



Our Achievements

SINCE 2017



START OF THE JOURNEY

2017

DECEMBER 2017, NATIONAL BIOFILMS INNOVATION CENTRE ESTABLISHED

£26m investment from BBSRC, Innovate UK and the Hartree Centre with additional funding from industry and the support of 4 core partner universities: Edinburgh, Liverpool, Nottingham and Southampton.

2018

FEBRUARY 2018, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK BIOFILM WORKSHOP

NBIC attended and launched at a Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) workshop on identifying and prioritising industrial challenges and solutions in controlling and exploiting biofilms.

MAY 2018, PARTNER MEETING & 1ST WAVE ACCESSION

Partner meeting in York brought together representatives from research institutions interested in joining NBIC. 12 new research institutions join the NBIC consortium, bringing us to a total of 16.

JUNE 2018, FIRST PROOF OF CONCEPT CALL LAUNCHED

Call for projects tackling biofilms launched in the UK - open to all members of the NBIC consortium and industry collaborators.

AUGUST 2018, 2ND WAVE ACCESSION

Welcomed 15 new research institutions to the NBIC consortium, taking our total to 31 institutions.

SEPTEMBER 2018, FIRST NBIC WORKSHOP & THEORY OF CHANGE MODEL ESTABLISHED

First cross-sectorial workshop on one of NBIC's 4 key strategic themes, Detect, was held in Birmingham, with 70 delegates from academia and industry coming together to discuss unmet needs.

Our aims for the next 5 years were established in a comprehensive Theory of Change model, with the ultimate long-term goal of increasing the UK economy.

OCTOBER 2018, FUNDING OF 25 NEW PROJECTS & GOING INTERNATIONAL

NBIC invested £1.4m, averaging £50k per project, to 25 new projects from the first POC call. The total project value, with company investment, amounting to approximately £2.1m.

NBIC launched at the American Society for Microbiology in Washington, and visited the Center for Biofilm Engineering (CBE) at Montana State University, where a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed, declaring to work together, partake in student exchanges and knowledge transfer.

NOVEMBER 2018, NBIC WON BBSRC FTMA (FLEXIBLE TALENT MOBILITY ACCOUNT) AWARD

Won funding to facilitate PhD and research fellow mobility between academia and industry.

DECEMBER 2018, >60 BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY COLLABORATORS TO DATE

From large multinationals to SMEs, NBIC continues to grow in its mission to control and exploit biofilms by bringing research and industry together.

MARCH 2019, MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED WITH SCELSE IN SINGAPORE

We signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE) to address global biofilm challenges through collaborative projects and student and staff exchanges. We also formed a close partnership with the Singapore National Biofilms Consortium (SNBC), led by SCELSE, to further commercial opportunities and drive technological advancements.

2019

APRIL 2019, BIOFILM ENGINEERING WORKSHOP HELD, SECOND PROOF OF CONCEPT CALL LAUNCHED & RECEIVED INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AWARD

Second cross-sectorial workshop on one of NBIC's 4 key strategic themes, Engineer, was held in Edinburgh, bringing together over 85 delegates from academia and industry to discuss and identify unmet needs and facilitate collaborations.

Our second Proof of Concept call was launched - open to all members of the NBIC consortium and industry collaborators. We were also awarded £10k by BBSRC to host an international symposium on 'Microbes and Metals'.

MAY 2019, FIRST NBIC ANNUAL RESEARCH SUMMIT & INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (ISAB) ENDORSEMENT

The first NBIC Annual Research Summit was held at the Royal Society, where our researchers showcased their work and we received endorsement from ISAB regarding our research strategy.

JUNE 2019, 3RD WAVE ACCESSION

14 new research institutions joined the NBIC consortium, bringing us to a total of 45.

JULY 2019, SECOND PROOF OF CONCEPT CALL PROJECTS AWARDED

A further 26 projects awarded funding, bringing the total number of projects to 51 and a total investment of £2.79m from NBIC, with an overall project value of £4.05m.

SEPTEMBER 2019, NBIC ATTEND EUROBIOFILMS

NBIC attended the Eurobiofilms meeting in Glasgow. This was the first meeting we had attended as a full NBIC team with our new brand. It was a great chance for us to meet our partners and make new contacts. We also had the honour to present at the final session.

SEPTEMBER 2019, SUCCESSFUL 2 YEAR FUNDING REVIEW

As part of the condition of the NBIC IKC award. An external panel reviewed the progress of NBIC against their vision, mission and key performance indicators (KPIs). The panel deemed that NBIC was making good progress, the highest outcome that could be expected.

