



**Meeting of the Innovate UK Council  
Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Summary of meeting**

The meeting was held at the Energy Systems Catapult, the focus of the meeting was to understand the work of the of the Catapult Network Development Office and Catapults in greater depth. The Council was deemed quorate.

**The Catapult Network & CaNDO**

The Chair of the Catapult Network, Keith Thompson, and Director of the Catapult Network Development Office (CaNDO), Pilar Sepulveda, gave an overview of the early history of Catapults and the development of the Catapult Network Development Office (CaNDO) which was created in 2019 to:

- develop, promote and communicate the network's value and proposition;
- interact with Innovate UK/UKRI at network level; and,
- drive cross-Catapult coordination, cooperation and collaboration.

The benefits and impact of the CaNDO approach was discussed.

**Offshore Renewable Catapult**

Andrew Jameson, Chief Executive of the Offshore Renewable Catapult, gave an overview of the sector and how the Offshore Renewable Catapult, which was established in 2013, is delivering UK growth. It was explained how the Catapult's unique facilities and research and engineering capabilities are bringing together industry and academia to drive innovation in the offshore renewable sector.

Council discussed the future direction of the Catapult. They agreed that if the UK can move to zero carbon technologies, cost efficient advantages will be made with potential for long-term growth around the world.

**Energy Systems Catapult**

Philip New, Chief Executive of the Energy Systems Catapult, gave a general overview of the Catapult which was established in 2015 to accelerate the transformation of the UK's energy system and ensure UK businesses and consumers capture the opportunities of clean growth.

By taking a whole energy approach the Catapult connects the system from sources of energy to the consumer, breaking down silos between energy vectors and brings together the physical requirements of the energy system, with policy, market and digital infrastructure.

Council heard from two companies who had benefitted from working with the Catapult through its Innovator Support Platform.

Council discussed the very complex area in which the Catapult operates and agreed that there is potential to utilise data to better inform the energy industry. Additionally there is a role to break down legislative barriers and to advise BEIS on areas of focus to enable the net zero target.

**Closed Council Session**

Council were asked for an additional nominee to participate Innovate UK's Risk Committee.

A brief update on the ongoing work building on the outcomes of the KPMG review was given.

Progress in auditing three of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centres and the Satellite Applications Catapult was reported.

UKRI's harmonisation of pay and conditions which will result in some Innovate UK staff forgoing a consolidated payment was discussed. Council expressed concerns with regard to recruitment and retention of key staff and urged the Executive Chair to escalate the issue.

**The formal minutes of this meeting will be approved at the Innovate UK Council meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**