Sustainable Composites: the future 3rd July 2020

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Current EPSRC Support for Composites Research

- **Composites Portfolio** - 73 grants with total investment value of £149M – £49M of which directly identified as relevant to composites research
  - Covers a wide range of research areas and composite types.
  - Application areas cover aerospace, construction, automotive, advanced textiles, manufacturing, healthcare.
  - As with materials research in general seeing greater consideration of how materials can provide both structural and functional properties.
  - But how much focused on **Sustainability**?
Opportunity Space: What can composites do for a future sustainable society?

- Where can sustainable composites contribute to
  - Building Back Better?
  - Decarbonisation targets – Net zero by 2050?

- Opportunities and challenges
  - Light weighting materials – for transport, other application areas
  - Resource savings – materials and component made in one go, structure and function delivered together
  - Circular economy – sustainable raw materials, self healing/repair, recycle, end of life disposal
  - Others??
A Big Idea – a route for proposing what are the next major research opportunities to EPSRC

Objectives
To identify and prioritise new “Big Ideas” in a way that is flexible, responsive and links to new opportunities
To support the development of these ideas from conception to business case.

Drivers
Responding to a changing environment - fiscal events and emerging priorities.
Ensuring that our community are ready to respond and articulate their ideas in a manner that presents new opportunities to meet economic and society needs.
Allowing ideas to be generated, assessed and developed in a transparent manner.
Thank you for your attention