

The UK Science & Innovation Network – A Tool for Diplomacy

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A Message from the Foreign Secretary

Foreign policy is not just about projecting our own values outwards, using our influence as best we can to shape the world around us. Increasingly, and just as importantly, it is about identifying where we can gain from the expertise and knowledge of others . . .

Nowhere is that more important than in the field of scientific endeavour. The great technological advances of the past 20 years have brought immense benefits to the world. But they have also created new and acute challenges, many of which will only be solved through new scientific breakthroughs. The Science and Innovation Network provides the crucial two-way global linkage that we need.

- David Miliband, Foreign Secretary

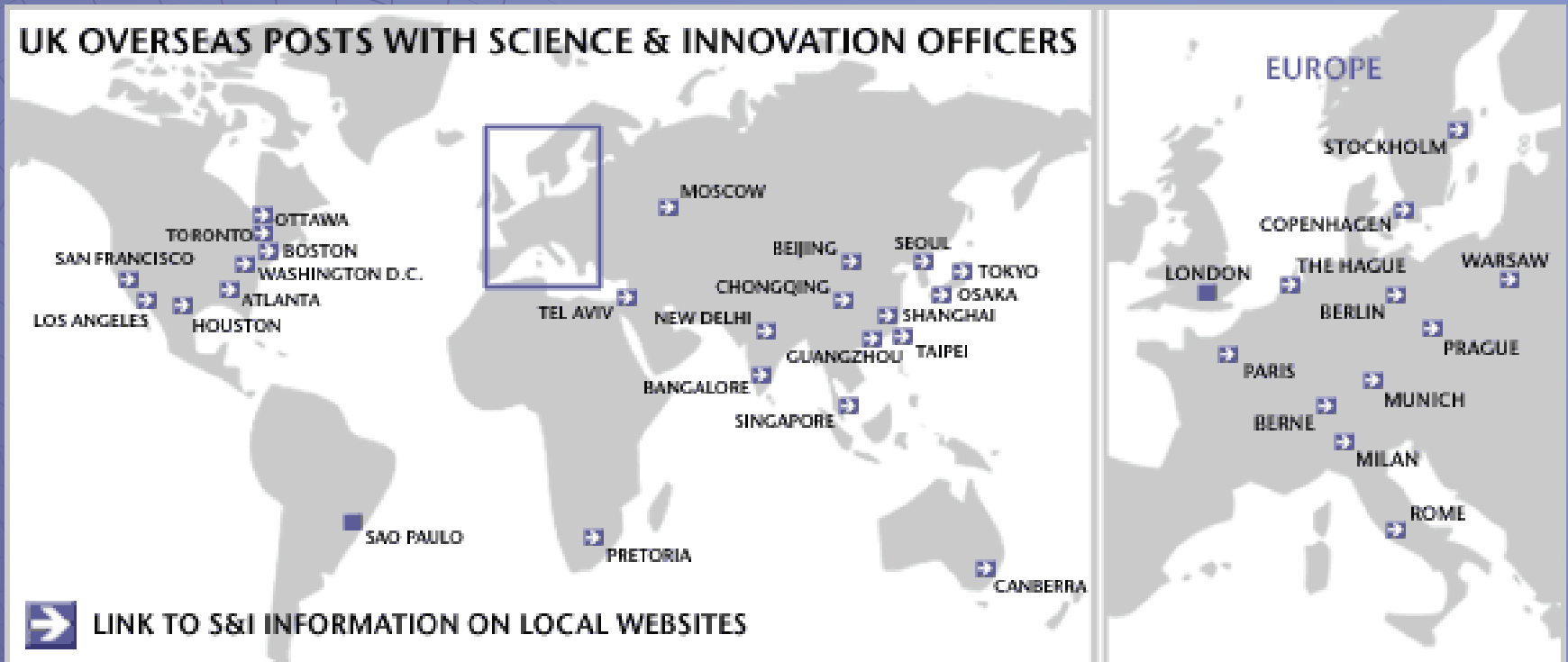


History of the Science & Innovation Network

- ◆ Established in 2000 by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)
- ◆ Funded through the FCO and stationed mostly in overseas posts
- ◆ First US science posts established in 2002
- ◆ Science Counsellors in Washington, Paris, Beijing, Tokyo, & Munich
- ◆ Largest representation in the US and Japan
- ◆ Recent expansion in China and India