DECEMBER 2020, SKIN MICROBIOME AND BIOFILMS WEBINAR

Together with Cosmetics Cluster UK (CCUK) NBIC held a joint webinar, 'The science behind the skin microbiome and biofilms – evidence and claims'. Skin microbiome claims are becoming a trend in many categories yet the science is in its relative infancy. This webinar included presentations and discussions covering the market, research and innovation, and addressed questions like, "can pro/prebiotics be used in cosmetics?" and "how can claims be credible and relevant to the consumers?".

OCTOBER 2020, MARINE BIOFOULING WEBINARS

In conjunction with the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the Singapore National Biofilm Consortium NBIC held a series of webinars on marine biofouling. This webinar series was designed to inform cross sector participants of the current challenges in producing efficacious antifouling coatings under the current regulatory framework, but also to investigate the novel antifouling technology development opportunities this legislative pressure is stimulating.

JUNE 2020, FIRST ONLINE ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING COHORT

Run in collaboration with Alderley Park, NBIC members participated in a 2 ½ day pre-accelerator programme to explore how to take their idea or early business forward with the chance to be funded by NBIC in a further mentored 8-week full accelerator programme.

MAY 2020, THIRD PROOF OF CONCEPT CALL PROJECTS AWARDED

A further 14 projects awarded funding, bringing the total number of projects to 65 and a total investment £3.6m from NBIC and £5.4m total value when we also consider funds from companies either in cash or in kind. These awarded projects have involved 28 research institutions, 52 companies and of these companies, 33 are SMEs.

FEBRUARY 2020, FLEXIBLE TALENT MOBILITY AWARD

NBIC awarded a second round of funding from BBSRC to support our current Flexible Talent Mobility Award (FTMA) Account, with a call opening in September 2020 with the aim to fund innovation placements and fellowships, perspectives and knowledge, skills and expertise between the academic and industrial sectors.

FEBRUARY 2020, 4TH WAVE ACCESSION

7 new research institutions joined the NBIC consortium, bringing us to a total of 52.

NOVEMBER 2019, MICROBE-METAL INTERACTIONS WORKSHOP

Our workshop on microbe-metal interactions was held in London. This workshop brought together key complementary academic expertise and thought leadership from industry in biofilms, contamination of metal surfaces and biocorrosion processes across the life and physical sciences and engineering domains within NBIC, CBE and internationally, in order to identify the key knowledge gaps and research challenges for future projects and research collaboration.

DECEMBER 2020, NBIC LAUNCH THEIR RESEARCHFISH PLATFORM

The Researchfish platform allows NBIC grant holders and funded researchers, to upload outcome data about research to multiple funders easily and quickly, in order to capture the outcomes of NBIC funded research.

DECEMBER 2020, FOURTH PROOF OF CONCEPT CALL LAUNCHED

Fourth call for projects tackling and exploiting biofilms launched in the UK - open to all members of the NBIC consortium and industry collaborators.

AUGUST 2020, LAUNCH OF #BIOFILMAWARE CAMPAIGN

NBIC announced the launch of their biofilm awareness campaign. Through a blend of content, events and outreach activities #BiofilmAware works to raise awareness of NBIC and its research, and the many societal and economic impacts of biofilms. The campaign included the introduction of the first ever #BiofilmWeek.

JUNE 2020, LAUNCH OF BITE DOCTORAL COLLEGE TRAINING

The NBIC Doctoral Training Centre in Biofilms Innovation, Technology and Engineering (BITE) is launched. A world class integrated pipeline of interdisciplinary training, it is the UK's first graduate training centre to address the skills and knowledge gap in the biofilm field.

MARCH 2020, INTERNATIONAL PARTNERING AWARD

NBIC received a funding award 'Singapore: Building a globally leading partnership between the National Biofilms Innovation Centre and SCELSE', which enabled NBIC to facilitate PhD and research fellow mobility between the UK and Singapore.

FEBRUARY 2020, FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS TASK GROUP

To address the rise in prevalence and popularity of biofilm and microbiome technologies an international task group was formed. The first meeting of the task group was held in Virginia (USA), with delegates from SCELSE, the Center for Biofilm Engineering (CBE; USA) NBIC, and the Singapore National Biofilm Consortium (SNBC), along with representatives from regulatory bodies and agencies from the USA and the European Union.

FEBRUARY 2020, BIOFILM MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Third cross-sectorial workshop on one of NBIC's 4 key strategic themes, Manage, was held in Nottingham. This workshop was aimed at exploring unmet industrial needs in the field of biofilm management. NBIC partner organisations shared their unmet needs and the 65 attendees (34 from industry) worked in syndicates to discuss the key challenges and ways to overcome them.

NOVEMBER 2019, SOFTWARE SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

The Software Sustainability Workshop brought together 20 attendees from seven UK universities, plus Unilever, in Birmingham. We ran this event alongside the Software Sustainability Institute in a bid to raise awareness of the need for sustainability in software, particularly when it comes to the potential risks to software reproducibility.

