

Aerosol Society Partnership Secures Strategic Investment for UK Aerosol Science Research

London, 04 Feb 2019

A consortium of the UK's leading researchers in aerosol science has partnered with 45 industrial and public sector bodies, including the UK and Ireland Aerosol Society, to establish a new Centre for Doctoral Training in Aerosol Science with funding from the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC). Prof Jonathan Reid at the University of Bristol will direct a team of 9 co-investigators and 35 academic supervisors at the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cambridge, Hertfordshire, Imperial College London, Leeds and Manchester.

Aerosol science is core to a broad range of research disciplines and industries, extending from medical research and inhaled drug delivery, to combustion science, synthesis of new materials, climate change, and the delivery of agricultural and consumer products. With funding support of £6.4M from the EPSRC, matched with over £7.7M from the university, industrial and public sector partners, the CDT in Aerosol Science will contribute significantly to establishing the UK's place as a world-leading location for aerosol research.

The CDT in Aerosol Science is one of only 75 centres to be funded by the EPSRC in its 2018 funding call, the first such call since 2013, and will develop a new generation of aerosol science researchers addressing the aims and call to action in the Aerosol Society's 2018 Report "[Building a UK Research and Innovation Pipeline in Aerosol Science](#)". The Society's General Secretary Dr Matthew Wright commented that "As a Society, we believe that the CDT has the potential to transform the landscape of research and education in aerosol science in the UK, and indeed globally. The Centre will catalyse the synergies that exist across the discipline for new solutions to today's research challenges."

The CDT team will be led by a core team comprising Prof Reid with Deputy Director Prof Darragh Murnane, Partnership Board Chair Dr Adam Boies, Science Education Specialist Dr Kerry Knox, and Public Engagement and Outreach lead Prof. Sheena Cruickshank (Universities of Hertfordshire, Cambridge, York, and Manchester). Prof Murnane said: "The CDT in Aerosol Science will be unique on a global scale, since we have developed programmes of researcher development that will equip doctoral graduates with skills and knowledge that cross the traditional discipline boundaries. By securing an industrial mentor and industrial placement for every PhD researcher, the CDT graduates will be mobile researchers, equipped to jump between disciplines as well as the academic and industrial research environment".

Dr Boies said: "Our strong programme of industrial and public sector engagement will ensure the relevance of our training for a wide variety of employers and research organizations. We have a defined pathway to support the innovation of research outcomes, and are excited about the possibility to integrate scientists from our partners in our educational programmes to support continuing professional development of the UK's current aerosol science workforce". Dr Knox added: "We will draw upon research-based instructional strategies in developing the training environment of the CDT, including team-based and cooperative learning approaches. As well as mastering the

core physical science of aerosols, our doctoral researchers will be supported to develop the interpersonal and technical skills needed to excel in multidisciplinary teams. We will also conduct research to better understand the development of these skills through doctoral training.”

Prof Reid said “It’s an exciting prospect to be recruiting over 80 PhD students in five cohorts beginning in October 2019. It provides a real opportunity to transform research training in aerosol science in the UK, but also to grow our research capacity”. He added, “the partnership with the Aerosol Society will be key to securing the UK’s place as the world-leading research environment for aerosol science, providing as it does the focus for the UK’s researchers, and a powerful portal for opening up training resources to the widest possible audience”.

Note on the Aerosol Society:

The Aerosol Society is a scientific non-profit organization aimed at extending knowledge and supporting the study of airborne particles. Its membership of more than 500 scientists is drawn from academia, government bodies and industry. Members’ interests are numerous and include climate and atmospheric modelling, nanotechnology, development of inhaled therapies and air pollution. For further information on the Aerosol Society visit www.aerosol-soc.com and/or contact the Society Administrator Sonia Mills at: admin@aerosol-soc.com or on +44 (0)1275 849019.

Note on the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Aerosol Science:

Funding for the CDT in Aerosol Science was announced by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council on 04 Feb 2019 in a national launch event at the London Stock Exchange. It is hosted at the University of Bristol at its Department of Chemistry under the Directorship of Prof. Jonathan P Reid (Training Grant Holder). It is a multi-institutional CDT led by the following co-investigators across six other UK universities: Dr Adam Squires (University of Bath), Dr Adam Boies and Prof. Simone Hochgreb (University of Cambridge), Prof. Darragh Murnane and Dr Victoria Hutter (University of Hertfordshire), Dr Marc Stettler (Imperial College London), Prof. Andrew Bayly (University of Leeds), and Dr David Topping and Prof Sheena Cruickshank (University of Manchester). For further information visit <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cdt/aerosol-science/> or contact aerosol-science@bristol.ac.uk.