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## S-Lab News: No. 18, Jan 2012

Information on events and activities by HEEPI's S-Lab (Safe, Successful and Sustainable Labs) Project



### In this Newsletter:

[Lab Events](#)

[S-Lab Awards - Applications Open](#)

[Effective Laboratory Conference](#)

[New Science Unis & RCUK Impact Report](#)

[Green Impact for Labs](#)

[HEaTED Moves to Myscience, York](#)

[About S-Lab](#)

[Contact Details](#)

[Subscription Details](#)

### Green Impact for Labs

The [S-Lab Laboratory Assessment Framework](#), which allows lab users or universities wishing to assess the sustainability of its labs in a systematic way, is incorporated this year into the [NUS Green Impact](#) scheme as a new lab workbook. The framework and workbook contain criteria in ten categories (e.g. chemicals, cold storage, fume cupboards, waste) which address the main environmental impacts of a lab and what users can do to reduce them. So far 19 universities have signed up for the Green Impact for labs scheme. Any university interested in joining should contact [Jo.Kemp@nus.org.uk](mailto:Jo.Kemp@nus.org.uk)

### HEaTED Moves to Myscience, York

[HEaTED](#) (Higher Education and Technicians Education and Development), a national training and career development framework for technicians in the UK Higher Education sector, has recently undergone some exciting changes. Responsibility for managing the programme has moved to

## Lab Events

[The Effective Laboratory - Safe, Successful and Sustainable Laboratories](#)

National Science Learning Centre, York, 12-13 June 2012  
The first S-Lab conference (see below for more details)

[US Labs21 Conference](#), 2-4 Oct 2012, San Jose, California  
Call for presenters open until 23 March

## S-Lab Awards - Applications Open

Know a lab or lab-based individual that excels in effectiveness or sustainability? Applications are now open for the first S-Lab Awards. This new Awards scheme recognises good practice in laboratory design, operations and management in all sectors (and in laboratory-based teaching and learning within educational institutions) that creates improved performance whilst enhancing safety and sustainability. The 7 categories are New or Refurbished Laboratory; Laboratory Effectiveness; Laboratory Environmental Improvement; Making a Difference (which recognises individuals); Equipment and Services; Laboratory-based Teaching and Learning Innovation; and Schools & Colleges. The two latter reflect the support of the HEFCE-funded [National HE STEM programme](#). [HEaTED](#), the [Royal Academy of Engineering](#), the [Royal Society of Chemistry \(RSC\)](#) and the [Society of Biology](#) are supporting the awards.

There is a two stage entry process, with an initial [short application form](#) to encourage applications (due by 29 Feb 2012), and a second stage requiring more information. The winners will be announced at the S-Lab conference, and can expect much good publicity over the following year through both S-Lab channels and its partners.

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## Effective Laboratory Conference

The Effective Laboratory - Safe, Successful and Sustainable Laboratories is a unique two day conference which will bring together all the key players involved in university laboratories as

Myscience, supported by The Gatsby Charitable Foundation, an organisation known for championing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education. HEaTED's previous funders, HEFCE, will continue to support them on operational issues. The new HEaTED Programme Manager, Dr Rachel Crossley believes the many synergies between the work of Myscience and HEaTED will allow them to expand the range and level of support available to technicians in Higher and Further Education, and other sectors.

### About S-Lab

This newsletter is from the [S-Lab](#) initiative, which is supported by the UK higher education funding bodies, especially HEFCE. Its aim is to publicise the outputs of our own activities, and also to provide brief updates on other developments within the field. It is a partner of the US [Labs 21](#) programme, and a member of the Global Sustainable Laboratory Community established by the [International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories \(I2SL\)](#). See [www.goodcampus.org](http://www.goodcampus.org) for more details on our work including copies of previous newsletters. You can unsubscribe by clicking on the link at the bottom of this page.

well as representatives from public sector and commercial laboratories and suppliers. The programme will feature keynote presentations from Wendell Brase, Vice Chancellor for University of California, Irvine; James Naismith, Director of the new Biomedical Science Research Complex at University of St Andrews and Neil Crossan of AstraZeneca. A detailed programme and booking details will be announced in February.

Organised by S-Lab in association with the [National HE STEM Programme](#), with support from [HEaTED](#), the [Royal Academy of Engineering](#), the [Royal Society of Chemistry \(RSC\)](#) and the [Society of Biology](#).

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## New Science Unis & RCUK Impact Report

Science minister David Willetts has announced plans for a new class of university that will focus on science, technology and postgraduate training. There will be no extra public funding for the new institutions but the Government was looking to private and international investment including business sponsorship to help to build the UK's research base. Willetts said the government wanted proposals from local economic partnerships, universities, businesses and international partners. He said the government would seek to remove, through legislation if necessary, any regulatory red tape in setting up the new institutions.

The same day Research Councils UK (RCUK) published the [RCUK Impact Report 2011](#) which details the various activities through which the Research Councils are working together to achieve greater impact. This includes collaboration with partners in key commercial sectors, the Technology Strategy Board and governmental departments. It also highlights the impact of the six major cross-Council themes (e.g energy, lifelong health and wellbeing etc) and how the Research Councils will develop the impact agenda through the current spending review period.

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