2020

2021

DECEMBER 2020, SOFTWARE SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE WORKSHOPS

The Software Carpentry Workshop focused on fundamental data skills needed to conduct research, included writing, managing and automation of code for conducting more robust and reproducible research. The Data Carpentry Workshop was aimed at researchers in the NBIC community who have little to no prior computational experience, and explored best practices for data management and organisation using spreadsheets, data cleaning using OpenRefine, and data analysis skills in R.

FEBRUARY 2021, NBIC CONTRIBUTE TO THE KTN MICROBIOME STRATEGIC ROADMAP

As a member of the KTN Microbiome Innovation Network, NBIC are proud to have contributed to the KTN Microbiome Strategic Roadmap in the personal care and hygiene sector.

FEBRUARY 2021, MICROBES AND BIOFILMS IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

NBIC's joint webinar with the Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM) was designed for anyone working in either the production of food or researching/controlling the role microbes and biofilms play in the whole food chain.

MARCH 2021, LAUNCH OF THE PRIORITY QUESTIONS EXERCISE FOR MICROBIAL BIOFILMS

Together with the Center for Biofilm Engineering (CBE), Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCElse), COST AMICI Consortium and the ESCMID Study Group for Biofilms (ESGB) we called on the international biofilms community to help us identify priority questions that, if answered, will make a considerable impact on the fundamentals of the field of microbial biofilms, to innovation in approaches to prevent, detect, manage and engineer biofilms, or which would be expected to have an impact in influencing policy makers and funders.

JUNE 2021, FOURTH POC CALL AWARDED

A fourth portfolio of projects awarded in the UK between universities and industry partners with a focus on controlling and exploiting biofilms. This brings the NBIC portfolio of projects funded since it launched in December 2017 to 81 representing a programme value of £6.7m.

AUGUST 2021, NBIC LAUNCH FIRST #BIOFILMWEEK

The first ever awareness week dedicated to celebrating all things biofilm took place between 16-22 August 2021. #BiofilmWeek promotes the economic and physical impact that biofilms have on our world, and highlights research taking place to prevent, detect, manage and engineer biofilms.

AUGUST 2021, LAUNCH OF OPEN INNOVATION PLATFORM

NBIC's Open Innovation partnering platform, hosted by Innoget provides industry and academic partners exclusive access to directly post technology calls and offers and generate connections and collaboration opportunities online.

JANUARY 2021, NBIC LAUNCH #BIOFILMAWARE PHOTO COMPETITIONS

NBIC launched two national biofilm photo competitions as part of their #BiofilmAware campaign - 'Biofilms in Real Life' and 'Biofilms in the Lab'.

FEBRUARY 2021, NBIC AND INDIA BIOFILMS SOCIETY SYMPOSIUMS

NBIC hosted three open joint online biofilms symposiums between UK biofilm researchers from the NBIC academic community, and from the newly formed India Biofilms Society.

MARCH 2021, 5TH WAVE ACCESSION

11 new research institutions joined the NBIC consortium, bringing us to a total of 63.

MARCH 2021, STUDYING AND CONTROLLING THE MICROBIOME OF THE AIR WEBINAR

Our joint webinar 'Studying and Controlling the Microbiome of the Air' with the Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCElse) and Singapore National Biofilm Consortium (SNBC) was designed for anyone in industry and academia with an interest in transmission of bacteria and viruses in both outdoor and built environment and what the evidence is starting to tell us about this field and the future work that is needed.

MAY 2021, INNOVATION IN DEODORANTS WEBINAR

Our joint 'Innovation in Deodorants' webinar with Cosmetics Cluster UK (CCUK) looked at innovation trends and market opportunities in deodorants, translational research in skin microbiome/biofilms, *in vitro* alternatives to animal testing, new technology and small brand perspectives and promoting consumer health and sustainability.

JULY 2021, PRIZES AWARDED TO WINNERS OF THE #BIOFILMAWARE PHOTO COMPETITIONS

Our two national NBIC photo competitions which formed part of our #BiofilmAware campaign ran from January through to 31 May 2021. 'Biofilms in Real Life' received 53 entries and 'Biofilms in the Lab' received 42. A diverse panel of 6 judges took into account creativity, originality, composition, imagination used, scientific value and the overall artistic impression and Amazon gift cards were awarded to first, second and third place in both competitions.

AUGUST 2021, TWO NBIC FUNDED PROJECTS WITH THE QUADRAM INSTITUTE LAUNCHED

The MicroBattle card game, to communicate the importance of bacterial diversity within biofilms, and the 'Biofilm Brainhub' website, built with the support of the wider research community, which aims to be the 'go-to-place' for anyone looking to learn about biofilms.



FUTURE MILESTONES...