

PPAP Town Hall Report

IOP HEPP+APP
Edinburgh
9-Apr-2026

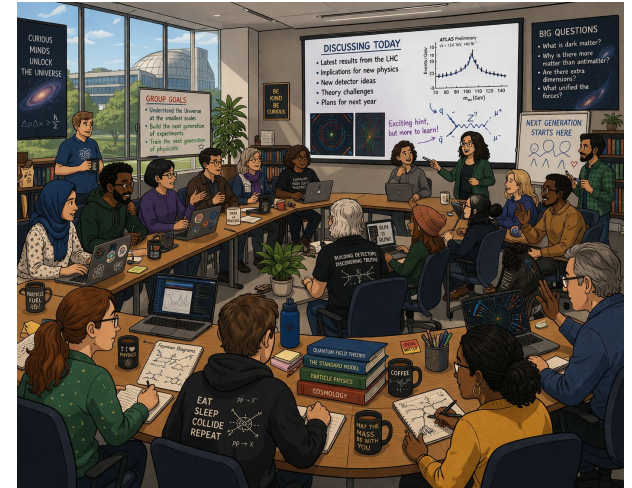
Ruben Saakyan on behalf of PPAP

Particle Physics Advisory Panel members

- Ruben Saakyan, UCL (Chair)
- Davide Costanzo, Sheffield
- Henning Flaecher, Bristol
- Elena Gramellini, Manchester
- Chris Hays, Oxford
- Xianguo Lu, Warwick
- Ken Mimasu, Southampton
- Joe Price, Liverpool
- Haroon Rafique, RAL
- Jessica Turner, Durham
- Sarah Williams, Cambridge
- Mark Williams, Edinburgh

New members since
Oct'2025

with huge thanks to:
Andy Buckley, Helen O'Keffe, Arttu
Rajantie, Rebecca Seviour



Rotation coming up in October:
[Three positions available.](#) Apply!

PPAP Role



To provide a link between the Science Board and the Community and represent the needs of the Community to the STFC.

- Maintain an overview of activities within PP and future opportunities
- Develop and maintain science vision documented in "Landscape of UK PP" (latest is [Roadmap-2021](#))
- Consult and interact with PP community. Ensure its views are canvassed and effectively communicated to STFC.
- Advise Science Board on science and instrumentation strategy, skills development. *Provide input to long-range PPAN Roadmap.*
- *Coordinate input to international roadmaps, eg ESPPU*
- Provide advice to Science Board on specific questions, e.g. Infrastructure Fund proposals.
- Liaise with other advisory panels, e.g. PAAP, NPAP.

PPAP Activities since last Town Hall

- [Input European Strategy for Particle Physics 2026](#)
- Community engagement on PP Prioritisation (a.k.a. PPAN Roadmap)
- [Community consultation and response to 5 Science Board Questions](#)
- Cross-PPAN coordination on the STFC funding situation
- Engagement with SB prioritisation

Update for European Strategy for Particle Physics 2026



The Drafting Team

Julia Allen, Daniela Bortoletto, Jim Clarke, Davide Costanzo, Patrick Dougan, Alison Elliot, Sinead Farrington, Henning Flaecher, Joel Goldstein, Mark Lancaster, Atanu Modak, Holly Pacey, Chris Parkes, Haroon Rafique, Aidan Robson, Ruben Saakyan, Michael Spannowsky, Jessica Turner, Harriet Watson, Aidan Wiederhold, Mark Williams, Sarah Williams, Matthew Wing

Early Career

- Strong community engagement
 - Five UK community meetings
 - Surveys
 - Documented updates

