

## **Smart Nano NI Advisory Group – Board Members**

### **Background**

Smart Nano NI is a Northern Ireland consortium collaborating to develop game-changing advanced prototyping and smart manufacturing methods to deliver new technologies. The consortium shares a niche capability around nano manufacturing and world-leading knowledge in photonics.

The £63 million, five-year programme aims to strengthen the position of the photonics and advanced manufacturing in Northern Ireland to compete in rapidly evolving global markets. It is part-funded through UK Research and Innovation's flagship Strength in Places Fund (SIPF) (£42 million) with the balance of investments provided by consortium partners led by Seagate Technology and including Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, the Digital Catapult Northern Ireland, North West Regional College and industry partners Analytic Engines, Yelo Ltd., Cirdan Imaging and Causeway Sensors Ltd.

The Smart Nano NI work will create a new supply chain for nano-photonics chips into the healthcare, optical communications and data storage sectors. It will strengthen development of the cluster through coordinated promotion, branding, business development and international activities and support a skills initiative with a focus on the workforces needed by the cluster in future.

The overall aims and objectives are to:

- Establish a world-class photonics ecosystem through knowledge exchange at a shared Integrated Photonics Design Centre.
- Create routes for commercialisation of NI nano-photonics research through collaborative research and innovation capability.
- Unlock £305m in revenue opportunity for the NI photonics sector, allowing market access for new products and increasing partner productivity.
- Significantly uplift to NI knowledge economy by engaging 75 SMEs in Smart Nano-Manufacturing capability for new services and production efficiencies.

The project will make extensive use of photonics technologies, which are vital to most of the products and services used by virtually everyone in the UK daily and leverage the experience and know-how of one of the world's leading proponents of the technology. This is particularly important, as the demand for photonics innovation is growing as society becomes ever more connected, digital, safety-conscious and environmentally aware. Indeed, photonics innovations will be vital to tackling almost all the major challenges facing 21st-century society, including in areas such as data, health and ageing, physical pollution, mobility and transport, climate change, defence and security, economic patriotism, scale and food production.

Nano-photonics will allow innovative sensor products, complementing the current UK photonics supply chain and creating a new supply chain for nano-photonics chips into areas including the healthcare, optical communications and data storage sectors.

## **The role**

This role holder will join the Smart Nano NI Advisory Group as a Board Member or as an Associate Member. The Advisory Group brings together UK-wide independent representatives from across sectors and academic representatives from relevant disciplines to ensure the ongoing strategic focus of this fast moving, inspirational and high-profile challenge. The Advisory Group provides strategic leadership, advice and guidance on the appropriateness of the overall Smart Nano NI activity, in order to ensure wide stakeholder support and transparency.

We are keen to expand the group to increase diversity and maximise its effectiveness by recruiting up to six new members. This is a fantastic opportunity to help shape the future of the Smart Nano NI programme. In addition to experienced Board Members we are keen to support the development of new skills through a number of Associate members. They will support the work of the Advisory Group and play a key role in shaping the direction of the UK photonics industry. The Associate members will receive mentorship from the leading experts on the Advisory Group. They will regularly join the Advisory Group meetings and the group and Associate members will mentor each other, sharing lessons on leadership and governance, and industry / sector trends and communication tools, for example. The Associate members will also have the opportunity to meet regularly with the Smart Nano NI team to share knowledge and discuss any industry issues.

## **Key Functions**

The Advisory Group meets 2 to 3 times each year. It is led by the Chair, Jacqui Murray, and advises and challenges the Programme with respect to work plans, including reviewing progress and analysing gaps, and helping align the Programme with regional and national activities, initiatives and business trends. The role of the Advisory Group includes to:

- Create a dynamic vibrant forum to promote information sharing, debate and identification of relevant proposals for consideration of the Board.
- Identify priorities to determine the changing scope of the programme over time to ensure programmes remains strategic in the long-term.
- Provide guidance and expert advice on the direction and focus of the programme activities.
- Review plans and feed in comments on timeliness and appropriateness, as well as advise on risks, offering recommendations for improvement.
- Advise on challenge, opportunities, technology roadmaps and capabilities that already exist or that are likely to arise in the relevant market sectors and closely related spill out sectors.

- Recommend topics for round-tables, mechanisms for improved integration of outcomes, and initiatives for future long-term investigation.

The role of the individual Board and Associate members is to bring diverse perspectives with which to constructively challenge the views of the Advisory Group and the Smart Nano NI Team.

### **Eligibility (Board Member)**

- Previous Board-Level experience.
- Expertise in one of the following Smart Nano NI research areas: Advanced functional materials, innovative photonic sensors & devices, high rate & digital manufacturing.
- Experience of industry-academia collaborations and commercialisation of materials concepts.

### **Eligibility (Associate Member)**

- Being early career and having been employment in an academic or industrial setting at some point within the last 18 months.

### **Application process**

Applications for Smart Nano NI Board and Associate members will be made by submitting a Word document describing their suitability for the role via email [info@smartnanoni.com](mailto:info@smartnanoni.com)

If you require further information on the roles, the Smart Nano NI project or on the application process, please email [j.wiggins@qub.ac.uk](mailto:j.wiggins@qub.ac.uk)

Applications must be received by 11:59pm on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, late applications will not be accepted.

Please note the roles are not paid, although by prior agreement expenses can be paid to attend meetings.

### **Assessment criteria**

Evidence should be provided against the following criteria:

- A track record of working within a photonics, or photonics application, technology related field;
- Evidence of involvement in the academic/industry/user community, including examples of leadership, exploring research and/or innovation opportunities, or positioning yourself to take up these opportunities;
- Excellent communication skills and a willingness to develop these further by interacting with the Smart Nano NI team and Advisory Group.

- Preparedness to bring diverse perspectives and develop, test and constructively challenge the Smart Nano NI team and Advisory Group in a flexible, adaptable, multi-stakeholder environment.
- Capacity to devote sufficient time to the role and backing/support from their employer or organisation.

In addition, Associate Member applicants should also provide a personal statement covering:

- What you would contribute to the Smart Nano NI project;
- How you will benefit from the opportunity to be mentored by a member of the Smart Nano NI Advisory Group;
- How you will maximise the opportunity.

### **Equality, diversity and inclusion**

We are committed to a policy of equal opportunities, and encourage applications from women, those with a disability, members of ethnic minority groups, and other groups who are currently under-represented on UKRI's boards.

### **Selection process**

The selection process will consist of two steps:

Step 1: Candidates will be assessed against the essential criteria internally. The following will be considered when making appointments:

- Match to the assessment criteria, based on the evidence provided;
- From applications meeting the assessment criteria, ensuring diversity of membership from across Smart Nano NI's stakeholder groups, with a balance of expertise and institutional and regional representation;
- The recruitment process will consider the balance across the emerging associate board members and may, where candidates are of equal merit, prioritise candidates based on equality, diversity and inclusion best practise.

Step 2: The Chair of the Advisory Group, Jacqui Murray, will be asked to ratify that the appropriate processes have been followed prior to appointment of new members.

### **Key dates**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Closing date	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 23:59 (GMT)
Shortlisting panel	Week commencing 7 <sup>th</sup> August
Inform outcomes	Week commencing 21 <sup>st</sup> August
Advisory group meeting	Early September