Displaying **19** of **60** respondents

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1. Name:

2. Organisation (if applicable):

C-Tech Innovation Ltd

3. Email address:

4. Address:

5. In responding, it would be helpful if you could indicate whether you are responding as

a business or business representative body

6. Keeping in touch

Please keep me informed by email of the progress of this review, and other BIS Balance of Competence reviews.

1. 1. Where has EU action had a positive impact for the UK on research, technological development, innovation or space? What evidence is there for this? Has EU action encouraged national action in any areas?

Regulation on technical standards. WEEE, REACH, Euro 6, various Europe wide regulation that moves towards improved efficiency helps set standards, Contribution to R&D across a wide range of technologies. Compliments National funding programmes. Increased collaboration through Improved access to expertise and knowledge base across Europe. Sourced funding for SMEs in collaboration projects where internal funding would be difficult using own resources and limited national programmes. Helps to promote innovation. 8 UK based institutions in top 50 participant organisation in FP7. Number of topics and calls EU wide much greater than national funding mechanisms. Specific support for SME organisations through specific programmes such as EUROSTARS, Research for the Benefit of SMEs and SME targeted Collaborative Projects. Access to major centres in excellence across Europe, much greater access to technologies than available in UK alone e.g. 4M 2020. Access to EU wide networks through CSAs to enable wider participation across Europe. Specific programmes: The Northwest Eco-Innovation Programme was designed to address key regional challenges under Priority 1 of the ERDF Programme (Stimulating Enterprise and Supporting Growth in Target Sectors & Markets) and was funded by the ERDF (The total Programme budget was £3,469,072. Life-plus, a funded resource efficient business module across the UK.

2. 2. Where has EU action had a negative impact for the UK in these fields? What evidence is there for this? Has EU action prevented potentially useful national action in any areas?

Individual country regulations can be a barrier to innovation. Some specific policies have been unhelpful. Biofuels directive comes to mind, which has prompted some blind-alley R&D and technical development. An example of trying to "back a winner". EU (and governments in general) should always seek to define the desired effect, and let the R&D community generate answers, rather than specifying the answers in advance of technological maturity. Higher levels of EU funding (75% RTD, 100% CSA) promotes EU centric rather than national funded collaborations. Focus on EU Grand challenges rather than national research needs. Called R&D Topics often not relevant to national interests. Some EU regulations can be a barrier to national developments, e.g. REACH.

3. 3. How and where has UK engagement with partner countries or international bodies, both within and outside the EU, been helped or hindered by EU involvement?

UK engagement with partner countries has in general been helped by the various EU R&D funding instruments. This is reflected in the high level of R&D funding that has been obtained by some organisations. Less involvement by UK industry and very little SME involvement to promote business development. Some specific joint national programmes like Eurostars promotes R&D actions between SMEs with specific EU countries on targeted research topics. High burden of administration is off-putting to many SME and industry partners. Excessive time from project concept to launch – often 18-24 months, as a result. Nonetheless result is positive vs. not having the instruments.

4. 4. What benefits or difficulties has the objective of a European research area (ERA) delivered for the UK?

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5. 5. How has the EU sought to coordinate the policy instruments at its disposal across different policy areas to create an enabling environment for researchers and innovators? How successful has this been?

No information

1. 6. What could the EU most helpfully do to promote scientific and technological progress and innovation (including in the space sector)? - How could the EU use its existing competence differently to deliver more in your area? - How might a greater or lesser degree of EU competence deliver more in your area? - How could improvements to existing EU activities make them more effective and efficient?

- How could the EU use its existing competence differently to deliver more in your area? Greater focus on involvement of SMEs across a wider range of technologies. Open calls for research areas. Integrating across EU states and wider to define challenges. Better, clearer communication needed to define support limits (state aid). Improved support mechanisms for innovation needed. - How might a greater or lesser degree of EU competence deliver more in your area? More consistent application of rules and simplification across all EU states required Continue to develop regulation on all aspects of energy efficiency - How could improvements to existing EU activities make them more effective and efficient? Continue to develop cooperative instruments for R&D for focused research. Develop mechanisms & increased support for next phase development. Consistent approach to lobbying practices across all EU states needed.

2. 7. Where might future EU level action be detrimental to your work in this area?

Changes to funding levels may discourage SME participation. Potential for increased burden of administration under new financing rules may be a disincentive for SME participation. Continued policy separation across DG's provides inconsistencies across Programmes.

3. 8. Where might action at national rather than EU level be more appropriate / effective?

Getting the right engagement mechanisms. Increasing involvement of KTNs on focussed areas through TSB. Continued national attention to "valley of death" needed in UK – UK always suffers from short-term business planning horizon vs Germany, France et al, which restricts scope of technological related business. Encourage more UK business engagement in cross-Europe R&D projects. Faster funding mechanisms for focussed projects and support for exploitation routes.

4. 9. How could EU and national policies and funding streams interact better?

EU should can use its competencies in: - integrating across EU states and wider to define challenges - continue to develop regulation on all aspects of energy efficiency - continue to develop cooperative instruments for R&D More awareness of skills/capabilities/networks across EU will always help, especially in emerging technical R&D areas Action based networks coordinated across EU with common themes. Greater flexibility of programmes to respond to challenges Harmonisation of standards at EU and National levels.

5. 10. What impact would any future enlargement of the EU have on this area of competence?

Potentially a wider market with the newer states. Greater opportunity for R&D activities with newer states. Possible dilution of funding, with specific calls which have to include the newer states. Possible reduced focus on research topics to accommodate newer states.

6. 11. Are there any other points you wish to make which are not captured above?

UK needs to continue to look at getting best contribution from public funded sector in early stages of innovation. Must ensure good fit of Catapults, Universities etc to be fertile ground. Cf. Fraunhofer and various US institutes. UK still punches below weight in translating science into technology. We need to configure what we have better. Greater representation of UK industry and SMEs in Europe is needed. Greater UK leadership and engagement from industry and SMES to R&D challenges – currently this is very poor. Many topics are driven by other EU states.