Strong support for FCC **and** balanced diverse programme

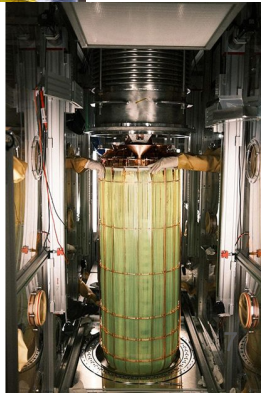
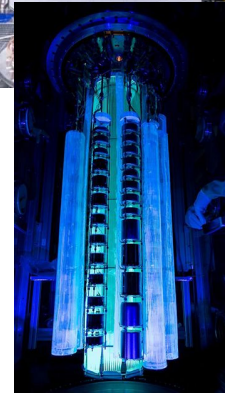
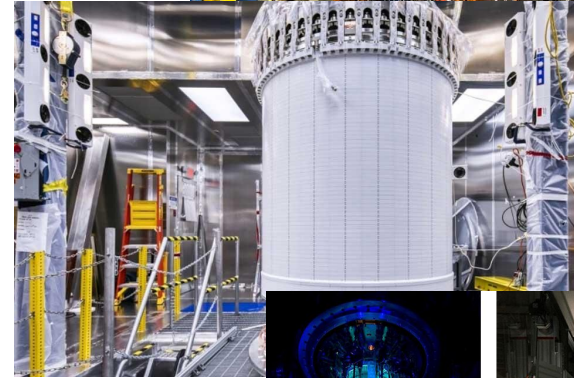
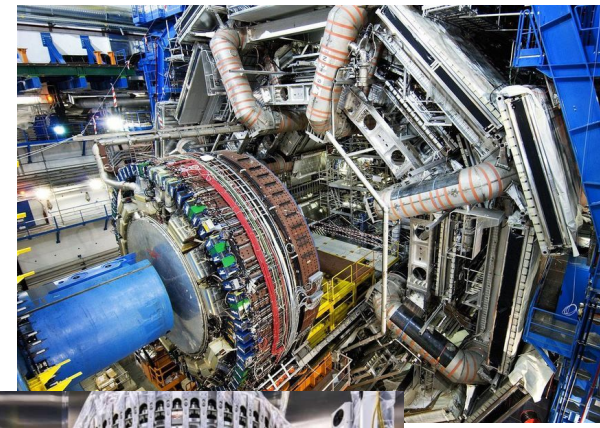
Responses to five SB-PPAN questions

- Broad community input
 - Drafts by PPAP and two consultation rounds ([documented](#))
 - PPAP Online Community Meeting, 4-Feb, ~400 participants
 - [Indico page](#)
 - [Minutes](#) and [Chat transcript](#)
- Focus: strategic implications, not project catalogue



PPAP Input to SB: strategic conclusions

- UK PP programme is strong and delivering *globally leading* science
- Current funding trajectory risks ~30% *contraction*
 - Several cuts already enacted (next page)
- Represents *structural risk*:
 - Loss of skills, R&D, and delivery capability
 - Erosion of international position
- Prioritisation must
 - Move from projects to *programme-level strategy*
 - Protect *foundations* (skills, R&D, infrastructure)
- *Capability* is slow to build, fast to lose
- Programme *delivers growth*
 - Industry engagement, technology translation, talent pipeline



Programme already under significant strain



- PP Exp CG: 15% reduction in funding
- PP Theory CG: 58 FTE/year in 2023-26 reduced to 19.5 FTE/year in 2026-30
- Infrastructure Fund cuts (LHCb, EIC), equivalent to ~10% of PPAN budget
- Accelerator R&D projects for future colliders (HL-LHC and AWAKE) were completely cut in 2025.
- QTFP programme ceased, lost over 50 RAs trained in quantum

Decisions made in past year resulted in over 200 posts lost across PPAN programme, predominantly ECR RAs.

A constructive path forward

- Good engagement with Science Board
 - AP Chairs invited to SB sessions as part of prioritisation process (now → June)
 - Positive response to joint PPAN [AP Chairs letter](#)
- Community supports transparent, evidenced-based prioritisation
 - Prioritisation is necessary
 - But must be
 - Strategic (programme-level)
 - Consultative (via Advisory Panels)
- Need a clear and shared framework
 - Options → assessment → decisions → rationale
 - Visible to community

