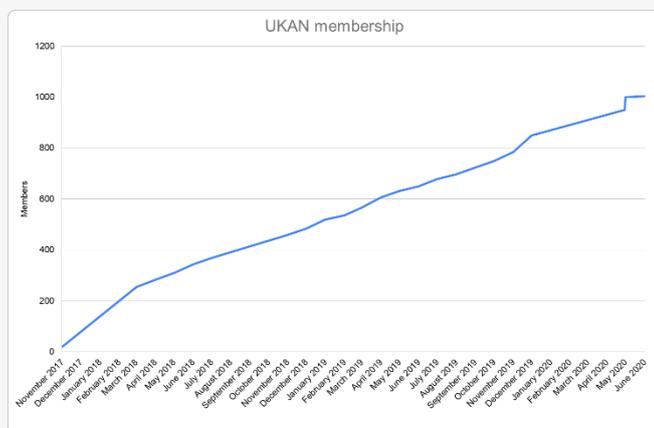


# The UK Acoustics Network Newsletter

## June 2020

### Dear Members

The EPSRC funded UK Acoustics Network continues to go from strength to strength (see graph below). On the 2nd of June 2020 UKAN welcomed its 1000th member! We are delighted to have a balanced split between industry based and academic members contributing, supporting and taking part in over 90 UKAN networking events such as workshops, conferences, staff exchanges, grant writing workshops and early career summer schools.



### Events

We are going to be very busy with webinar events until mid-July. See our Events page [here](#). After this we seem to have a relatively quiet period. We encourage our members to suggest new topics and speakers directly to one of UKAN's 15 [Special Interest Group Leaders](#) or volunteer themselves to give a talk on the topic of their choice. These webinars are important to UKAN. They attract good numbers of people, usually 20 – 100, (peaking at 380 joining a Hearing SIG webinar) and provide a great opportunity for training and knowledge exchange. Usually, they are free to attend, although some events may charge a fee, e.g. [Virtual training course – Marine Acoustics & Signal](#)

[Processing by Seiche](#) on 13-17 June 2020. UKAN is happy to support your attendance at this and any other virtual events related to acoustics. Just fill in the [usual UKAN travel grant request form](#) even though there is no need for you to physically travel. UKAN can support links to Webinar platforms and training if this is helpful for anyone offering to present.

### Schedule a catch up in your calendar.

We encourage you to check our growing list of [recorded Webinars](#) on [UKAN's Website](#) because we know the 'best made plans' to participate may go awry in these unusual circumstances. If a [previous event listing](#) (scroll down in Events) catches your eye, check to see if there is a recording in the Google folder. Otherwise, send our a request to us on [info@acoustics.ac.uk](mailto:info@acoustics.ac.uk).

### UKAN+ grant application

You may remember that in March 2020 we submitted an application to the EPSRC to support UKAN+. The total grant value is £1.7M which, if awarded, will start in January 2021 to run for 4 years. We do need this funding for UKAN+ to take our community to the next stage with the following objectives: (i) To develop a new roadmap for acoustics research in the UK related to Grand Challenges: Clean Growth; Healthy Ageing, Future of Mobility; and AI and Data; (ii) To facilitate explorative (pilot) cross-disciplinary research projects between industry, government, third-sector organisations and academia following on the agreed roadmap; (iii) To use the results from the

explorative projects to develop full-scale, high-quality responsive mode applications to the UKRI, and other funders, aligned with the Grand Challenges; (iv) To set up a National Centre for Coordination of Acoustics Research (including coordination activities in relation to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)) and to achieve full sustainability for UKAN+.

Last week we received the reviews on this grant application from the 4 referees. Although these reviews are highly supportive, one referee asked for a more detailed plan by UKAN and Institute of Acoustics (IoA) to set up National Centre for Coordination of Acoustics Research and to ensure longer sustainability of the Network. We have the chance to respond to this and other comments from the referees. The deadline for the response is the 7<sup>th</sup> of July. We are now working with the IoA to respond robustly to this particular comment, but would also like to hear your views on what should be included in this plan. Do not hesitate to write your views on [info@acoustics.ac.uk](mailto:info@acoustics.ac.uk).

