



Department for
International Trade



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council



Welcome to UK@CERN 2021



- Good morning each and all
- My name is Noel McEvoy and I am Department for International Trade (DIT) Director for Switzerland & Liechtenstein
- In this opening address, I would like to start with losing some words on the work of DIT



What does DIT do?

The Department for International Trade

- Brings together policy, promotion and financial expertise to remove barriers to trade and investment, and help businesses succeed in their international development
- Delivers a trade policy framework for the UK globally
- Promotes British trade and investment across the world.



What are our objectives?

DIT

- Supports and encourages UK businesses to drive sustainable international growth
- Ensures that the UK remains a leading destination for international investment
- Opens markets by building a trade framework with new and existing partners which is free and fair
- Uses trade and investment to underpin the UK government's agenda and ambitions for prosperity, stability and security worldwide.



International Network

- More than 1,400 staff
- Present in 111 countries
- Based in 177 Embassies, Consulates or Missions globally





UK - Switzerland



- £38bn worth of bilateral trade
- £103bn of reciprocal investment stock
- Global financial hubs in Europe
- Leading European universities
- Switzerland 1st and UK 4th most innovate countries globally
- Ambition to develop the bilateral relationship.



- A warm welcome everybody !
- And sincere thanks to CERN for hosting the 2021 edition of UK@CERN
- We are celebrating several firsts this year:
 - first virtual event
 - first B2Match experience
 - first event with the UK's new Industrial Liaison Officer based at the STFC
- You'll hear from him a little bit later, so I won't steal his show now.



UK@CERN – Attracting Attention

- This year our UK@CERN webinar attracted the highest level of interest ever
- Unfortunately, we could not admit everyone
- 34 companies are participating throughout these two days
- And, additional companies are joining us for the plenary session this morning in order to learn more about CERN, its activities, opportunities and purchasing procedures.



UK@CERN – Virtual Reality

- We have all become adept at virtual meetings - and it seems particularly appropriate that meetings with such a hi-tech organisation as CERN should take place using channels that we now take for granted
- Without CERN and the World Wide Web, none of this would have happened! B2Match? Teams? Zoom?



- Pre-Covid, you may not have even heard of these services;
- How on earth would we have got through lockdown without them?
- Science and technology continue to change our ways of life
- Tech plays a central role in keeping families connected across geographies and generations
- And tech is helping companies to connect to business opportunities.



- Science has helped us find some light at the end of the pandemic tunnel
- Looking ahead we can see that science and innovation will facilitate our post-COVID recovery and lie at the heart of our economic future
- Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said “We know that research and innovation investment is key to firm productivity, and that innovative firms are higher growth, and create higher value, better paid jobs. We need more of this investment, and more of these firms and jobs across our country to achieve a genuine levelling up of opportunity.”



UK@CERN – Collaborate to Change

- CERN is a great example of international collaboration
- Researchers and engineers from all countries are working together, across language and cultural barriers, to develop understanding of our universe
- And CERN has been at the forefront of powerful change and progress since it was founded back in 1954



- The concept of science or physics can be scary for some companies:
“Oh, I’m not a scientist” or “I was terrible at physics in school”
- No worries! CERN is more than fundamental research and science
- Did you know that CERN employs 10 times more engineers and technicians than physicists?
- CERN has numerous technical challenges that can involve working on a microscopic scale or on massive machines



- To successfully conduct their experiments at the forefront of research, physicists rely on ground-breaking, often mammoth machines built using millions of components and offering an unprecedented level of precision
- Engineers and technicians, develop, build and test these machines and keep them in good working order. And you, in industry, provide know-how and the components they need



UK@CERN – Opportunities

- UK industry is agile and has always embraced change, found new ways of doing things. Enterprising and entrepreneurial companies explore opportunities and Big Science in general, CERN in particular today, offers many opportunities
- You are participating in UK@CERN to see where your expertise could be of value to CERN - and to see where CERN, with its demanding specifications, will help you to reach another level in your business



Big Science Business Forum

- We are also looking forward to the **Big Science Business Forum** as another opportunity to engage with CERN and with many other significant science facilities
- However, we need to be patient as the event has been postponed for another year and will take place from **4 to 7 October 2022**. It will be worth the wait!
- The Big Science Business Forum will give you the chance to learn about other scientific organisations and their requirements
- In all cases, delivering a contract for CERN enhances your reputation and may help you seize opportunities in other research institutes.



- Last year the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) published a paper on the benefits of the UK-CERN partnership which was based on a survey with UK businesses
- 75% of respondents saw an increase in their capacity to innovate as a result of CERN contracts
- In addition to business generated through contracts, increased staff satisfaction, knowledge and skills were reported



Recognition

- I would like to close with a thank you to:
- Everyone in CERN's procurement and technical teams
- To STFC for their collaboration - not only in organising UK@CERN, but also throughout the year
- And a special word of thanks to Merethe Olafsen for your “behind the scenes” work and efficiency in getting us all converted and connected to the B2Match platform



Wishes

- We trust that these couple of days will be enriching, enlightening and educational.
- Above all, we wish you each and all a successful outcomes from

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Thank You



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