A new Innovation and Knowledge Centre for Biofilms – an overview of scientific, translational and international collaborative opportunities.

Research Councils, Universities and Industry Partners have come together in the UK with the view to harnessing academic and industry strengths in biofilms. This has led to the formation of the National Biofilms Innovation Centre (NBIC, from Dec 2017), comprising an interdisciplinary partnership of four core-funded Universities (Southampton, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Nottingham), an additional 26 partner research institutions under a legal consortium agreement, a growing industry hub of more than 80 companies comprising SMEs through to large multinational companies, and partnering with government agencies and national infrastructure for science (e.g. synchrotron and high performance computing facilities). NBIC provides a focus for industry partners to access biofilm research, expertise and capabilities, connecting the right expertise, simplifying knowledge transfer and catalysing collaboration.

Working with industry, NBIC is developing sector roadmaps, identifying the unmet needs of the sectors, and the key scientific, commercial, technical and regulatory barriers to meet them. NBIC is providing targeted translational funding aimed at driving collaboration between industry and the research community focused on addressing unmet business needs via competitive project calls. We will give an overview of the scientific, translational and training strategy and activity that NBIC will support. We are also developing international partnerships, and will discuss opportunities to develop and strengthen the global research and industry community through international collaboration in biofilms.

Presented by Jeremy Webb and Mark Richardson on behalf of NBIC Executive Management Team, CEO Mark Richardson and Co-Directors Jeremy Webb, University of Southampton, Prof. Cait MacPhee, University of Edinburgh; Prof. Rasmita Raval, University of Liverpool; Prof. Miguel Cámara, University of Nottingham. Operations Director: Jo Slater-Jefferies. www.biofilms.ac.uk.