



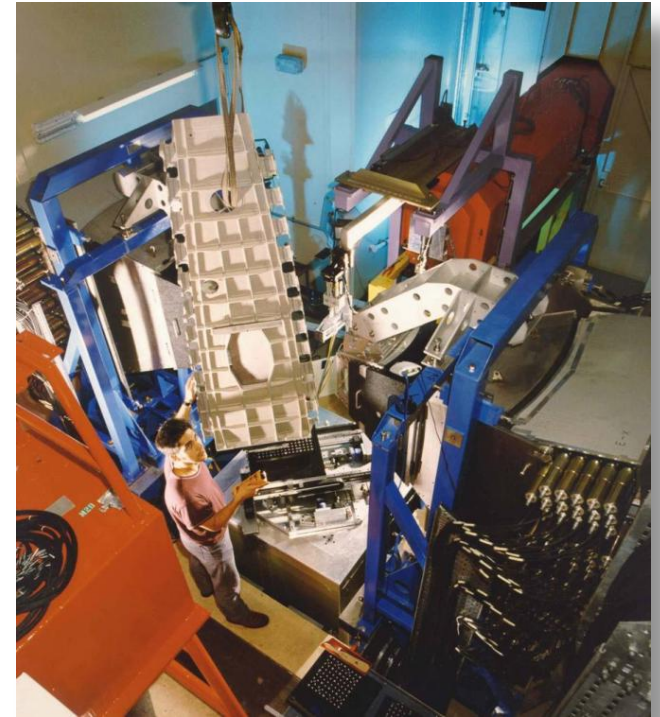
ICRI 2014 – Session 5 The Way Forward

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Why research infrastructures?

- Broad consensus that future competitiveness in a globalising knowledge economy depends on research capability
- Research capability requires
 - Investment in higher education and research institutions
 - Access to first class research infrastructures
- Research Infrastructures are
 - Intellectual hubs, not (just) big machines or big datasets
 - Focal points for innovation ecosystems



STFC's Science and Innovation Campuses at Harwell and Daresbury are home to 230 enterprises and 5,500 jobs



International perspective

- Increasing consensus on need for global cooperation in research infrastructures because
 - Limited investment funds available
 - Increasing level of infrastructure investments needed to remain at the cutting edge
 - Science communities are increasingly globalised
 - Problems require broad data sharing and networking – move from national RIs to national nodes of distributed RIs
- Various initiatives are in place including ESFRI at European level and GSO at global level

Some lessons learned so far

- agree goals up front
- keep a tight list
 - ESFRI roadmap has proved too extensive, next update will be shorter
- need to have an efficient process
 - both GSO and GSF have found it hard to go from ‘talking’ to ‘doing’
- international collaboration is much more natural for some partners and science fields than others
- need for variable geometry
 - each nation needs to maintain capability to make its own decisions