



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

# STFC Funding Portfolio and structure

Grahame Blair  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2025

# STFC Portfolio

## Main funding lines:

- Core programme across two main areas:
  - (Grant funded) in Particle Physics, Astronomy and Nuclear Physics "PPAN", with underpinning capabilities in computing and accelerators.
  - R&D and science programmes in the national laboratories
- National Facilities
  - Providing science opportunities to the wider UKRI science communities.
- International Partition
  - managing the subscriptions and governance of UK participation (e.g. CERN, ESO, SKAO, ILL, ESS, ESRF, Eu-XFEL...)
- Infrastructure Fund
  - Larger projects can be submitted by STFC to the UKRI Infrastructure Fund, which currently opens to new opportunities on a two-yearly cycle.

# PPAN Portfolio

## Main funding lines:

- Particle Physics
  - Astronomy and Space Science
  - Nuclear Physics
  - Particle Astrophysics
  - Studentships and Fellowships
  - Un-hypothecated R&D funding
- 
- These are not formally bounded; there are no “silos” and the programme is managed as a whole, but administratively sub-divided into expert divisions.
  - Portfolio is planned and managed according to a ten-year plan (10YP)
  - Scientific strategy is advised by our Science Board (PPAN), with reports from expert Advisory Panels, which are the main route for community input.
  - Informed also by international exercises, such as the EPPSU.

# Science Board (PPAN)

Science Board (PPAN) provides STFC with strategic scientific advice on, and assessment of, the STFC (Particle Physics, Astronomy and Nuclear Physics) PPAN programme, which includes particle astrophysics, space science and the accelerator and computational requirements of the science programmes.

Key functions of Science Board (PPAN):

- Providing strategic scientific advice
- Providing strategic policy advice
- Prioritising projects/programmes within the context of the 10-year plan
- Referring projects/programmes to peer review
- Providing funding assurance on investment decisions



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

# PPAN Roadmap



# Inputs to the PPAN Roadmap

There are a number of inputs that will be provided to Science Board (PPAN) that will help it to make informed recommendations:

- **PPAN 10-year plan**
  - summarises current commitments, the financial planning associated with longer term commitments or new projects (in or due to be in peer review), and aspirational lines
- UKRI/STFC scientific priorities e.g., STFC Delivery Plan, government strategies
- UK scientific priorities and international reviews
  - includes scientific roadmaps provided by the Advisory Panels, information on strategy/ activities in the STFC laboratories that are relevant to the PPAN programme, international roadmaps, and community consultations initiated by SB (PPAN)
- **Portfolio analysis** and programmatic information – programme structure, size of community, key risks/pressures, future opportunities future decision points
- UKRI funding opportunities – some projects may be referred to other UKRI schemes
- Background information e.g., past Programme Evaluations, and strategic reviews



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

# Current Status



# The UK is in the middle of a “spending review”

- Phase 1 of the spending review (for 2025/6) is essentially complete.
- Phase 2 should be known at the STFC level by the autumn.
- The first version of the PPAN Roadmap will be published once the outcome of the SR is understood.
- The SR covers the period up to 2029/30.
- Any new calls for PPAN funding will be by approx. bi-annual Statements of Interest and will be considered in the context of the PPAN Roadmap.
- The PPAN roadmap is a living tool and will be updated on a regular basis.



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

# Thank you

**Facebook:** Science and  
Technology Facilities Council

**Twitter:** @STFC\_matters

**YouTube:** Science and  
Technology Facilities Council