, regions and industrial partners, however the SIA has quickly become a nationally recognised platform for focussing funding streams and strategy for place-based excellence and growth.

¹ BEIS is the UK Government's [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy](#)

What we have done so far

The University of Oxford and OxLEP led one of the government's eight SIAs in the second wave of the national SIA process, following the initial 5 SIAs in wave one. We are thus one of the government's 13 completed SIAs.

Our [first SIA Report](#) was titled the 'Oxfordshire Transformative Technology Alliance' (OTTA), reflecting the transformative nature of the four technologies we focussed on:

- Digital Health
- Space-led Data Applications
- Autonomous Vehicles
- Technologies underpinning quantum computing

Our regional proposition emphasises the potential to develop products and services at the intersections between technologies (e.g. satellite positioning in transport and mobility services, or quantum sensors in medical diagnostics). These niches could give the UK a global USP in product development.

We propose developing 'Living Labs' as live testbeds and demonstrators for industry, regulators, insurers, government, national labs, innovators, educators and the public.

Reason for issuing this call

Participants in our first SIA found the process rewarding. Benefits are being seen which suggest it is worth running the process for more sectors and technologies. We have been aware throughout, and have emphasised in the Report, that Oxfordshire has leading strengths in sectors and technologies beyond those yet audited.

How to participate: submit an EOI

Expressions of Interest should be submitted on the '[EOI form for Oxfordshire SIA 2018](#)' (see below) to matthew.smart@admin.ox.ac.uk by 27Nov17. Up to 3 sides is recommended for the completed [form](#).

Eligibility

1. The EOI should be proposed by a representative of an organisation currently active in the proposed sector/technology in or related to Oxfordshire. EOIs from industry-focussed organisations are particularly welcome
2. National lead. The sector or technology must be one in which Oxfordshire has a national lead. There must be evident existing capacity in the region
3. Participants must be prepared to dedicate staff time, over several months, to leading the SIA activity for their sector/technology
4. Contribution to SIA costs (approx. £5,000)

Timescale

Our collaborative work with regional leads for sectors/technologies will begin between December 2017 and February 2018. Report production will take 3-6 months to complete. Work thereafter will involve pursuing outcomes with other SIA, regional, national and government actors.

EOIs received by 27Nov17 will be considered for this round. We expect to liaise with applicants and government departments over a period of 2-4 weeks. We thereafter expect to proceed with 4 sectors/technologies. Numbers and timings will depend on staff capacities and resources, compatibility and cohesion of sectors and 'place', and government priorities (noting that the Autumn Statement is expected in late November).

What participation will entail (inputs)

Production of an SIA Report, and subsequent work progressing the SIA propositions, requires a commitment of the order of 4 to 12 hours per week across 3-6 months. It is recommended that each sector/technology lead has SIA support from at least one colleague, to cover absences and to maximise availabilities of expertise and representation at various levels of meetings and workshops. Assistance could be from within the same organisation or from another organisation, e.g. from a partner organisation with complementary interests.

SIA work includes partner and stakeholder liaison, strategic vision, writing, reviewing and commenting (e.g. on concept notes), data gathering and assessments, stakeholder workshop(s), and championing the region and sector or technology.

A financial contribution of about £5,000 per sector/technology will be required towards collective SIA costs, such as

- venue costs for meetings/workshops
- SIA representatives' travel to BEIS and other SIA meetings
- external consultancy (e.g. contracting consultants for data surveys and analyses, and/or proposal validation)
- proprietary data/subscriptions (e.g. international IP or workforce datasets)

What the central team contributes

- Experienced oversight
- Liaison with government bodies, other LEPs, and other stakeholders
- Drafting report content
- Data acquisition and analyses. Advice and support on data gathering, analyses, and other audit evidence, and liaison with national SIA-experienced consultants
- Integration with other strategic prioritisation and investment initiatives
- Co-ordination, benchmarking, administration and governance
- Publication and management of collective further activities to achieve outcomes

EOI selection criteria

Selection of EOIs to be taken forward will be based on:

1. The proposer's ability to deliver and to lead a sector component in an SIA
2. Sector/technology strength in the region, and relative to other regions
3. Priority for the region and for the UK
4. Stakeholder and partner buy-in
5. Compatibility and complementarity between EOIs' sectors/technologies propositions and with previous SIAs. Note that sectors/technologies covered in SIAs to date are unlikely to receive government endorsement
6. Compatibility with other national and regional prioritisation strategies and initiatives
7. Government priorities

Governance structure

We expect to establish a Steering Group of those directly involved in SIA Report production, and a primarily external Advisory Board of business leaders, representatives of partnering regional governance organisations (e.g. LEPs), and other stakeholders.

