

NERC Strategic Research

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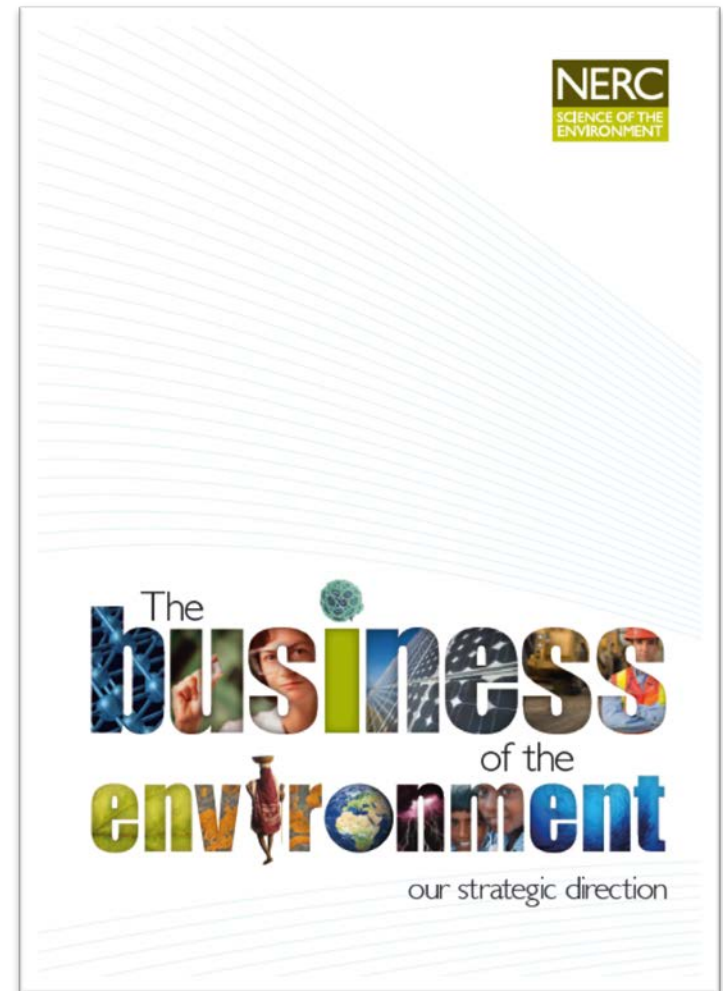
Head of Marine Science



Vision



To place
environmental
science at the heart
of responsible
management of our
planet.

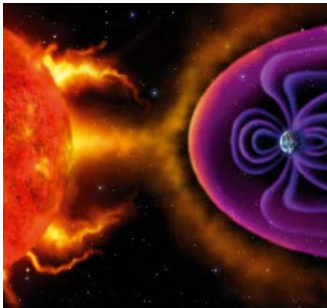


Meeting societies needs



Benefiting from Natural Resources

Using natural resources sustainably to support a growing world population and economy



Resilience to Environmental Hazards

Making vulnerable people, infrastructure and business more resilient to environmental hazards and emergencies



Managing Environmental Change

Making informed choices about our impacts on the environment and how we respond to environmental change



Why the change?

- New strategy launched in October 2013
- Quicker delivery needed – especially for partnership working
- Science and user community engagement in development of strategic research priorities
- Reduce pressures on administration and budgets



Making it happen



Discovery science

Understanding how planet earth works and how it interacts with human activities

Postgraduate training

Sustain the flow skills for UK science, business and government through doctoral training partnerships (DTPs) and focused centres for doctoral training (CTDs)

