

THEME	A SESSIONS	B SESSIONS	C SESSIONS	D SESSIONS
KE AND THE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY	<p>A1: Connected capability fund Chair: James Wilkie, University of Birmingham</p> <p>The £100m Connecting Capability Fund (CCF) has been awarded to incentivise universities to collaborate in the areas of technology transfer and research commercialisation. CCF recipients are expected to strengthen collaborative approaches to research commercialisation beyond the plans set out in their existing institutional KE strategies. This places high expectations that the use of the CCF will support activities that exemplify high standards and innovation in KE practice, such as:</p> <p>Strengthening the contribution of English HEIs to productivity and economic growth and to delivery of the objectives of the Government’s Industrial Strategy;</p> <p>Enhancing effectiveness in use of the university knowledge base to deliver commercial and business applications and wider applications for the economy and society;</p> <p>Stimulating strategic collaboration between HEIs across England such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘pooling’ of KE expertise and capabilities so that businesses and other users can access a range of KE offers or critical mass of knowledge; • building capacity to provide cross-university responses to technological, industrial 	<p>B1: Agri-tech Innovation – opportunities and new horizons Chair: Rupert Osborn, IP Pragmatics</p> <p>Agricultural science and technology is one of the world’s fastest growing markets. The sector is evolving rapidly with farmers, food processors and producers embracing opportunities to use technologies not traditionally associated with agri-tech (e.g. use of big data and drones in precision agriculture, through to automation and robotics in crop harvesting and processing etc.) to boost competitiveness and automation.</p> <p>To support these market challenges there is a need for greater innovation and greater scale to develop and enable these innovations to get to market. This session is an opportunity to hear from investors, innovative agri-tech companies and research partners to learn about how the sector undertakes KE, what the opportunities and challenges are, and how the new funding landscape created by the Industrial Strategy is shaping the UK agri-tech sector.</p> <p>Aims/outcomes:</p> <p>Broaden peoples’ knowledge of this important industrial sector Share learning and good practice in agritech KE</p> <p>Share challenges and opportunities</p>	<p>C1: Universities as Innovation District Developers Chair: Simon Hepworth, Imperial College London</p> <p>How should universities contribute to the development of local innovation ecosystems? What should they do themselves? Who should they partner with? Which industries should they focus on? What is the optimal mix of startups, corporate partners, academics and investors to maximise the flow of ideas? What steps can universities take to form effective local relationships? How should we measure success?</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes:</p> <p>Exploration of different approaches taken by three universities to grow their own innovation districts, understanding their motivations and strategies, listening to their war stories.</p>	<p>D1: The changing funding landscape - new money, old money Chair: Adebayo Ogunjimi, City University London</p> <p>The session addresses the changes in the funding landscape by presenting the new generation of funding, such as the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF), the HEIF uplift and other translational funding opportunities from RCUK [which will be part of UKRI by May]. Similarly, the complementary equity funding, available will be addressed to identify other relevant sources of funding for Knowledge Exchange.</p> <p>It is expected that the session will help to present the best practice and how organisations are currently bridging the gap in Knowledge Exchange funding.</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes</p> <p>The aim of the session is to map the financial landscape for new technologies against the back drop of Brexit and potential reduction in EU funding. It is also expected to help identify alternative sources of funding and best models of bridging the gap.</p>

