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Response Type:
Normal ResponseCustom Value:
emptyResponse Started:
Thursday, May 30, 2013 3:18:35 PMCollector:
Web Link
(Web Link)IP Address:
194.168.36.46Response Modified:
Friday, May 31, 2013 12:50:12 PM

1. Name:

2. Organisation (if applicable):

SIGMA-ALDRICH CORPORATION

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?

EU actions have encouraged and supported interaction between academia and industry, and this has been of great value to smaller businesses in facilitating access to research excellence, both people and facilities, within academia.

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?

The balance of programmes has not in the past been sufficiently validated by the relevant interests; the approach and consultation appears narrow.

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?

The funding opportunities have provided jobs and infra-structure/equipment. Without this, the knowledge base in the UK would be less than at present, and this is already accepted as being insufficient.

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

The objectives have not been sufficiently closely aligned with the research and development strengths of the UK or its particular areas of growth potential.

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?

There has been a lack of consistency and clarity, and user involvement has been deficient.

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?

There needs to be greater level of end user involvement in establishing and balancing areas for support. Once programmes are available, there also needs to be a much faster turnaround of applications and in order to facilitate this, better support should be available to those proposing to make funding support applications.

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

Where programme funding is biased towards narrow interests, then broader opportunities are lost.

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

In those areas where the research base is strong but the funding gap between basic research and applied development is limiting to innovation.

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

Through a broader and more active consultation and review process.

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

Greater diversity is healthy to research and innovation, especially where this is enhanced through carefully targeted funding.

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

In looking for shorter term gains to the economy and general improvements in prosperity, it is essential that funding is adequate for those critical innovations that are closest to market.

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