

Science|Business Network Updates

An explainer for our members, 2021

Network Updates is a section of the Science|Business newsletter and Website that aggregates and promotes press releases and reports from our members – or specifically, those member communications that we judge would interest our audience. These reports supplement the original news reporting of our own, independent journalistic staff. To a reader, the distinction is made clear by labeling each Network Update as “Communication from X”.

In considering what we do and don't include in Network Updates, the basic criterion is simple: what would our very specific audience, of people involved in R&D funding, policy and investment internationally, consider to be news they might not want to have missed? These items should be time-sensitive announcements of R&D-related deals, studies, management – not unadorned opinion, events planning, product launches, grant awards and the like.

Members are welcome to email us suggestions for inclusion (news@sciencebusiness.net). Our own staff also checks member web sites from time to time, for items we judge relevant.

As a general rule, what we re-publish is of three types:

- **Organisational news.** Among our members, these can be top-level announcements of a new dean or rector, a new corporate CTO (in industry, keep it to those executives involved in R&D or innovation), or a new agency head. Also, new research centres opening or getting funded, university start-ups funded or bought, international R&D collaborations, and deals between companies and universities (new funded chairs, R&D partnerships, etc.) On grants, these are so common in our world that we only publish news of large (more than €5M) or very important awards. We don't include product announcements, corporate financial results or academic awards. We do not include event notices or job ads in Network Updates; the free ad space we provide members is more appropriate to that.
- **News of research, reports or white papers about international R&D policy or investment.** For instance: new data suggesting research tax credits in three countries don't work, or comparing national innovation performances or funding shortfalls. What we don't publish in this section are straight-out opinions without new supporting data, or reports that could strike the reader as more promotional or political than informative. In other words, we would not publish in this section a communication about a university group telling us once again that its members want more EU money, or a tech company telling us it's green.
- **Scientific news.** Sometimes, but only rarely. We aren't Nature or Science. So generally, we don't republish scientific or technological results from our universities or corporate members. But if there's a particularly interesting result that would appeal to a lot of readers, we make an exception and republish it – especially if the subject happens to be in the news generally at that particular moment. For instance, it's worth having an academic report during lockdown about the psychological stresses of working at home in the pandemic, or during a global climate summit about how climate change will bankrupt 20% of all companies in the next decade.

These are all very subjective decisions, and will be reviewed by the editor. But the basic idea is to help our members bring to attention their important announcements that our international R&D policy audience should know about.