



The Exeter Science Exchange: Trading Ideas to promote multi-disciplinary collaboration – A Case Study

PROTTEC Summer School



An examination of RKT's support for research grant applications

- The role
- The opportunity
- The processes
- Lessons to take away

Overview of the role

- To support our academic community in their preparation and submission of proposals
- To manage complexity and assist in the preparation of bids at an institutional level
- Different to the role we have in transferring research outputs into business and the community

EPSRC call



Bridging the Gap 2009/10 – The opportunity

- Annual calls for programmes of funded research
- Responsive mode
- Doctoral training and studentships
- Support for new academics

EPSRC call



Bridging the Gap 2009/10 – Objectives of the call

- to build a programme of new activities that will stimulate creative thinking
- Initiate **new**, long-term collaborations
- cross-fertilisation of ideas
- focus on multidisciplinary

EPSRC call



Why did RKT get involved?

- The call was cross-discipline and required coordination across Schools and Colleges
- The institution could only submit one proposal

EPSRC call



Bridging the Gap 2009/10 The mechanics

- two stage process
 - outline application
 - full application and interview panel

Call opened June 2009

Stage 1 deadline 16 September 2009

Stage 2 deadline 7 October 2009, interview February 2010

The tasks: stage 1

- Alert Schools / Colleges to the call
- Establish bid modus operandi
 - gather information on ideas from academics
 - invite interested parties to contact us
 - appoint an academic leader
 - appoint a RKT support team

The tasks: stage 1

- Examine (5) individual inputs
 - Is there a clear champion?
- Determine the best (NEW) approach
- Bring potential applicants together
- Assign tasks of writing the outline to individuals
- Gather cost data
- Submit the outline – and wait!

About the bid

Exeter Science Exchange Trading Ideas to
promote multi-disciplinary collaboration

A physical and virtual environment for the
promotion of interdisciplinary research and the
exchange of ideas

About the bid

PI & Co-Is

Professor David Butler, Associate Dean, College of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences (EMPS) and Professor of Water Engineering

Professor Peter Ashwin, EMPS
Professor Trevor Bailey EMPS
Professor David Zhang EMPS
Professor Nick Smirnov Biosciences
Professor Robert Van de Noort Archaeology

Professor John Bessant, Business School
Professor John Barry Humanities
Professor John Dupré Humanities
Professor Regenia Gagnier, Humanities
Professor. Andy Wills Social Sciences

RKT Project Manager
Admin Support

The tasks: stage 2

- Examine Reviewers' comments
- First draft by PI
- Gather the team to discuss content of the proposal and assign new tasks

The tasks: stage 2

- Coordinate internal inputs
- IMPACT Statement
- External collaborators
- Proposal submission
- Mock Panel



The tasks: post award

- Contractual issues
- Organise team planning meetings
- Recruitment
- Publicity

Lessons Learned

- RKT support enables the academics to focus on what they are good at.
- However, there is an important role in ensuring that the bid fits the criteria of the call at all levels
- RKT support was recognised and valued by the academics

Lessons Learned

- Did RKT's input improve the quality of the bid?