The Francis Crick Institute (formerly UKCMRI) update for the
House of Commons Science & Technology Committee
September 2014

A Joint Venture involving MRC, Cancer Research UK (CRUK), the Wellcome Trust, UCL (University College London), Imperial College London and King’s College London.

Location: Central London (adjacent to the British Library and St. Pancras International)

Total Construction Budget: £541m (all parties)
Total Land Acquisition Cost: £85m (all parties)
MRC Construction Budget: £253m
MRC Transition Budget: £30.7m
MRC Portion of Land Cost: £47m

Forecast Construction Completion: November 2015

The Francis Crick Institute:
The Crick is named after the British scientist Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA.

Funding:
The Government has approved MRC expenditure limited to £253m on construction costs and £30.7m on transition costs. £220m of this funding will be provided by the Department of Health. The MRC’s receipts from the sale of the National Temperance Hospital and Mill Hill (National Institute for Medical Research, NIMR) sites will be used towards the capital costs of this project. Current projections are that the construction will be completed within budget.

Major Projects Authority (MPA):
There have been two Project Assessment Reviews (PARs), in January 2011 and May 2012, both of which resulted in an Amber/Green Delivery Confidence Assessment. The second PAR stated that due to the attainment of two consecutive Amber/Green ratings and the high degree of confidence in the Construction project, further reviews would be via the MPA Gateway process. The latest review (Gate Zero) took place in October 2013. This review also provided an Amber/Green Delivery Confidence Assessment. The next Gateway Review is scheduled to take place in November 2014.

Governance Arrangements:
A Joint Venture Agreement is in place, which binds the parties together for the construction of the new facility and in operation. The Crick is governed by a Board with Director representation from each of the partners as well as independent Directors. The construction project is overseen by a Construction Project Board (CPB) which meets monthly. Members of the CPB include representatives from the partner organisations and BIS.

The MRC Monitoring Committee continues to meet monthly to review progress, issues and risks on both Construction and Transition aspects of the project.
The Building:
A contract was signed with the contractors Laing O'Rourke in March 2011 to undertake pre-construction services and initial construction works as part of a two-stage contract. The final stage of the construction contract was executed in February 2013 after extensive due diligence and negotiation.

Currently site works are progressing in accordance with the project programme. The 'topping out' of the building took place in June 2013. The external envelope is complete, major plant and infrastructure has been installed, and the laboratory fit-out is underway. The planned amendments to the building to accommodate changes in the partners' scientific approach are being successfully implemented within the construction programme. The construction budget remains at £541m. The Practical Completion of the construction project is scheduled for November 2015.

Public Relations:
The Crick continues to develop strategies and programmes to involve both the local community and the wider public with its work. Recently the institute presented plans to provide science education both to the Crick's partners and to the Raising Aspiration and Achievement team at Camden Council. These were received enthusiastically, and opportunities to collaborate in delivering the Crick's offer are now being investigated.

In short, the Crick will seek to increase participation in STEM and to raise levels of science literacy, particularly in Camden. Young people will be offered a structured long-term programme to engage with science and the Crick. Amongst other activities, this will involve hands-on activities to capture the imagination of young people, including events in the Crick's Teaching Lab and for some the opportunity to work in the Crick's labs.

The institute has already begun piloting education activities, including a microscopy project in the spring with 3,000 4-11 year olds. It has also been strengthening its relationship with the Science Museum, following the success of a Science Museum 'Lates' event in February. Researchers from the Crick's partners have taken part in the Building Bridges project, speaking to year 7 students about scientific issues and ethics.

In May the Crick participated in the Imperial Festival, attracting about 1,000 visitors. The institute also participated in the Somers Town community festival. As well as raising awareness, this was an opportunity to share plans and seek feedback on the development of the Crick's community facility, the Living Centre. The institute will tender for a centre operator in early 2016.

Programme Planning:
A comprehensive plan for the transition from the existing institutes to the new one is in place. This plan will ensure integration of the closure of NIMR and CRUK's London premises with the opening of the new Francis Crick Institute. A Steering Group that includes representatives from all the partners due to transfer staff or research activities into the building meets monthly to manage the integrated transition plan. The plan will support the delivery of the Crick science and innovation strategy "Discovery Without Boundaries", which was published in June 2013.
**Risk Management:**

Major risks are covered in detail in risk registers that are regularly reviewed by the MRC Monitoring Committee. In addition, MRC provides support and input to the Crick’s risk management process. The only risk currently classified as 'red' within the MRC’s Crick Risk Register is that “Cross Rail 2” will be constructed adjacent to the Crick building with potentially serious consequences for operation of sensitive scientific equipment. This critical risk is being addressed by Directors of the MRC and the Crick, with full support from BIS. Several meetings have taken place with representatives of the Department for Transport and Transport for London, with the intention of agreeing to preliminary proposals whilst ensuring the Crick can remain fully operational during construction and operation of the proposed railway. Government commitment to securing the Crick’s position has been provided.

Professor Sir John Savill  
MRC Chief Executive Officer

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