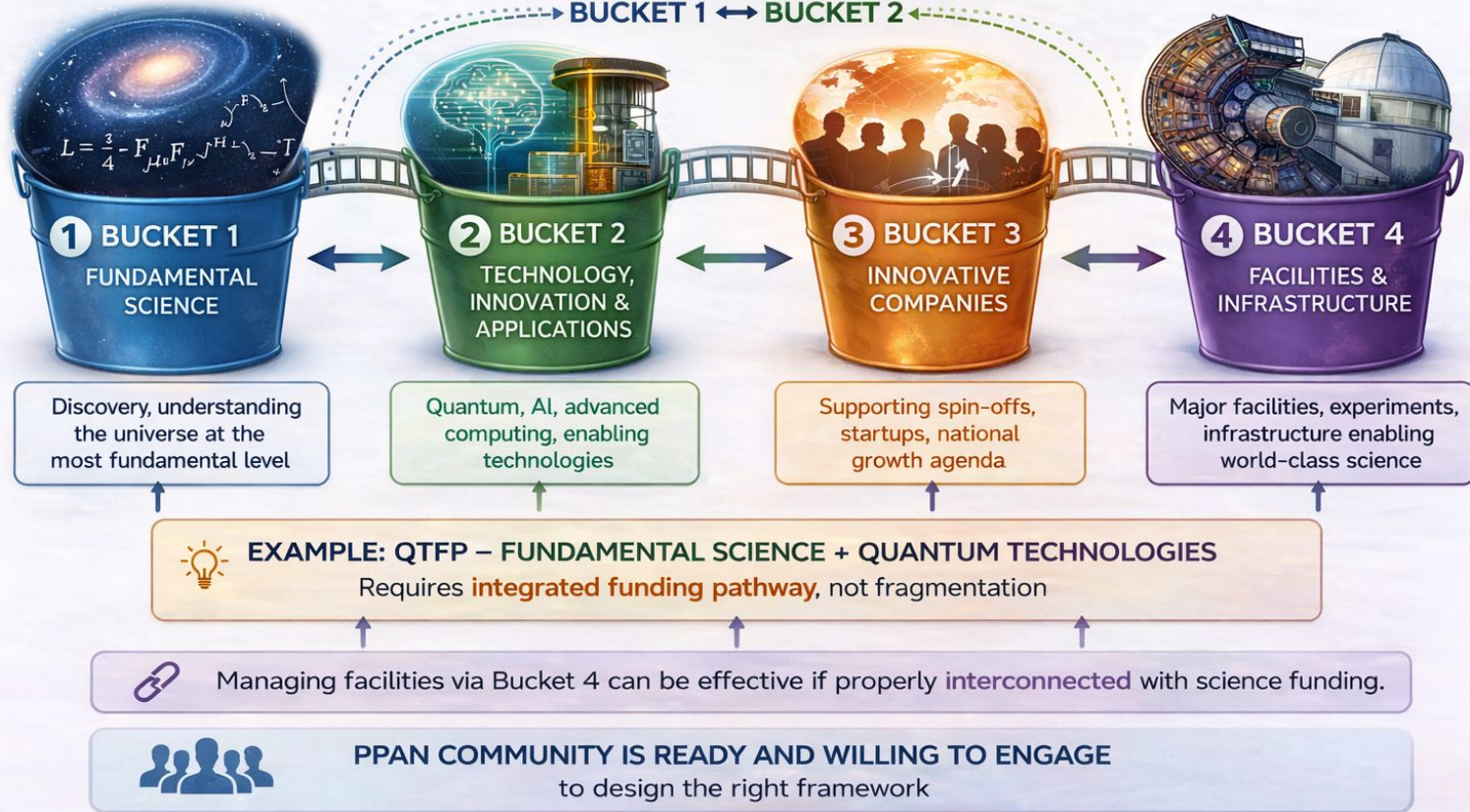
MAKING THE SYSTEM WORK: CONNECTING “BUCKETS”

The bucket structure can be positive if implemented with coordination across buckets.

Many PP strategic areas span buckets.

NEED MECHANISM TO CONNECT

BUCKET 1 ↔ BUCKET 2





- Engagement with SB on prioritisation: now - June
- Tentative (Apr-May):
 - Meeting of PPAN AP chairs with STFC and UKRI leadership
 - Cross-PPAN community Town Hall (online)
- Summer (dates to be firmed up soon): in person PPAP community meeting. Discussion to combine with PAAP.

Questions

- Will the outputs and rationale of the PPAN prioritisation process be published in full, including how evidence and advice were used to reach decisions?
- Who is formally accountable for acting on Science Board advice for PPAN, and will that advice and its outcomes be publicly available?
- What formal mechanism will ensure PPAN community representation in designing the Bucket-2 framework, and how will PPAN programmes be able to access that funding in practice?

- For Bucket 4 Facilities and Laboratories, will prioritisation be conducted with the same transparency and accountability expected of the PPAN process?
- Given the impact on international commitments, will there be external or international scrutiny of the PPAN prioritisation process, and if not, why not?
- What specific mechanisms will support the translation of successful industry engagement models into PPAN programmes, including lessons from areas such as space science?