

Sent on behalf of Professor Perumal Nithiarasu, Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Impact

Dear Colleagues,

Please read below about some of the Faculty's most recent success stories. We would particularly like to see more from our Professional Services staff for the next email!

STAFF NEWS



Scientists at Swansea University developing a new diagnostic device to screen for cytomegalovirus in newborn babies

Children's charity Action Medical Research is funding research which aims to develop a new diagnostic tool that allows screening of newborn babies for cytomegalovirus (CMV). In the UK, an estimated one in 300 each year are born with congenital CMV and most will not have any symptoms at birth but problems could appear months or years later. Around one in five babies born with CMV will have permanent disabilities as a result of this infection. This includes seizures (fits), hearing problems, problems with the eyes, and problems with the liver and spleen. Early detection of CMV is essential to help improve outcomes and reduce the risk of permanent disabilities.

Discover more about CMV and the research funded by Action:

Swansea University secures new UKRI award to train future leaders in environmental science

NERC: CROCUS will train over 110 PhD students in earth and environmental sciences, with the first of five cohorts starting in September 2025. It is a new

partnership between Swansea University, the University of Reading, the British Geological Survey, the Institute of Zoology, the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the Natural History Museum, the National Oceanography Centre and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. It will offer excellent opportunities for supervisors at Swansea to collaborate across the partnership and an outstanding training environment. Crocus is led in Swansea by Will Allen and Peter North. Studentships will be advertised soon!

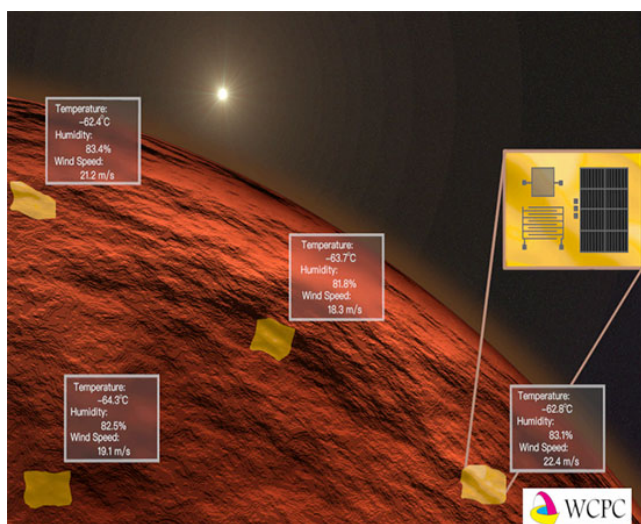
[Read more here](#)



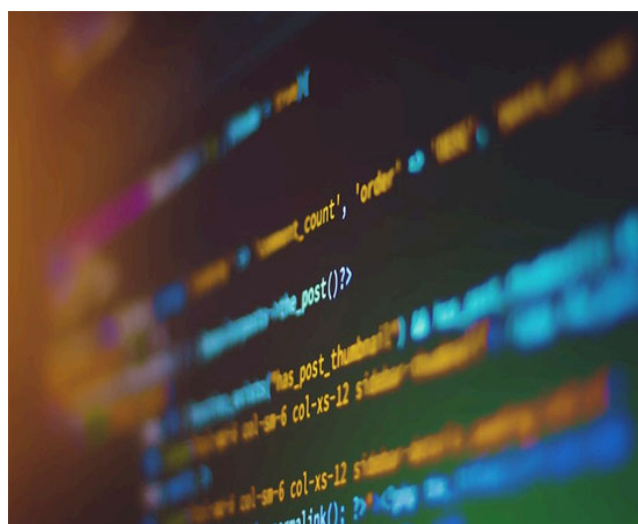
South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership

BBSRC: SWBio has been refunded for the next five years and Swansea University continues as associate partner alongside many universities and research organizations in the South-West UK. PhD projects are already being advertised for September 2025 entry, with several involving Swansea supervisors. SWBio is led in Swansea by Bill Griffiths and Will Allen

[Learn More Here](#)



Innovating Space Exploration: Advanced Printed Electronics Research



Funding boost for digital tech circular economy network that has received EPSRC funding of £2 million

at Swansea University in Collaboration with ESA

The [Welsh Centre for Printing and Coating](#) (WCPC) at Swansea University has launched an exciting year-long project in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA) to pioneer a new approach to large-area planetary exploration and mapping. Led by Dr B. Clifford, [Prof D.T. Gethin](#), and [Prof D. Deganello](#), the project aims to integrate printed and conventional electronic components to create a versatile platform technology for fabricating thin-film, small, deployable nodes. These nodes will combine sensors, energy harvesting, energy storage, and communication systems, enabling future remote data collection over planetary surfaces.