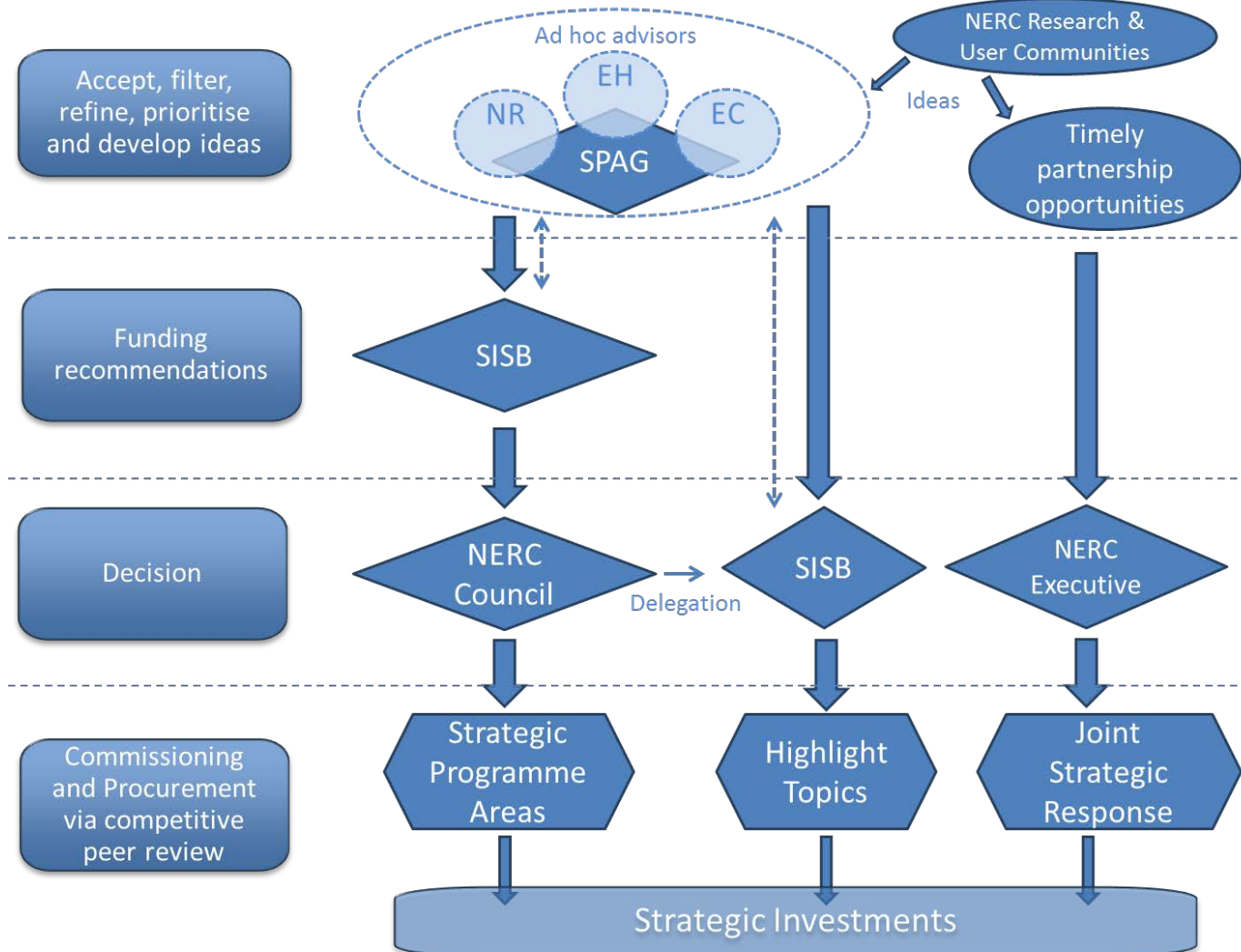
National capability

Large research infrastructure, services and facilities, data, national-good services and long time science provided by research centres and universities

Strategic research

Provides understanding to meet the challenges and needs faced by society through research programmes that help business, government and Society

Strategic research



NERC Funding Streams



- **National Capability:** Large infrastructure, facilities, data centres, public and national good activities, long-term discipline and cross-discipline science
- **Discovery Science:** Standard, Large and Urgency Grant Schemes (was Responsive Mode)
- **Training & Fellowships:** Doctoral Training Partnerships, Doctoral Training Centres, Fellowships
- **Innovation:** e.g. Impact Accelerator Accounts
- **Strategic Research:** replacing Theme Action Plans and Research Programmes



Strategic research

Strategic Programme Area

Scale, complexity, opportunities for partnership development, logistics etc. are such that more time is required for programme development – requires more management (e.g. ESPA). Similar to a current large RP.



Highlight Topics

Smaller investments, similar to Large Grants. A list of agreed topics will be published in a grant call; anyone in the community can respond with a proposal to address one topic



Joint Strategic Response

Investments to be agreed over shorter timescales. Most likely in response to opportunities presented by partners to allow NERC to join initiatives (e.g. Tree Health)



Ideas process

- SISB determine the overall strategic priorities for research (“forward look”)
- SPAG will filter, refine and prioritise ideas for strategic research areas and topics – support communities in generating strategic ideas
- Community will be encouraged to self organise and generate ideas for input into the system
- NERC will support communities in generating strategic ideas and provide a portal through which community can engage NERC

Strategic Programme Advisory Group



- Close working with NERC Heads of Discipline
- Consider ideas from the community
- Use the new strategy, portfolio analysis and advice & direction from SISB
- Provide prioritised recommendations on where to create new funding opportunities for Highlights and SPA

Time frame

- Dec 2013 – Council approved new process
- January 2014 – Call for SPAG members
- January 2014 – launch, start to request ideas from community
- Early 2014 – first JSR considered by Executive
- Summer 2014 – SPAG meets with SISB
- Autumn 2014 – first call for proposals addressing Highlights
- Early 2015 – first calls as part of Strategic Programmes



What can you do?

- Apply for SPAG membership – Call open's shortly
- As a community input ideas into the new process
- Engage with community events, NERC teams and SPAG members

