



# pro<sup>2</sup> Network+ Advisory Board Agenda and Minutes

11 October 2023, 1:30-3pm | Microsoft Teams

## Attendees:

Tim Minshall, Dr John C Taylor Professor of Innovation and Head of the Institute for Manufacturing at the University of Cambridge, **Chair**.

Giulia Pratico, Western Gateway Team Manager, Innovate UK EDGE SW.

Isabel Qamar, Materials Scientist, Formlabs.

Lars Erik Holmquist, Professor of Design and Innovation, Nottingham Trent University.

Laura McDonnell, Senior Portfolio Manager, EPSRC.

Maria Galvez Trigo, Assistant Professor in the School of Computer Science and Informatics, Cardiff University.

Mike Fraser, Professor of Human-Computer Interaction and Head of Department of Computer Science, University of Bristol. pro<sup>2</sup> Network+ Steering Group Principal Investigator and Chair.

Sarah Fawcett, VP Operations, OKdo.

Sarah Hughes, pro<sup>2</sup> Network+ Manager, **Secretary**.

Stephen Chadwick, EVP & President EMEA, Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence.

Steve Hodges, Senior Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research. pro<sup>2</sup> Network+ Steering Group Principal Industry Lead.

## Apologies:

Lois Wilkins, National Partnership Manager, Make UK.

## Agenda

Item	Title	Allocated Time	Lead	Document
1	Welcome and introductions	1:30-1:40	Tim	
2	Review of pro <sup>2</sup> ToC and main challenges	1:40-1:50	Steve	pro <sup>2</sup> Theory of Change
3	Update on what has been done so far and what is next	1:50-2:00	Mike	
4	Funded projects overview	2:00-2:10	Mike	
5	Advice on strategic and governance challenges, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recruiting an independent panel to review applications</li><li>Becoming an independent legal entity</li></ul>	2:10-2:30	Steve	
6	Opportunities for pro <sup>2</sup> – what have we missed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Seeking advice from the board</li></ul>	2:30-2:50	Steve	
8	Format and frequency of ongoing AB meetings	2:50-2:53	Sarah	
9	Pictures, titles, and LinkedIn links for website	2:53-2:55	Sarah	
10	AOB	2:55-3:00	Tim	

Item No.	Item	Owner	Deadline
1	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone attended except Lois Wilkins of Make UK.</li> <li>• Everyone introduced themselves, links to LinkedIn pages are as follows:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Tim Minshall</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Giulia Pratico</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Isabel Qamar</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Lars Erik Holmquist</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Laura McDonnell</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Lois Wilkins</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Maria Galvez Trigo</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Mike Fraser</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Sarah Fawcett</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Sarah Hughes</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Stephen Chadwick</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Steve Hodges</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
2	<p>Review of pro<sup>2</sup> ToC and main challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHo provided the rationale for pro<sup>2</sup> and pointed to the Theory of Change on the network website for reference before inviting questions.</li> <li>• LEH asked if we have a definition of prototype types or domains for the purposes of the work.</li> <li>• SHo replied that we're aware that it means different things for different people and that we are trying to understand what it means for ourselves. He asked if there were particular types that the group thought we should focus on?</li> <li>• TM suggested the definitional bit may fall into the process that Mike will go on to describe.</li> </ul>		
3	<p>Update on what has been done so far and what is next</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MF talked through slides outlining the genesis of pro<sup>2</sup>. Added that the work requires a software mentality and that we can re-draw the boundaries as we go. The cross-disciplinary opportunities to share what prototypes mean to us are exciting. Also shared that we have a Research Designer called Matt employed on the network who is responsible for all of the branding, graphics, videos etc. which we felt was a key part of the success of the network.</li> <li>• The slides covered the funding we have received, the network supporters and an overview of what the challenges are.</li> <li>• TM added that it's good to see sustainability as a consideration.</li> <li>• MF agreed and said that he and Steve had spoken to the circular economy team at EPSRC recently to outline that we're aware of the sustainability risks involved with this</li> </ul>		