The project will focus on key research challenges essential to realising this vision. Successful project's outcomes could open transformative possibilities for future exploration missions.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration, research and technological innovation, the Digital Innovation and Circular Economy (DICE) Network will aim to develop circular solutions for issues such as the lack of circular economy (CE) principles in digital technology design and manufacture.

Circular approaches design out waste and pollution and keep materials and products in circulation at their highest value for as long as possible. A range of products and materials could potentially benefit from a circular economy approach.

These include semiconductors, the tiny chips present in almost all electronic devices, and well as solar PVs and [have been identified as a problematic waste stream for the future](#).

[Read more about Swansea Universities contribution here](#)

The 12th International Conference on Human-Agent Interaction (HAI'24)

[Muneeb Ahmad](#), senior lecturer in Computer Science hosted the 12th International Conference on Human-Agent Interaction (HAI'24) at Swansea University in Taliesin from 24th to 27th November. HAI is the premier interdisciplinary venue for discussing and disseminating state-of-the-art research and results that have implications across conventional interaction boundaries including robots, software agents and digitally-mediated human-human communication. The conference was attended by over 150 attendees from nearly 40 countries and 5 continents. We had two amazing keynotes from Honda Research Institute Germany and University of Edinburgh UK. Here is the image from the closing ceremony.



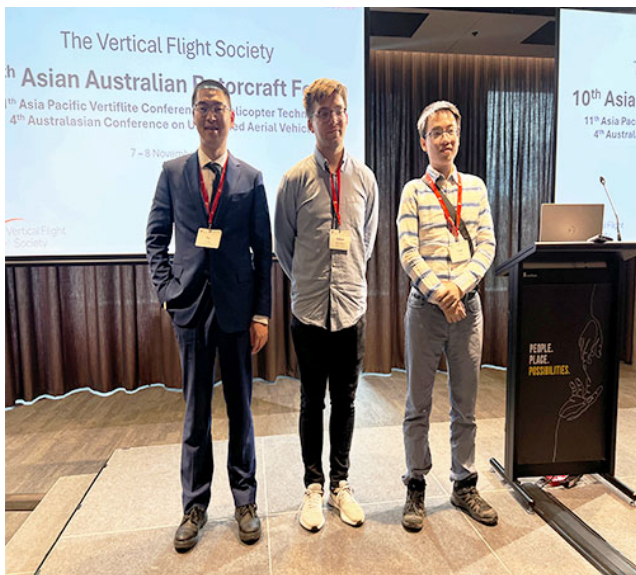
Policy Engagement Training Programme

Kathryn Monk has recently been involved with the 'Policy Engagement' training programme, delivered by the [Institute for Methods Innovation](#) (IMI), [Fast Track Impact](#) (FTI) and [Walcott Communications Limited](#) (WCL) on behalf of the [Natural Environment Research Council](#) (NERC) and [Economic and Social Research Council](#) (ESRC). Kathryn provided advice and guidance on shaping the programme to support researchers' engagement with policy makers.

Kathryn was recently interviewed on her involvement with this programme, this interview can now be viewed on [YouTube](#).

[Read more to learn more](#)

STUDENT NEWS



Award-Winning Research Spotlight

Yuxi Chen, a PhD student in Aerospace Engineering under the supervision of Dr. Ye Yuan and Prof. Hamed Haddad Khodaparast, won the Best Paper Award at the 10th Asia/Pacific Rotorcraft Forum. His research, titled "Aerodynamics-Dynamics Coupling Investigation for Gimballed Rotor Systems," focuses on developing a mid-fidelity model to analyze the coupling effects within gimballed rotor systems. This model has potential applications in rotorcraft, urban air mobility systems, and wind turbine blade design.

The Asia/Pacific Rotorcraft Forum is one of the three most prestigious global conferences in this field, drawing participants from countries such as Australia, Japan, South Korea, India, China, Thailand, Turkey, the US, and Germany.

REF2029 CANVAS HUB

A reminder that a new Canvas hub has been published. Developed by the REF Officers team, this is a central repository for the REF2029 documentation, guidance, resources and news.

The joining link is <https://canvas.swansea.ac.uk/enroll/BDY36G>. Please enable notifications as this site will be updated with guidance, news, consultations etc as they are received.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

If you are aware of any recent achievements to share, either for yourself or for any members of your team, we would love to hear about them! We're interested in stories from academic and professional services communities. Please email any news to **FSE Research** (fse-research@swansea.ac.uk). **Deadline for submissions: 15th of each month.**

If you would like to promote a research event on the FSE Events webpage, please contact fse-reception@swansea.ac.uk

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