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### **Request for UKAN grant extension**

UKAN has requested the EPSRC to permit a 5-month non-cost extension for the Network to continue after the official end of this grant in November 2020. This request is related to a delay in a range of our activities due to the COVID-19 situation and to cover the period of disruption. We decided to ask for an extension until the 31st of March 2021. An application for this extension was submitted to the EPSRC on the 17th of June 2020. We will now have to wait for the decision on this request which we expect to receive before the end of summer.

### **UKAN finances**

Since the start of the lockdown the Network has not been spending much money because of the Covid-19 situation. Currently, we have approximately £80k left in the budget out of which around £40k has been earmarked for various SIG activities and for the final UKAN event at the end of this grant. This leaves us with around £40k to disperse between 15 SIGs. We would like to ask our members to suggest good ways to spend this money on activities related to any of the 7 UKAN objectives which can be found through [this link to the original case for support](#). One possibility can be to invest it in the *lab in the box* kits which can be used for training and outreach. Another example is to support an international symposium or showcase which can be run as a partially virtual/partially real event. Please let us have your ideas.

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### **Quiet Project**

You may recall that in our [May newsletter](#) we talked about the Quiet Project which is the acoustic community's response to circumstance created by Covid-19. It has brought together through the Institute of Acoustics, the Association of Noise Consultants and UKAN. It is coordinated by KSG Acoustics and Stephen Dance of London South Bank University. This project attracted a good deal of media interest. The Observer published an article about this project entitled *Why lockdown silence was golden for science*. You can find it [via this link](#).

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### **Supporting your bid writing and publications.**

Don't miss this important opportunity, for the acoustic's community: Elaine Massung, writer, proof reader/editor, and former portfolio manager from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), is funded to provide 1-to-1 feedback to UKAN members. Get in touch with

Elaine via [hello@blueeagleacademic.com](mailto:hello@blueeagleacademic.com) to book a session/submit your current or past written work, such as grant proposals, journal / conference papers, and dissertations for her comment and suggest improvements. The list of scheduled slots can be found [here](#). They are not set in stone; speak with Elaine to book a specific time which is mutually convenient.

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### **Time to write that article or grant application?**

Your work may be suitable to help us improve Wikipedia content related to acoustics, sound, human communication, music, noise its effects and control, and soundscapes. Do not hesitate to create a [Wiki4YearOfSound2020](#).

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### **Acoustic apprenticeships**

Acoustics apprenticeship programme was launched in January 2020. It has been developed as an employer-led, industry initiative, with support from the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) and IoA. There is a great deal of interest in the programme. Answers to the most frequent questions arising are collated, providing a reference point for those considering taking on an apprentice, as well as anyone considering it as a career option. This document is available through [this link](#).

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### **Filming of the Value of Acoustics report**

UKAN is commissioning a short film about acoustics to target a general audience. This is well timed to contribute to the global International Year of Sound initiatives, e.g. [sounds of life film](#) (see also its [2 mins version](#) or in [mp4 format](#)). This may complement the apprenticeship scheme in terms of raising curiosity and understanding of acoustics and sharing the findings on our Sound Economics

Report more broadly. Human Studio's creative team who made [this film](#) about future robots for inspecting pipes are creating a storyboard and script. They are keen to hear suggestions of exciting innovations/ applications of acoustic technology that will make viewers think 'Wow' and be more curious. They are using our [Acoustics Banner](#) and the [UK Acoustics - Sound Economics Report](#) to inform the storyboard. Pages 5, 7, and 14 in the report provide clues of applications, but they are very top level, i.e. "audio, speech, sound and sonics, fundamental acoustics, ultrasound and ultrasonics, vibration, noise. We would like to ask our members to tell us examples of amazing and interesting things achieved with acoustics to be included in this film. What's not on collated list yet (see Section D [here](#)) or which areas already listed are key in terms of communicating the wonders of acoustics. Let us know by writing to [info@acoustics.ac.uk](mailto:info@acoustics.ac.uk). Also, it would be good if you could share with us any of your plans you may have for acoustics to contribute to the fight against COVID-19. Of course, if it is not too early to refer to them. We will appreciate your input.

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### **Lab in a Box**

In our [May newsletter](#) we asked all members to provide us with good ideas for an acoustic 'Lab in A Box'. Please come forward with ideas or names of companies who can manufacture high-quality kits which will enable classrooms to gain access to specialist science equipment. We need your help.

### **Stay safe**

Kirill Horoshenkov and Richard Craster