

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to you. This Network is still growing with 519 members as per today. We started this year well with a successful UKAN Anniversary Event at Sheffield. This event was attended by 114 delegates representing the UK academia and industry. We used electronic badges which enabled us to track the connections made by the delegates. This statistics suggests that in total 1711 connections were made by our delegates on the day, with the average unique connections of 13 per delegate. According to our feedback survey 92.9% of the delegates agreed that this event met their expectation and 75% said that they will be developing new networking opportunities from this event.

In the morning of this event we had excellent presentations by prominent speakers from the industry and academia. Copies of these presentations can be found on <https://acoustics.ac.uk/resources/>. In particular, the talk by Prof. Philip Nelson, the former CEO of the EPSRC, was very informative as it outlined trends in research funding and the future of research in acoustics. This talk pointed out to the importance for the acoustics research community to adopt the 'bottom-up approach' to ensure that acoustics related research ideas fit well the research funding priorities of the UKRI.

One important outcome of this event is a summary of critical challenges in acoustics. This summary has been developed through the afternoon's group discussions at the UKAN Anniversary Event. You can find a copy of this summary at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hj0cASaEFvf2ct-Eo1iZ1wyr2lsNTLPU/view?usp=sharing>. This document also contains a summary of new interesting developments in acoustics. We would like to hear your comments and ideas on how we should make good use of this document to address these challenges appropriately through systematic research and new collaborations.

The UKAN also completed the Value of Acoustics exercise according to which there are over 600 companies in the UK working in acoustics. Their apportioned revenue is £4.6bn which is approximately 0.6% of the UK's GDP. These companies employ 16,000 people working in acoustics. Shortly, we will be producing a formal report which will share with you. We would like to ask our Network members to contribute to the Value of Acoustics report by providing high-quality pictures related to acoustics. We would also like our industry members to provide powerful 100-word statements on the importance of acoustics to the competitiveness and sustainability of the UK's industry. These statements are rather important to deliver a powerful message to the government and research funding bodies about the role of acoustics in the UK's economy.

The rest of this year looks busy for the UKAN. You will find that a range of events has been planned already. Details of these events can be found on <https://acoustics.ac.uk/events/>. The Network still has a considerable amount of funds at their disposal to support good ideas for networking and to promote acoustics. If you have an idea for a networking or outreach event, please email to info@acoustics.ac.uk. This idea is likely to be supported financially if it is in line with the UKAN objectives (see pages 4 and 5 of <https://acoustics.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/EPSRC-Acoustics-Network-Case-for-Support-final.pdf>). In particular, we are looking for networking opportunities which will link the acoustics community better with other research communities and which will help promote collaborative research. The Symposium on Acoustics of Nanoporous Materials organised by Dr. Rodolfo Venegas on the 19th of February 2019 is a good example <https://acoustics.ac.uk/events/symposium-on-acoustics-of-nanoporous-materials/> for such events.

We would also like to encourage our academic and industrial members to open up their labs for day visits by our PhD students and research staff. The 6th of March 2019 DRG Showcase at Sheffield is an example <https://acoustics.ac.uk/events/dynamics-research-group-showcase-event-university-of-sheffield/>. These events are very helpful to promote links and to open opportunities for collaboration between our early career researchers.

We remind you that the UKAN are planning to run a competition for the best video (or sound!) clip about acoustics and would like our members to propose a range of topics. These clips will go on our website and support our outreach and advocacy work. There is funding to support the production of video material for this purpose. Please write to info@acoustics.ac.uk if you wish to become involved.

Yours sincerely,

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