The Global Network



As of April 2007 – 96 Science Specialists in 39 Diplomatic Missions in 24 countries



The FCO's International Priorities

- ◆ Making the world safer from global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction
- ◆ Reducing the harm to the UK from international crime, including drug trafficking, people smuggling and money laundering
- ◆ Preventing and resolving conflict through a strong international system
- ◆ Building an effective and globally competitive EU in a secure neighbourhood
- ◆ Supporting the UK economy and business through an open and expanding global economy, science and innovation and secure energy supplies
- ◆ Achieving climate security by promoting a faster transition to a sustainable, low carbon global economy
- ◆ Promoting sustainable development and poverty reduction underpinned by human rights, democracy, good governance and protection of the environment
- ◆ Managing migration and combating illegal immigration
- ◆ Delivering high-quality support for British nationals abroad, in normal times and in crises
- ◆ Ensuring the security and good governance of the UK's Overseas Territories



What Does the Science & Innovation (S&I) Network Do?

- ◆ **Scientific Collaboration** – facilitating scientific collaboration between UK universities and research laboratories and their best counterparts around the world
- ◆ **Innovation** – strengthening the UK's innovation capacity through facilitating R&D partnerships and technology transfer
- ◆ **Influence** – using science and innovation as tools to communicate the UK's international strategic priorities (e.g. climate change, energy security, poverty, infectious diseases, counter-terrorism)
- ◆ **Policy-making** – helping UK and overseas policy-makers develop best practice in science and innovation policy and developing international frameworks in breakthrough technologies such as stem cell research.

