



Professor Ken Long
Blackett Laboratory
Imperial College London
London
SW7 2AZ

10 April 2019

Dear Professor Long,

ASB SOI Feedback – Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

The Statement of Interest (SOI) for the proposal 'LhARA' was considered by the Accelerator Strategy Board (ASB) at its meeting on 6th March 2019.

The ASB noted that LhARA is a novel hybrid accelerator and the hybrid approach harnesses the unique properties of the laser-driven source. The SOI requests resources for two years to develop LhARA and leverage effort of experienced personnel to deliver a Conceptual Design Report (CDR).

Concerns were raised on the stated scientific justification for the project, 'The work proposed here is the essential first phase in a programme that can deliver a step-change in capability'. The ASB felt that the stated flux, energy and dose rate are covered by existing UK facilities; therefore, the separation from these facilities and the step-change in capability was not made clear.

The ASB stated that there are four UK facilities which can deliver the same parameters within the application and it was unclear whether the major deliverable C6+ at 20 MeV/n can be utilised for radiobiology. Therefore, ASB agreed that it was not clear what new capability this project would obtain and recommended that the Collaboration should resubmit the SOI clearly identifying the project's impacts and how this facility will be different to others in the UK. However, due to STFC changing its governance and management arrangements, the ASB has been stood down and the submission of accelerator SOIs are anticipated to be reviewed by a newly formed Accelerator Advisory Panel.

The LhARA project remains a project of interest to STFC that can deliver impact through the coalition of clinicians, researchers, facility-providers and industry, delivering a facility for the systematic study of radiobiology. From 17th April 2019 to 11th June 2019, STFC will be inviting PIs to submit applications for resource funding to support short-term activities that have the potential to support and lead into multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research studies. Full details of this call will be released in due course on [STFC's website](#). It is felt that the LhARA project is well aligned to this call and STFC invites you to submit an application. This invitation does not guarantee funding for the project and any award will be dependent on the outcome of the peer review. Furthermore, there may also be additional opportunities through separate calls within the Accelerator Programme.

Please feel free to contact myself should you wish to discuss the feedback above further (01793 442049; george.madden@stfc.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Madden', enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

George Madden
Accelerators Programme Manager