	<p>sectoral or inter-disciplinary challenges; or to regional alignments and challenges.</p> <p>Let's hear from winners of the recent CCF bids and debate why and how KE in the UK will benefit as a result!</p> <p>Aims/outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel members share and understand more about each other's approach and learn from the views of the audience.• Audience grasp what kind of collective capability the CCF allocations are trying to drive. <p>Audience/Panel share comment on the funded programmes and reflect on how these will improve KE. Also reflect on what more we could do / ask UKRI to support in the future.</p> <p>Note: Next CCF winners may not be announced until May</p>	<p>Share common issues, solutions and how Universities can address these when working with agritech companies</p>		
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<p>KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE 4.0 – RESPONDING TO KEF</p>	<p>A2: The Knowledge Exchange Framework Chair: Kathryn Walsh, Loughborough University</p> <p>Although trailed for some months, the Knowledge Exchange Framework shot up the agenda in October 2017 when the then Universities Minister Jo Johnson, announced the KEF metrics group, chaired by Professor Richard Jones FRS, University of Sheffield. In this session we try and unpack the various activities that make up KEF including the roles of metrics and concordat groups. How can KEF support the Industrial Strategy? We will consider potential outcomes and their implications for our leadership of the agenda in our own institutions.</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes: Increased clarity, especially in University practitioner audience, of the review processes of KEF and potential outcomes to inform individual planning</p> <p>Understanding of how KEF links with the Industrial Strategy</p> <p>Feedback and practitioner perspective to Concordat and/or metrics group (if participating)</p>	<p>B2: Optimal structures for business development within a university Chair: Martin Davies, University College London</p> <p>The KEF and expectations of government through increased science funding will require Universities to continue to evolve business development structures and ways of working with industry, to enable rapid responses to innovation opportunities. How are universities organising themselves to drive more interactions with industry - ? What we can learn from sharing experiences of others, taking into account the diversity of institutions in the UK? What do different international perspectives have to offer, and can there ever be a single ‘optimal’ structure for business development? This session will hear from a range of UK and international speakers to examine the challenge in more detail</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes: Delegates will hear from different perspectives – home and international – to provoke further thinking in their own organisations on factors to consider when looking at evolving business development structures</p>	<p>C2: Skills and support to maximise TTO resources Chair: Sarah Macnaughton, Oxentia</p> <p>Increasing pressures on Universities to deliver KEC and ‘impact’ have led universities to expand their KEC offerings via external – often specialist consultancy, and internal – crucially not KEC office based, support. At the same time, funding opportunities (e.g. CCF) aim to develop collaborations across universities to improve and evolve ‘KEC’. Using external and internal resources, and collaborating to share resource, brings challenges and opportunities. What should you ‘avoid’ when using an external supplier? Where can external and internal support really help your organisation achieve its KE targets? What can external providers and collaborators bring to maximise researcher impact and industry engagement?</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes: An understanding of the opportunities and <u>challenges</u> for commercialisation and knowledge exchange that come from working with resources external to the core TTO or KEC functions (whether those recourses come from within or outside your university). Where does the internal team need to focus to ensure success, and what benefits can come from looking outside the ‘day-to-day’.</p>	<p>D2: REF Round 2...it’s all about the impact Chair: Jennie Shorley, Manchester Metropolitan Univeristy</p> <p>This practical session will present different perspectives on creation of excellent Impact Case Studies, and the impact and influence of the forthcoming Knowledge Exchange Framework on the impact that we generate.</p> <p>We will hear from speakers tasked with both generation and depiction of impact from different vantage points – a university policy perspective, a university REF Management perspective, and an academic. Discussion with all session participants will centre upon their own approaches and experience, and how we may be able to leverage the KEF to support our work.</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes: To gain an understanding of the current REF Impact, to share experiences and approaches to maximise REF success, and to explore the forthcoming KEF – its influence and usefulness to our work.</p>
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<p>COMMER- CIALISATION ROUTES</p>	<p>A3: Platforms for quicker connections and speedy IP deals Chair: Jen Unsworth, Withers & Rogers</p> <p>With increasing funding pressures on universities and public sector research organisations to obtain a return on their investment in research, more organisations are looking for ways of increasing the efficiency and number of commercialisation deals that they do. An increasing number of "innovation platforms" (e.g. the technology transfer platform and konfer) are becoming available to help link researchers and development partners. Low friction routes to license deals are also being developed by Universities including schemes such as "Easy Access IP". The purpose of this session will be to review some of the advantages and disadvantages of these technology platforms and initiatives.</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes: The aims of the session are to review the technologies and procedures Universities and Technology Transfer offices are using to increase the efficiency of the commercialisation process, learning from case studies and sharing experiences of using third party providers.</p>	<p>B3: Accelerating innovation – working with intermediary industry research & innovation Chairs: Rhian North, Cardiff University; Frank Allison, FIS 360 Ltd</p> <p>The Catapult centres and analogous organisations are networks of world-leading centres designed to transform the UK's capability for driving, accelerating and translating innovation. How can we work successfully with these organisations to leverage their resources to support KE / commercialisation of our technology and services? This session will give you an insight into services these organisations can provide and how they can facilitate growth across a wide range of sectors including engineering, nuclear and the biomedical sciences. We will hear from the perspectives of both catapult and analogous members and end users.