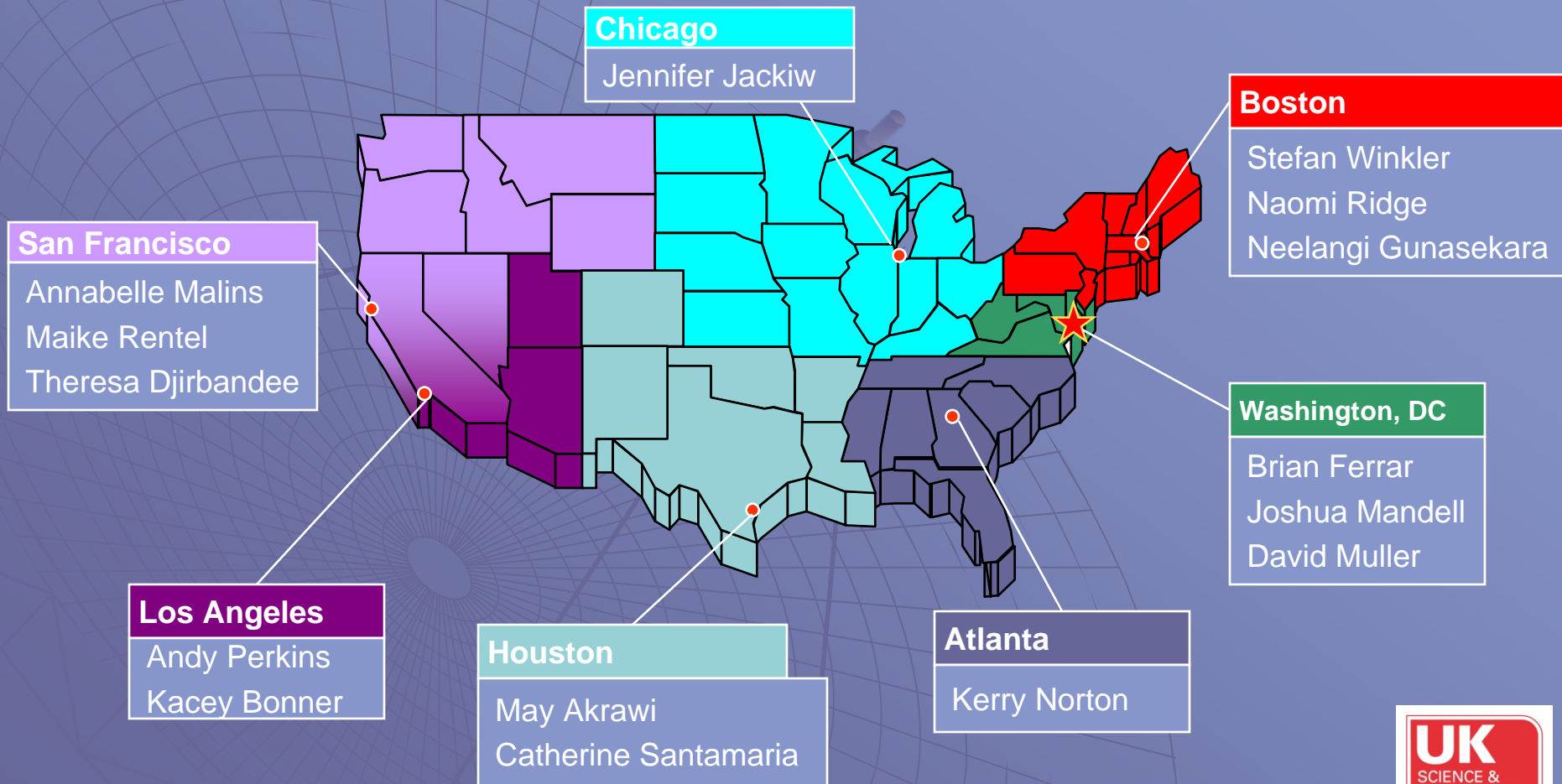


Our Stakeholders

- ◆ Government Office of Science (GO Science)
- ◆ Office of the Chief Scientific Advisor
- ◆ Parliament (especially Parliamentary Committees)
- ◆ Devolved Administrations (Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales)
- ◆ Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- ◆ Department for International Development (DfID)
- ◆ Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)
- ◆ Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)
- ◆ Technology Strategy Board (TSB)
- ◆ Knowledge Transfer Networks (KTNs)
- ◆ Research Councils UK (RC UK)
- ◆ UK Stem Cell Bank
- ◆ Nanotechnology Industries Associations (NIA)
- ◆ Wellcome Trust
- ◆ Individual Universities
- ◆ UK Trade & Investment (UKTI)
- ◆ Political Press and Public Affairs (PPPA)
- ◆ British Council
- ◆ Many, Many More



The US S&I Network



Focus of US Network for 2008-09

- ◆ Communicating Climate Change –
 - Urgency
 - Technology, Innovation, and Energy Efficiency
 - Carbon Markets
- ◆ Stem Cells – International Regulatory Framework
- ◆ Infectious Diseases
- ◆ Science for Development
- ◆ Science Policy & Best Practice
- ◆ UK-US Collaborations
- ◆ Security Science



General Activities

- ◆ Networking, Networking, Networking
- ◆ Facilitate / Support programs for high-level visitors (i.e. MPs and Parliamentary Committees)
- ◆ Host / Partner on hosting events
- ◆ Sector / Topical research
- ◆ Best practice exchanges (i.e. sponsored visits)
- ◆ Reporting back new developments
- ◆ Working with Public Affairs Team to promote S&I Activities



Science & Innovation Activities in the Los Angeles Post

- ◆ Visit from Higher Education Wales to Southern California and Arizona (February 08)
- ◆ UK Stem Cell Bank tour through California (February 08)
- ◆ Caltech-Scotland Researcher Exchange Program (ongoing)
- ◆ Royal Society Visit (April 08)
- ◆ Research for Parliamentary Committee interested in areas with higher value-added economies (June 08)
- ◆ Coordinating BIO 2008 activities with UK Trade & Investment (June 08)
- ◆ Possible nanotechnology regulatory event (Fall 08)
- ◆ Possible Climate Change / Energy Efficiency events in Arizona and Nevada (Late 08)

