

# The UK Acoustics Network Newsletter

## August 2020

Dear 1068 UKAN Members

### UKAN+ grant application

We are so pleased to report that our UKAN+ application has been successful. We are very grateful to the EPSRC who will support this 4-year project financially. We are very grateful to the reviewers of this grant proposal who praised our efforts to build UKAN+ upon the success of UKAN. We are also very grateful to our non-academic partners who provided strong letters of support. We also obtained the permission from the EPSRC to extend the current UKAN grant until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021. This will enable us to complete those UKAN activities which we were not able to run due to the Covid-19 situation. The plan is to start the new UKAN+ grant at the end of March 2021 or no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2021. This will enable a smooth transition from UKAN to UKAN+. The aim of UKAN+ is to create strategic connections between the Acoustics Challenges and Grand Challenges and to tackle these challenges, alongside industry, through pilot studies leading to large-scale grant proposals for research projects involving the wider community. For your information, we upload a copy of the case for support for the UKAN+ grant on our website. You can find it [here](#). You are welcome to send us your comments and ideas.

### Events

September 2020 is going to be busy with a range of UKAN webinars. Keep an eye on our [Events page](#). We start with the [Symphony in the oceans webinar](#) by Nikhil Banda (Seiche) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and finish the month with first talk in the autumn series of webinars organised by the Computational Acoustics SIG. At 1pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September Stefan Bilbao

(University of Edinburgh) will be presenting a webinar on *Recent advances in 3D wave-based acoustics* (to be advertised). Webinars in this series will cover a range of topics in computational acoustics and follow every 2 weeks throughout autumn, so please keep an eye on the [UKAN events page](#).

### Networking training session

Networking opportunities are one of the pillars of UKAN and are increasingly important as we bridge into UKAN+. Key benefits of becoming more effective networkers are:

- build more collaboration with outside parties;
- reinforce existing relationships and build new ones;
- get known by others;
- get others to know what you do;
- increase the knowledge of the marketplace or specialist area of expertise;
- meet key people and decision makers;
- create more business/research opportunities.

In the absence of face-to-face meetings UKAN is keen for all of us to update our skills and to embrace the modern way of networking. The future of acoustic in the UK depends on all our abilities to be successful at networking. For this purpose, we are inviting [Will Kintish](#) to deliver his leading edge networking training. UKAN are hosting a 1-hour [online webinar](#) that is open to all members. It will be focused on developing 'on Zoom' networking strategies and skills. In this webinar and follow-up interactive talks, Will shares tools and strategies on how to connect physical and virtual networking.

We do realise that it is hard to beat physical networking. All of us can endorse the benefits of our

acoustics community gathering for face-to-face workshops, conferences, summer schools and working groups. The ideas, contacts and collaborations arising from these are unprecedented. Our successful UKAN+ bid is just one example. In our new world of virtual meetings we can't shake hands or easily read the other person's body language. However, with this training session we can learn skills and plan our strategy in alternative ways to ensure all the time we spend on Zoom or other virtual communication channels has networking value and our experience is comparable to that we would expect from a face-to-face event. To express interest in participating in the first session fill in the [online Google Form](#). This event is limited to 20 participants – so do not delay. There will be a follow-up 2.5-3 hour interactive session to hone skills and make new connections.

---

#### **One-to-one grant writing sessions**

Dr Elaine Massung, a writer, proofreader/editor, and former portfolio manager from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) continues to offer to our members one-to-one sessions (funded by UKAN). These sessions provide in-depth feedback on the presentation quality of any current or past written work, such as grant proposals, journal or conference papers, and PhD thesis. Feedback includes suggestions regarding the clarity of the language, flow of the document, and potential improvements. These sessions are excellent to improve your chances in winning UKRI funding or getting your paper published in top-class journal with fewer reviewer comments. You can read examples of comments by our members on her previous online sessions [here](#). For dates and times please see [here](#). No evaluation of the scientific or engineering validity of your research idea can be provided, nor can funding or publication be guaranteed. Sessions will take place remotely and last for one hour.

---

#### **Partnering with KTN to showcase acoustics**

The Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) are co-hosting webinars which look at the application of Enabling Technologies. Their [Photonics Webinar Series](#) is a good example. UKAN/UKAN+ are keen to get plans in place for 2021 for a similar webinar series in acoustics. These webinars can be focused on anything addressing a specific need or challenge. We are aiming for a 1-year long programme of webinars, which link us with industrial challenges, different industry sectors and showcasing exciting acoustic technologies aligning us better with Innovate UK and Industry Strategy Challenges Funds.

Please let us know your suggestions for this webinar programme by writing to [info@acoustics.ac.uk](mailto:info@acoustics.ac.uk).

---

#### **UKAN Summer School**

The UKAN Summer School 2020 was postponed because of Covid-19. Originally it was meant to run this August in Gregynog Hall in Wales. Our Early Careers Group now plan to run this School in March 2021. However, there are concerns that the Covid-19 problem may not go away by then. Therefore, we need to prepare to run it in the blended mode, both virtual and face-to-face. In order to run this School online and successfully we need a venue with a stable internet and flexibility for the School dates to be re-arranged if required. Our past experience at Gregynog Hall suggests that their internet may be unstable. Therefore, we would like to hear your suggestions for an alternative venue for our Summer School which will provide us with a stable Wi-fi connectivity and enough space for maintaining safe social distancing. Do send your ideas at [info@acoustics.ac.uk](mailto:info@acoustics.ac.uk).

---

Stay well.

Kirill Horoshenkov and Richard Craster