Written evidence submission to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee's inquiry on an ARPA style agency.

1. Summary

Summary of Recommendations

Evidence

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[1] The Queens Speech, Background Briefing Notes, December 2019
[2] We define diversity

The position should be made attractive enough to get the best candidates from across the world.

5. How the programmes work

'The DARPA and the ARPA-E models are purely milestone driven. Because the end goal is not a paper. The end goal is a specific technology, and the most of the time the deliverable is hardware, it's not a bunch of reports.'

Summary: The flexibility of the ARPA model allows certain parts of the process to be highly collaborative with the research community. The milestone focus when running programmes is necessary, but if not properly managed can have negative effects.

Recommendations:
- Inclusion of the community in direction setting for programme calls
- Highly rigorous internal processes for setting up calls and awarding funding
- Incentivisation of researcher collaboration, especially across sectors
- Clear communication during milestone setting, with a balance between ambition and flexibility
- Further work is needed to investigate if UK ARPA should use stop/go milestones
- The bureaucratic management also needs to be excellent
- Diversity and inclusion should be built into the agency from the beginning

Setting up the call

Contact

About us

6. Annex 1   UK Research funding landscape

	Innovate UK	ISCF	ERC grants	QR funding	EPSRC	ARPA type model[12]
Target recipient						
Size of recipient group						