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Displaying 3 of 60 respondents

Response Type:
Normal ResponseCustom Value:
emptyResponse Started:
Tuesday, May 28, 2013 11:31:36 AMCollector:
Web Link
(Web Link)IP Address:
92.26.214.93Response Modified:
Tuesday, May 28, 2013 11:58:14 AM

1. Name:

2. Organisation (if applicable):

InnovaSec Ltd

3. Email address:

4. Address:

5. In responding, it would be helpful if you could indicate whether you are responding as

a business or business representative body

6. Keeping in touch

Please keep me informed by email of the progress of this review, and other BIS Balance of Competence reviews.

1. 1. Where has EU action had a positive impact for the UK on research, technological development, innovation or space? What evidence is there for this? Has EU action encouraged national action in any areas?

FP6, FP7 and Horizon 2020 have created an international cadre of expertise capable of delivering innovative research on the medium to long term scale and in high-risk areas. Typically at TRL1-5 although H2020 is aiming at nearer market impacts.

2. 2. Where has EU action had a negative impact for the UK in these fields? What evidence is there for this? Has EU action prevented potentially useful national action in any areas?

No.

3. 3. How and where has UK engagement with partner countries or international bodies, both within and outside the EU, been helped or hindered by EU involvement?

It has enabled our clients to enter the EU market and negotiate reciprocal trading relationships with complementary partner organisations in addition to delivering the research topics.

4. 4. What benefits or difficulties has the objective of a European research area (ERA) delivered for the UK?

Research is by its nature large scale and international. The EU may be too small to participate fully in the global R&D pool but it is better than leaving it to Member States who are all too small, except in niche areas.

5. 5. How has the EU sought to coordinate the policy instruments at its disposal across different policy areas to create an enabling environment for researchers and innovators? How successful has this been?

Looking to the US, there are long term programmes (e.g. DARPA) and shorter term programmes on the 12-24 month time frame (e.g. TSWG). These have each been successful and are highly regarded. The EU and RCUK work tends to target the DARPA-like medium to long term. The strength of TSWG and other CCTSO actions is that they provide short term, high risk funding AND support into the Early Adopters' market. In other words government wants to buy the

resulting products. The UK has singularly failed to deliver on this linkage and, in any case would be too small a market on its own to make it work. The EU has done little better but at least has the potential market size to try it and the rhetoric around H2020 implies that it is thinking about it and is an opportunity for the UK to bring its entrepreneurial influence to steer it to a successful conclusion.

1. 6. What could the EU most helpfully do to promote scientific and technological progress and innovation (including in the space sector)? - How could the EU use its existing competence differently to deliver more in your area? - How might a greater or lesser degree of EU competence deliver more in your area? - How could improvements to existing EU activities make them more effective and efficient?

See earlier comment. The other area that the EU can help in in creating relevant CEN standards, en route to ISO standards. BSI is sound and an asset in representing UK views but all recognise the role of national standards as a facilitator of trade is long passed.

2. 7. Where might future EU level action be detrimental to your work in this area?

If we are not offered the option of joining in EU research we should have to find substantial funds to try and keep-up. At present this is not a problem but becoming detached would have serious long term impact on invention and potentially innovation while also creating a national funding requirement that may be hard to meet.

3. 8. Where might action at national rather than EU level be more appropriate / effective?

I can't think of any off hand.

4. 9. How could EU and national policies and funding streams interact better?

More uniform laws and a truly common market would help us all, but may cause some short term discomfort to some participants.

5. 10. What impact would any future enlargement of the EU have on this area of competence?

Larger home markets are a major driver for many of our competitors' industrial success. So enlargement has clear benefits but there is a balance that we do not buy customers or increase the level of taxation on innovation for motivation that are more political rather than economic.

6. 11. Are there any other points you wish to make which are not captured above?

Having leaf a major multi-national in the last 2 years and started 2 SMEs I have to confess that easy access to the EU for the provision of services has been essential in growing the businesses. The UK strengths are in demand in Europe and the larger of my two businesses now generates substantially over half of its turnover from the EU. The EI innovation sector is key to continuing that growth.

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