

# Research pooling in Scotland

Engineering Professors  
Annual Congress

22 April 2009

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Director of Research Policy and Strategy



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## Headlines of analysis of RAE 2001

- **inadequate critical mass;**
- **scope for further collaboration; and**
- **Scotland performing well in dovetailing R with KT activities**

November 2004



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## Research Pooling

- **Critical Mass and Quality Enhancement through:**
  - Shared Sovereignty
  - Selective inclusivity
- **Enabled by investment by SFC and universities:**
  - New posts
  - Facilities
  - Graduate training

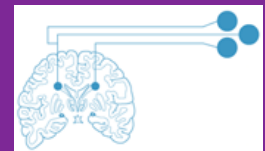


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## Pools to Date

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- Life Sciences
- Geo and Environmental Science
- Economics
- Medical Imaging
- Informatics and Computer Science





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## Pools to Date Continued

- Nursing and Midwifery and AHP's
- Applied Education
- Scottish School of Primary Care
- Policing Research
- Criminal Justice
- Senior Clinical Fellowship Scheme
- *Gaelic (Soillse or 'enlightenment')*
- *Marine Science*



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## Scale of Investment

- £115 million committed by SFC
- £259 million committed by HEIs
- £9 million committed by other funders

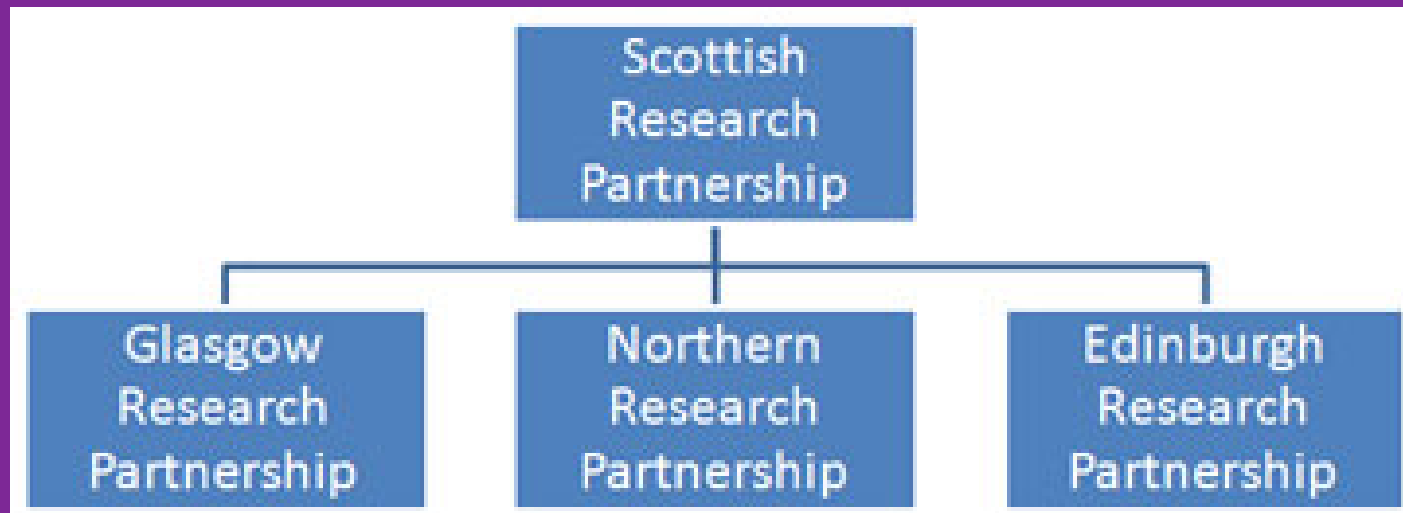
More than **£383 million** invested to date.



