

1 July 2009

NANOSCIENCE PROGRAMME APPOINTS STRATEGIC ADVISOR

H2O Venture Partners is delighted to hear of the appointment of one of its Advisory Board Members, Professor Peter Dobson, as Strategic Advisor for nanotechnology to the Research Councils UK (RCUK) programme, "Nanoscience through Engineering".

Professor Dobson is the Director of the Begbroke Science Park at Oxford University and is active in many aspects of nanotechnology research. He has been working in the field for over 40 years and has founded two nanotechnology companies and as a scientific advisor or mentor, has assisted others to form and develop. The interdisciplinary nature of nanoscience and nanotechnology and the impact that research in this area can have in medicine, energy, environmental technology and materials offers many exciting opportunities, he believes.

Professor Dobson is a strong advocate for exploring the societal and commercial impacts and opportunities of research and he is looking forward to his interactions with researchers across all disciplines, and with people in industry and business. On the challenges facing him within the UK nanoscience community, Professor Dobson says: "I am very much looking forward to working with the nanotechnology community, both in academe and in industry, and in using my experiences in knowledge transfer as the Nanoscience through Engineering to Application programme moves into its second, up-scaling, phase."

Additional Information

The Nanoscience through Engineering to Application is one of the six priority research themes for the Research Councils that attracted significant funding through the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. Professor Dobson took up his post from 1 June 2009 and will spend 3 days per week advising the Research Councils on the development and implementation of their Nanotechnology strategy. He will also act as an advocate for nanotechnology and the Research Councils both within the UK and internationally.

Biography of Professor Peter Dobson

After a career as a lecturer in Physics at Imperial College and Senior Principal Scientist at Philips Research laboratories, Professor Dobson (BSc, MA (Oxon), PhD, C Phys, F Inst P, Member of the ACS), was appointed to a University Lectureship and College Fellowship at the Queen's College Oxford in 1988 and a Professorship in 1996.

At Oxford his research moved into the areas of nanoparticles, nanostructures, optoelectronics and biosensors. In 1999 he spun-off a company, now called Oxonica plc, that specializes in making nanoparticles for a wide range of applications, ranging from sunscreens to fuel additive catalysts and bio-labels.

In 2000, with colleagues in Chemistry and Engineering, he spun-off Oxford Biosensors Ltd that makes a hand-held device based on enzyme-functionalized microelectrode arrays. He was appointed to his present position as Director of Oxford University's Begbroke Science Park in August 2002, and has the responsibility of setting up new research institutes that will combine University activities with company R&D, and leading a team that facilitates the rapid transfer of technology and knowledge.

This has led to him being in demand internationally to advise on knowledge transfer. He consults widely and advises several corporate and national organizations on nanotechnology. His research interests are very broad, covering most aspects of nanotechnology, and embracing biotechnology, environmental technology, energy, materials science, especially the applications to medicine.

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