</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes: A greater understanding into how these organisations can assist with KE/translation of research from HEI's to industry / Insight into the differences and similarities in commercialising research across a range of sectors / Benefits of working with Catapults and analogous organisations e.g. access to sector knowledge and expertise, networks and sector behaviours / Shared experiences</p>	<p>C3: How the best new venture technology accelerators accelerate technology ventures Chair: Jeff Skinner, London Business School</p> <p>New venture accelerators – some linked to universities and academies – are popping up all over the place, promising all kinds of support, resources, training and networks. These are a useful addition to the KT landscape but bewildering too not least because they seem to offer so many different things, many of which seem useful but we don't really know.</p> <p>In this session we have the opportunity to quiz a few of those with first-hand experience and multiple perspectives. Should we entrust them with our most promising technologies and ventures? And if they're that brilliant, should we be setting up our own?</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes:An understanding of the most value adding elements of accelerator programmes from the perspective of those who run them and have been through one. The challenges of setting them up and their revenue models.</p>	<p>D3: Commercialisation routes: Spin-outs and start-up formation & support Chair: Tony Hickson, Imperial Innovations</p> <p>Although a relatively minor component of the total KE tapestry, spin-outs generate more 'heat & light' than almost any other KE topic. This session will mainly focus on the most commonly discussed topic i.e. the "equity/royalty/services mix" and look at how different universities the UK and Ireland are approaching this. The session may also touch upon related areas such as dilution, post-formation support, software vs non-software and investor attitudes.</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes: A technical session for those already involved in spinout or start-up formation at their institutions where participants will debate different approaches and what works (and what doesn't). Attendees should gain a better understanding of different models and consider whether their current spinout/start-up model is still fit for purpose in a changing ecosystem. This session aims to be complementary to & build upon the discussion in C3: Commercialisation routes – accelerators.</p>
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<p>LESSONS FROM ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (AHSS)</p>	<p>A4: Creative approaches to collaborative KE project development Chair: Tim Brundle, Ulster University</p> <p>The UK's creative technology companies have a number of characteristics which differentiate them from other technology-based sectors, requiring tailored support mechanisms from Universities. The key characteristics are:</p> <p>Size: Companies are either creative microbusinesses or large organisations. There is little overlap between the two business target markets, with limited collaboration, although they use the same skills pool.</p> <p>R&D: As companies fund their innovations primarily through commissions from customers, building product ahead of customer demand is challenging. The companies are typically also technology agnostic, but core skills dependant.</p> <p>Clustering: The range of shared services such as connectivity, reception and book keeping as well as the networking opportunities offered by physical hubs are of particular value.</p> <p>Collaboration: Collaboration levels among businesses and with universities are low, although participation in sectoral groups is high and this sector includes high levels of graduate entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Access to finance: Creative tech companies can find it particularly difficult to secure a bank loan or grant award as</p>	<p>B4: Blurring the boundaries of creative industries – engaging with the creative industries Chair: Bruce Etherington, Cardiff University</p> <p>Creative industries form a significant part of the UK economy yet many of the companies involved are small and do not have many spare resources. Many of the partnerships that universities form are with local and regional cultural organisations. This makes for a challenging environment to work in. This session will look at approaches to working with the creative industries to maximise the benefits achieved.</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes:</p> <p>A greater understanding of the challenges facing the creative industries so that universities can better support them.</p> <p>A greater understanding of different ways of collaborating between creative industries and universities</p> <p>Shared experiences</p>	<p>C4: Measuring impact of KE projects Chair: Yanina Aubrey, University of the Arts London</p> <p>A case study-based session exploring KE projects in the AHSS sector at 3 universities. Within a workshop format, we will explore what the critical elements of the projects have been, what impact they have achieved and how this impact has been assessed. How is impact understood in the context of KE projects (how is this different or not to REF impact)? Are KE projects within the AHSS sector different to KE projects in other sectors with regards to the type of impact they generate? How critical is the financial return from KE projects? What are the main challenges of measuring impact of KE projects within this sector?</p> <p>Aims/Outcomes:</p> <p>Present KE projects case studies and best practice with regards to impact assessment</p> <p>Group work to reflect and exchange ideas</p> <p>Hear other perspectives on issues related to impact of KE projects within the AHSS sector</p> <p>Space to receive peer feedback on impact assessment frameworks, challenges & opportunities of running KE projects within the sector</p>	<p>D4: Alternative approaches to generating value from University IP Chair: Tim Francis, Coventry University</p> <p>It's not all about patents, spinouts and licences! In this session we will explore alternative approaches to generating value from University IP and other assets, with a focus on social enterprise. This is your opportunity to hear from practitioners with first-hand experience in this area, as we consider the challenges of balancing financial returns, impact and other sources of value.</p>
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the method of funding their business at the early stages.

This session will include three brief creative talks on the UK's creative technology enterprises (AHRC), their technological, skills and collaborative needs (Ulster) and examples of successful university-led KE projects within the sector (Bournemouth).

Aims/Outcomes:

To help delegates understand the nature and drivers of the companies and sector;

To present methods of knowledge exchange with the creative digital industries;

To explore the role of KE professionals in building successful collaborations; and

- To promote means of supporting graduate entrepreneurship within the sector.