Responsible Officers

Richard Byard, Director of Business Development, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) Ltd

Dr Phil Clare, Head of Knowledge Exchange, University of Oxford phil.clare@admin.ox.ac.uk

Matt Smart, University of Oxford mattthew.smart@admin.ox.ac.uk

Main contact: Matt Smart

Partners in Oxfordshire's first SIA,

Partners in the 'Oxfordshire Transformative Technology Alliance' (OTTA) include:



SIAbs nationally

5 audits were conducted in [Wave 1](#). Reports were published in Nov16. [Wave 1 Summaries](#)

- [Edinburgh and South East Scotland City region](#)
- [South West England and South East Wales](#)
- [Sheffield City region and Lancashire](#)
- [Greater Manchester and East Cheshire](#)
- [The Midlands Engine](#)

8 audits were conducted in [Wave 2](#). Reports were published in Sep17. [Wave 2 Summaries](#)

- [Bioeconomy of the North of England](#)
- [East of England](#)
- [Enabling Technologies in Scotland's Central Belt](#)
- [Innovation South, Digital Enabling Technologies](#)
- [Medical Technologies in the Leeds City Region](#)
- [Liverpool City Region](#)
- [OffShore Renewable Energy](#)
- [Oxfordshire Transformative Technologies Alliance](#)

[Wave 3](#) comprises twelve consortia, announced in Oct17:

- Cyber Resilience Alliance (led by Worcestershire LEP with support from The Marches, Gloucestershire and Swindon and Wiltshire LEPs)
- Maximising the Marine Economy of the Highlands & Islands (Led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise)
- North West Nuclear Arc Consortium (led by Bangor University with support from Welsh Government and North West England LEPs)
- North West Coastal Arc Eco-Innovation Partnership (led by Lancaster University with support from North West England LEPs and the Welsh Government)
- Northern Powerhouse Chemicals & Processing Science (led by Tees Valley Combined Authority with support from North East, Humberside, and Liverpool City Region LEPs)
- Northern Powerhouse in Health Research (led by Northern Health Science Alliance and includes LEPs, universities and teaching hospitals from across the Northern Powerhouse)
- The South Wales Crucible (led by Swansea University)
- Upstream Space (led by UKSA/Scottish Enterprise comprising Scotland; Leicester; Belfast and a corridor between Cambridge and Portsmouth)
- Precision Medicine Innovation in Scotland (led by the University of Glasgow)
- Applied Digital Technologies (led by North East LEP)
- Sustainable Airports (led by Brunel University, looking at Heathrow)
- The Knowledge Quarter, London

Sectors and technologies for Oxfordshire SIA 2018

EOIs are welcome from any sectors and technologies. It is expected that EOIs might include such areas as those outlined below.

This list does not prejudice areas not listed.

- Motorsport, with an emphasis on e-Motorsport
- Energy: security/reduction/mitigation, turbines, micro-generation and/or storage
- Environment and sustainable growth
- Life Sciences: Pharma/Bioscience and/or Diagnostics
- Agricultural biosciences
- Publishing
- Cultural heritage
- Digitisation and/or imaging
- Internet development
- Music and art (services and market)
- Augmented Reality and Gaming
- Instrumentation technologies
- Cryogenic technologies and applications
- Materials for future manufacture
- Electronic Engineering

EOI form for Oxfordshire SIA 2018

Expressions of Interest for Oxfordshire SIA 2018 should be submitted on this form, to matthew.smart@admin.ox.ac.uk by 27Nov17. Up to 3 sides total is recommended.

1. **Sector/technology:**
2. **Main contact** (Name, role/job title, organisation, and contact details):
3. **Place.** Describe the UK geography of the strengths of the sector/ technology in whatever way makes sense, e.g. the main and peripheral counties/ cities/ regions, LEPs, industrial concentrations, Universities, science parks, capacity, workforce ...etc.
4. **Proposal.** Describe why the sector/technology area needs an SIA, what its strengths and prospects are, timeliness, and any intended achievements and outcomes.

Additional information requested, if not included in section 4 Proposal:

5. **Priority.** How does your sector/technology fit with the UK [Industrial Strategy](#), Sector Deals, [Eight Great Technologies](#), and regional priorities (e.g. the OxLEP Strategic Economic Plan) This list is not exhaustive. Suggestions of other national and regional prioritisation strategies and initiatives are very welcome.
6. **Partners.** Other organisations who are stakeholders (i.e. may have an interest in your involvement in the SIA process (e.g. organisations which may contribute to the SIA process on this sector/technology, or at any rate may feel an entitlement to know that it is happening, and/or may have commercial interests)).
7. **Existing SIAs** sectors, technologies and regions. To what extent does this proposal integrate and overlap with previous and current SIAs?
8. **Report links.** Evidence is invited, to assist the evaluation of your EOI. You are welcome to provide links to existing reports about the sector/technology which describe strengths, scale, potential, priorities...etc.

To discuss interest prior to submission contact Matt Smart, Knowledge Exchange and Impact Team (KEIT), Research Services, University of Oxford, 5 Worcester Street.

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