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# Scottish Research Partnership in Engineering





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# Scottish Research Partnership in Engineering

**NORTHERN RESEARCH  
PARTNERSHIP**



UNIVERSITY  
OF ABERDEEN



**ERPem**

Edinburgh Research Partnership in Engineering and Mathematics



GLASGOW RESEARCH  
PARTNERSHIP IN ENGINEERING





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# Scottish Research Partnership in Engineering

- 10 Universities
- 69 new academic posts
- 700+ academics and 500+ postgrads in SRPE
- £153 million investment in SRPE (£36M SFC)



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## Pan Scottish Themes of SRPE

- Civil Engineering (The Telford Institute)
- Technologies for High Value Manufacturing
- Engineering at the Life Sciences Interface
- Communications
- Energy Technologies



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# Energy Technology Partnership

- 250 academics and 600 researchers
- SRPE + SUPA + ScotCHEM + SIRE
- Support from Industry and Government





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12 June 2008

*A collective ambition that builds up to a critical mass National research pools are winning Scotland an international reputation, writes Olga Wojtas...*

Research Fortnight

2 July 2008

16 view

Research Fortnight, 2 July 2008

**view from the top** david gani

## Reflections on pooling expertise

One of the unforeseen benefits of 'research pooling' is in a name that lends itself so well to metaphors. The latest report in *Research Fortnight* appeared under the headline "diving in"—aptly describing my own feelings each time we embark on a new pooling project [RF 4/6/08, p2].

The purpose of a gathering at Edinburgh University in late May, which brought together around 60 research leaders from across 20 disciplines to discuss research

became lively debates on what could be restructured, shared and delivered.

Today there are research pools in physics; chemistry; geosciences and environmental sciences; economics; engineering; life sciences and medical imaging. Advanced plans are under consideration for informatics and computer science, clinical research and marine sciences. Pan-Scotland structures also exist in applied education;



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rae2008

Research Assessment Exercise

# Research Assessment Exercise 2008: the outcome

December 2008

Ref RAE 01/2008





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## Outcome of RAE2008

- Confirms Scotland's strong research base
- Performance strong across breadth
- Performance strong in areas of pools
- All institutions conducting world-leading research
- World leading research in 64 out of 65 (submitted) UoAs
- 15 per cent rated at 4\* in RAE2008 (10% in RAE2001 (5\*))
- Very low levels of '0' rated research
- Post-92 institutions and SSIs did well.



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## WEALTHIER & FAIRER • SMARTER • HEALTHIER • SAFER & STRONGER • GREENER

*..to focus the Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.*

November 2007





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*New Horizons:  
responding  
to the challenges of  
the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

The Report of the  
Joint Future Thinking Taskforce on  
Universities





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Working with colleges and Universities we will seek to deliver an effective demand-driven exchange of knowledge and expertise with business...

The image shows a document cover page for a consultation. At the top left is the Scottish Funding Council logo and name. At the top right is the Gaelic name 'Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba' and its translation 'A' Binnachaidh foghlaim adhartach agus àrd ìre'. The word 'Consultation' is written in a large, stylized, outlined font in the center. Below this, the text reads: 'Draft corporate plan 2009-12', '5 February 2009', 'SFC/01/2009 C', and a URL: 'http://www.sfc.ac.uk/information/info\_consultations/sfc/2009/consultations\_2009.html'. At the bottom, it states: 'This consultation paper invites comments on the Council's draft corporate plan for the period 2009-12.' and 'Contact: Richard Hancock, Assistant Director, Corporate Affairs, Tel: 0131 313 6645 or email: rhancock@sfc.ac.uk.'

Working with universities we will seek to deliver a collaborative research base that remains highly competitive internationally



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## SFC Grants for Research and KE 2009/10

- **General Fund for Universities**
  - Research Excellence Grant £211.13 million
  - Research Postgraduate Grant £29.42 million
  - Knowledge Transfer Grant £1.33 million
- **Horizon Fund for Universities**
  - World Class Research (incl SORSAS) £29.35 million
  - Knowledge Transfer Grant £21.78 million
  - SPIRIT £3.8 million



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## Horizon Fund for Universities

- Agent of change
- Aligned to key Government strategies and priorities
- Employability and skills interventions
- Access and progression
- World class research
- Knowledge transfer and innovation
- Differentiation, diversity and specialisms
- Collaboration



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## Where Pooling is Going

- **Meta – pooling**  
examples include: **Energy Technology Partnership**
- **Postgraduate training pools**  
examples include: **Clinical Academic Fellowships**
- **User-led, business-led pooling**
- **Internationalisation of pools**