

Dial-a-Molecule Industry Focus Meeting



Summary

The Dial-a-Molecule **INDUSTRY FOCUS MEETING** recently took place at the SCI, London on Monday, 11th April) and was well attended by representatives of companies from across the chemical-using industries, including pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, catalysis and fine chemicals. Technology and solution providers, ranging from equipment suppliers to modelling and cheminformatics companies, were also represented together with key people from professional bodies and research councils, including the RSC and MRC.

Since the launch of the Grand Challenge in October 2010 9 focus areas have been developed under the themes of [Lab of the Future & Synthetic Route Selection](#) (4 focus areas), [Catalytic Paradigms for 100% efficient synthesis](#) (3 focus areas) and [A Step Change in Molecular Synthesis](#) (2 focus areas).

Industry input was invaluable in initially developing these themes, but the **INDUSTRY FOCUS MEETING** was important to give the themes a broader industrial steer & to make them as **industry relevant, academically challenging and fundable** as possible.

There was strong support for the proposed themes and focus areas and the meeting has allowed these areas to be more tightly focused and prioritised.

- Detail on the themes and the champions in these areas, can be found through the [website](#). These will be updated shortly.
- A summary of the industry input will also be available here soon. We will welcome your feedback on this.

Ambition & Next Steps

The ambitions of Dial-a-Molecule are straightforward:

- To facilitate the formation of effective networks & consortia to address the themes of Dial-a-Molecule
- To establish new collaborations and initiated grant proposals (or alternative funding mechanisms)
- To raise the profile of Synthesis as a Grand Challenge.

These ambitions will be realised through a series of theme meetings which will be announced shortly. The Grand Challenge is mandated to produce a Technology Delivery Roadmap (October 2011) which will detail the steps required to address the challenges & the research proposals which will progress the work.

Your involvement

We hope that the theme meetings for the Grand Challenge will interest you and that you'll be able to contribute your expertise, ideas or support. Inclusivity is essential for this activity & the true test for the Grand Challenge will be the quality of the roadmap which is developed and quality and depth of the research proposals, or collaborations it generates.

If you have any questions please contact either [Prof Richard Whitby](#) (University of Southampton, PI) or [Dr Stephen Hillier](#) (Chemistry Innovation KTN).