

NITheP Colloquium

Monday, 02 November 2020, 16h00

Prof Sir Peter Knight

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Chair of the UK National Quantum Technology Strategic Advisory Board for UKRI



Creating the UK National Quantum Technology Programme

Abstract: The UK through a mix of government and industry funding has committed more than £1Bn over 10 years to a coordinated programme in quantum technology. Six years into this programme I will describe here how we got there, and our goals for the future. The UK National Quantum Technology Programme has induced a step change in the UK's capabilities for pushing forward a new sector in future information technologies. We describe how the programme arose and the activities it supported and influenced to deliver these new capabilities, building on a first phase almost £480M investment across several UK government agencies. The UK programme has now enters its second phase, with a further substantial investment by UK government and global industries in the UK making a total of over £1Bn. I will describe our plans (and what is going on in this exciting area outside of the UK) for ensuring the advanced quantum science and demonstrator platforms in imaging, sensing, communications and computing developed over the past six years will drive the formation of the QT sector and embed quantum tech in a broad range of industries.

1. "Blackett Review: The Quantum Age: technological opportunities." Government Office for Science, Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quantum-technologies-blackett-review>.

Bio: Knight is Senior Research Investigator at Imperial College. He retired in 2010 as Deputy Rector (Research) at Imperial but remains an Emeritus Professor. He was knighted in 2005 for his work in optical physics. Knight was the 2004 President of the Optical Society of America and a past President of the Institute of Physics. He is Editor of Contemporary Physics, Chair of the UK National Quantum Technology Programme Strategy Advisory Board, chairs the Quantum Metrology Institute at the National Physical Laboratory, was until 2010 chair of the UK Defence Scientific Advisory Council and remains a UK Government science advisor. His research centres on quantum optics and quantum technology. He has won the Thomas Young Medal and the Glazebrook Medal of the Institute of Physics, the Ives Medal and the Walther Medal and Prize of the OSA, the Faraday Medal of the IET and the Royal Medal of the Royal Society.

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