Public Awareness of Research Infrastructures



Contribution ID: 11

Type: not specified

From dust to a new scientific dawn...

Friday, 19 June 2015 09:50 (10 minutes)

Diamond Light Source the UK's national synchrotron light source was set-up as a limited company in 2002 with a handful of staff. It was established as a joint venture limited company funded by the UK Government through the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and by the Wellcome Trust, owning 86% and 14% of the shares respectively.

Construction of the facility started in earnest March 2003 with 1500 piles anchored into the chalk at the foot of an area of outstanding natural beauty. The project was then the largest investment in science for over 30 years and in scale equated to about five football pitches.

This session will start with an overview talk highlighting the good use of milestones, the do's and don'ts, the importance of consistency in messages as well as sharing some of the creative ideas that can be used to engage the public with concrete and steel. The talk will be followed by a live or recorded link discussion bringing together members of the local parish council at the time as well as members of the Oxfordshire Women's Institute who participated in the making of a large scale art piece now on permanent display in Diamond atrium area.

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Session Classification: Parallel Session 4

Track Classification: PR of a facility under construction