

**Meeting of UKFN Executive Committee**

**0900-1100, Thursday 8th April 2021**

**AGENDA**

1. Agree the **Minutes** of last EC meeting (20/7/20).
2. Review **outstanding actions** from last EC meeting.
3. Update on UKFN activities:
  - a. newsletter
  - b. website
  - c. SIGs
  - d. UK Fluids Conference [Neil Sandham]
  - e. Other
4. Review status of **further EPSRC funding**.
5. Discuss continuation of UKFN **Advisory Board**.
6. Update on **'Our Fluid Nation' report** and **joint press release** [Steve Tobias].
7. Discuss **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion** in Fluid Dynamics [Cath Noakes].
8. Any other business

*MPJ/NCD, 6/4/21*

Item 2: Outstanding actions from last EC meeting

The following action is carried over from the previous EC meeting (20/7/20).

- Advisory Board: if the outcome of discussions in the current meeting is to continue with the AB (Item 5), a refresh will be carried out along the lines discussed at the previous meeting.

### Item 3: Update on UKFN activities

#### a. Newsletter

This continues to run smoothly, and receives a regular supply of postings. Most of these are now included for an extended period to maximise their impact.

#### b. Website

There has been limited maintenance/development of the website recently, and there will be a review of the personnel involved in the near future.

#### c. SIGs

News since the last meeting:

- A number of SIGs have continued to remain active online, holding meetings and arranging series of seminars:
  - Acoustofluidics
  - Biologically Active Fluids
  - Cleaning and Decontamination
  - Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics
  - Particulate Matter Filtration
  - Turbulent Heat Transfer
  - Wave-structure Interaction
- Two of the SIGs have successfully converted to CCPs (Collaborative Computational Projects) in a 2020 call for new proposals:
  - MUMATUR (Multicore and Manycore Algorithms to Tackle Turbulent flows) has been superseded by CCP Turbulence (<https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewGrant.aspx?GrantRef=EP/T026170/1>)
  - The Nuclear Thermal Hydraulics SIG formed the basis for CCP NTH (<https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewGrant.aspx?GrantRef=EP/T026685/1>)
- The Low-energy Ventilation and Urban Fluid Dynamics SIGs have led to several significant follow-on research projects, including
  - 'Breathing City: Future Urban Ventilation Network', NERC grant [http://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list\\_full.asp?pcode=NE%2FV002082%2F1&cookieConsent=A](http://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list_full.asp?pcode=NE%2FV002082%2F1&cookieConsent=A)
  - 'Tackling Air Pollution at School (TAPAS)', NERC grant [http://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list\\_full.asp?pcode=NE%2FV002341%2F1&cookieConsent=A](http://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list_full.asp?pcode=NE%2FV002341%2F1&cookieConsent=A)
- An open call for SIGs was launched in October 2020. So far there has been one new group, 'Ocean Turbulence'.

#### d. UK Fluids Conference

The 2020 conference has been rescheduled to take place online over 8-10 September 2021, organised by University of Southampton. Neil to give update. The EC will discuss whether to retain or adapt the UKFN's usual activities at the conference: (a) competition for best (oral) presentation by PhD student, (b) presentation by the winner of the 2021 thesis competition.

#### e. Other

- Competitions – the photo/video competitions continue every 3-4 months, along with the annual thesis competition.

Item 5: Continuation of UKFN Advisory Board
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From the previous Minutes:

*MJ noted the AB had agreed to a review and refresh, and agreed to write to its members to ask whether they wished to continue to participate on the Board or would prefer to step down.*

*MJ suggested the member rôles most likely to be due for a refresh were*

- (i) at ECR level in the UK, e.g. research fellows*
- (ii) at a high level in UK industrial research*
- (iii) with links to researchers in the US*

*ST suggested a missing facet of the AB was someone with policy background, so it would be worth seeking in addition an individual*

- (iv) who is or has been at a high level of policy for science (e.g. funding council), or science for policy (e.g. chief scientific advisor)*

*YH commented that research expertise including aerosol dispersion could be a useful asset for the AB in the light of the current COVID-19 emergency.*

*The EC agreed to send in their ideas for replacements once the vacant rôles had been confirmed by MJ. ST agreed to ask Cath Noakes for ideas for candidates with a political/policy background, since she is currently active on SAGE and, along with ST, has extensive contact with the research councils through LIFD; she is also an expert in aerosol dispersion and related fluids problems.*

***Action: ST to consult CN on suggestions for AB with political/policy background by 7/8/20.***

***Action: MJ to write to current AB members regarding refresh by 7/8/20, and to EC regarding which rôles will rotate by 14/8/20.***

***Action: All EC to return ideas to MJ/ND by 21/8/20.***

The consultation was not completed, so it is appropriate to reconsider whether UKFN should continue to operate with an Advisory Board and, if so, whether to implement the membership refresh proposed previously.

Item 6: 'Our Fluid Nation' report and press release

See draft documents circulated separately.

Steve to give an update, and lead discussion.

Item 7: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in Fluid Dynamics

See draft document circulated separately.

Cath to give an update, and lead discussion.