

Directed Assembly Network

J. A. R. Rose, P. R. Raithby and H. Makatsoris

Dept. of Chemistry, University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY, UK

J.A.Rose@bath.ac.uk



In 2010, the Directed Assembly Network kicked-off by building an inter-disciplinary academic community and set about developing a strategic roadmap, looking towards tackling the grand challenges facing science over the next 50 years: depleting natural resources, antibiotic & drug resistance and an ageing population to name a few.

The Roadmap was constructed by the Network community through years of consultations and continuous engagement through: themed meetings, sandpits, Network awards (proof of concept projects) and strategic meetings. The Network was tasked to look 20-40 years into the future, and to capture short, medium and long term goals. Over the 6 years since its inception the Network has grown to almost 1,000 members and hosts about 9 highly acclaimed meetings each year.

Early-career researchers are at the heart of the Network and benefit greatly from access to- and networking with- our world-leading members, senior management team and Network Champions. The Network is now embedded into the culture of the UK landscape and continues to work at the leading edge.

The vision of the Network is to be able to control the assembly of matter with sufficient certainty and precision to allow preparation of materials and molecular assemblies with far more sophisticated and tuneable properties and functions than are accessible in materials synthesised using current methods.

The science is set out across 5 overlapping themes, which encompass directed assembly and disassembly, and encompasses the translation of the research towards manufacturing.