	<p>work, but also that high volume manufacture can be very wasteful, we're hoping that we can enable people to create products at the right scale for demand, reducing waste. We'd like to bring in sustainability expertise to the network leadership.</p>		
4	<p>Funded projects overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The slides MF shared for item 3 covered the projects we have agreed to fund so far.</li> <li>• MF highlighted that we awarded funding to 3 projects but that one of them was currently in a due diligence process due to the fact that one of the applicants also had a role within UKRI.</li> <li>• LM shared that as far as EPSRC are concerned that matter has been resolved and so she will forward emails from the Research Council and individual involved to confirm.</li> <li>• MF talked a bit about the assessment process for the funded projects and the issues we encountered with that. Specifically, we ended up with top-ranking projects that were from institutions aligned with the steering group despite; advertising widely, running a q&amp;a webinar and doing blind, anonymous reviewing that accounted for COI. This was an uncomfortable outcome for pro<sup>2</sup> team and so we have been considering steps we can take to avoid it happening again. To be discussed more in the next item.</li> <li>• MF finished off the slides by providing an overview of the plan for 2024.</li> <li>• SC asked about how we can spread the net wider to expand the diversity of applications. Because innovative research is happening outside of the traditional academic settings.</li> <li>• SHo replied that this segues us nicely into the next agenda item.</li> </ul>		
5	<p>Advice on strategic and governance challenges, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruiting an independent panel to review applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SHo reiterated the discomfort MF talked about with the funding application outcomes and said that perhaps it was obvious that the applications we were most drawn to would be from the people most like us. Also highlighted that our launch event was held in Bristol and that most applications came from places geographically close to that area. Perhaps there is a role for broadening out to improve diversity of the network and but also focussing in to get things moving.</li> <li>○ MF added that initially broadening out membership is the focus but as we try to generate new outcomes beyond the lifetime of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

	<p>the network partnerships may become more focused.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LEH suggested that having more defined funding calls could actually attract more external people.</li> <li>○ MGT suggested holding events to give people the opportunity to find out more about calls before applying and advertising through other network +'s where there is overlap.</li> <li>○ TM asked LM whether there was experience from running other network +'s that could be shared?</li> <li>○ GP suggested using the first funded projects as case studies to demonstrate the benefits of getting involved.</li> <li>○ SHo shared that SHu has been linking in with other networks and that MF and SHu recently visited Connected Everything.</li> <li>○ LM confirmed that she is able to put us in touch with other network +'s that have been running for longer if that would be useful.</li> <li>○ SHu shared that we are part of a 'network of networks' run by Connected Everything which facilitates knowledge exchange between network managers.</li> <li>○ TM said that inevitably things will cluster around those who already speak this language, but that making the network as inclusive as possible is a priority. Using case studies to demonstrate benefits will be helpful.</li> <li>○ SHo invited insights from TM's experience of Network+.</li> <li>○ TM said they faced similar issues and first funding round was trickiest for the same reasons. Second round was better after concerted effort to improve membership. Considered excluding colleagues from host institutions but decided it was unfair. Suggested this remains a key agenda item for ongoing AB meetings.</li> <li>○ MGT suggested that instead of excluding colleagues from applying we stipulate that they bring on board partners from other institutions?</li> <li>○ SHo agreed it was a good idea, TM also agreed but warned of slicing up an already small funding pot. However, he said that it did work in his own experience.</li> <li>○ SF suggested being very clear about outreach strategy and how we're going to reach certain groups of people. Also, what are the barriers to applying and how can we remove them?</li> </ul> <p>Mentorship can be really helpful.</p>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LEH agreed and said that mentoring someone who has an idea for the network could be really valuable.</li> <li>● Becoming an independent legal entity             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SHo outlined our thoughts behind becoming a legal entity and invited comments on that.</li> <li>○ TM asked LM if there was a collection of different trajectories that she had seen other networks go on?</li> <li>○ LM shared that it's mainly about keeping our finger on the pulse of what the community wants and staying relevant. If we have an idea of what we'd like to do next there is likely someone else that has done it that she can link us in with. Other networks in the DE space are doing similar things to us. She appreciates that priorities evolve and it's ok if we don't end up doing exactly what is on the application.</li> <li>○ SC asked what the objectives and outcomes are that we want to achieve by the end of this funding round, that will help determine what the next step should be.</li> <li>○ SHo referred to ToC and said that we're hoping to come up with good ideas that we can take further, and potentially influence policy in the UK.</li> <li>○ SC agreed and said coming up with measures of success would be useful.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
6	<p>Opportunities for pro<sup>2</sup> – what have we missed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seeking advice from the board             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MF shared that we're planning to recruit additional expertise in the sustainability space which will hopefully extend our reach in that area.</li> <li>○ SF shared that she wasn't clear on what a network of networks was and so it would be useful if someone could provide a bit more info.</li> <li>○ LM offered to share more info outside of the meeting (action).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	LM	Before next meeting
8	<p>Format and frequency of ongoing AB meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SHu established that format-wise, Teams seems to work fine for meeting. Asked what the preferred frequency would be, perhaps 6 months?</li> <li>● TM asked MF and SHo to state preference.</li> <li>● MF agreed 6 months.</li> <li>● SHu will set next meeting for April time (action).</li> </ul>	SH	13.10.23
9	Pictures, titles, and LinkedIn links for website		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHu said we'd like pics, titles and LinkedIn links for website, reminding that not all people have shared theirs yet (<b>action</b>).</li> </ul>	<p>Those who have yet to complete.</p>	<p>a.s.a.p.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TM requested that members of the AB engage with pro<sup>2</sup> events, even if they can't attend.</li> <li>• TM thanked the board for their involvement.</li> </ul>		