

C1net Newsletter

July 2014

Issue 1



Who Are We?

C1net is the new BBSRC NIBB dedicated to the development and scalable production of C1 gas fermentation for the whole IB community. C1net provides a cross-sector forum with the goals to foster and enhance collaboration between industry and academia; develop skills and expertise; share best practice; define common research priorities; and target funding opportunities in C1 gas fermentation. The management board is currently 12 strong, with Professor Nigel Minton (University of Nottingham) as PI and Professor Davis Fell (Oxford Brookes) as Col.



Progress

C1net was launched on 26th March 2014 with its first management board meeting. Since then, significant progress has been made. We are now active on Twitter, the website has been unveiled and the membership process has now moved online. A programme of events has been sketched out for the next 5 years, to include five annual symposia, five workshops and four sandpits with PoC funding opportunities. The first sandpit event is planned for 30-31 July and is now accepting applications at <http://www.c1net.co.uk/Activities-sandpit-1.html>. The first C1net symposium is also penciled in: so mark 14-16 January 2015 in your diary..

Please help make this newsletter a success, by sending me your news, views, photos and events.

Members

Membership currently stands at 68, from universities, research establishments, industry, energy providers and learned societies. Disciplines covered include: synthetic and systems biology, microbiology, algal genetics, biochemistry, chemistry, computer modeling, biofuels, spectroscopy, biophysics, enzymology, sustainability, science policy and sociology. We also have 48 followers on Twitter!!

C1net is now accepting new members; applications for membership can be made to www.c1net.co.uk. Members will receive access to a growing network of researchers, manufacturers, and end-users, with invitations to upcoming free Network events addressing the field of gas fermentation.



Jacque Minton Network Manager
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EVENTS PAST & FUTURE

17 March 2014

Café Scientific, Nottingham
<http://www.meetup.com/nottingham-culture-cafe-sci/>

10 May 2014

MayFest, University of Nottingham
<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mayfest/index.aspx>

13-16 July 2014

16th European Congress of Biotechnology, Edinburgh
<http://www.ecb16.com/>

16 July 2014

Opportunities in Fuels and Chemicals from Syngas and Methane Fermentation, London
<https://www.soci.org/Events/Display-Event.aspx?EventCode=SEG424>

30-31 July 2014

C1net Sandpit “Chemicals from C1 Gas”, Nottingham
<http://www.c1net.co.uk/Activities-sandpit-1.html>

17-19 November 2014

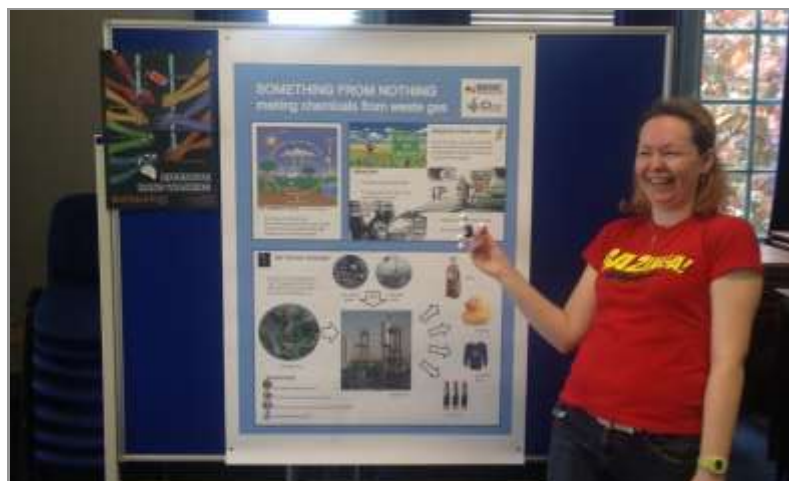
BBSRC-EFB “Focus on Frontiers in Industrial Biology”, London
Louise.Horsfall@ed.ac.uk

14-16 January 2015

C1net Conference, Nottingham
<http://www.c1net.co.uk/Activities-conference-1.html>

11-12 February 2015

Industrial Biotechnology Showcase, London
<http://ibts.meeting-mojo.com/>



Kelly Davidge, University of Nottingham helps promote C1net at MayFest 2014

OUTREACH

MayFest

C1net promoted its message to thousands of visitors at the University of Nottingham’s traditional, annual, open day, “MayFest”, on 10th May 2014. A number of activities were provided for all age ranges under the banner of ‘The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful’. C1net network manager, Jacque Minton reported that, “whilst the youngest were engaged in making model bacteria from craft materials, and clearly understood our simple message that not all bacteria were bad, older children enjoyed using the molemods to ‘make’ and learn about biofuels.” Jacque also noted how “the biofuels crossword was a particularly successful activity which engaged whole families round a table and initiated many useful discussions” as well as commenting that “the active biogas generator was a useful visual showing a potential feedstock for using waste carbon gases as a ‘feedstock’ for biofuels, and led to promoting the exciting work being championed by C1net.

Café Scientique

On 17th March 2014, C1net’s PI, Professor Nigel Minton enjoyed a pint whilst delivering his “Something from Nothing” message direct to the public at “The Lord Roberts” public house in Nottingham’s trendy Lace Market area.

“Making Biofuel is similar to making beer” said Nigel.

With an audience of about 20, ranging from school children to retired professors, he had a stimulating time answering some wide ranging and thought provoking questions on C1 gas fermentation.



FREE C1net SANDPIT EVENT CHEMICALS FROM C1 GAS 30-31 July 2014, University of Nottingham

About

Hosted by C1net, and facilitated by the KTN, this **FREE** two-day, sandpit event will bring together academic and industrial partners to identify and address key challenges in the study of those organisms able to grow on C1 compounds and commercially exploit them as platforms for chemical manufacture. Its major aim is to initiate new collaborations between industry and academia, leading to development and potential funding of outline feasibility projects from participants. The programme includes inspirational talks from key academics and industry representatives, project generation and development sessions and plenty of opportunity for networking. This event will include the launch of C1net Proof-of-Concept funds (£200K available annually, £150K of which will be awarded following this sandpit) and Business Interaction Vouchers (£5K awards to Academic members to stimulate collaborations with Industrial members).

Details

When: Wed, 30 July, 9.30 – Thu, 31 July, 16:00
Where: Trent Building (pictured), University Park Campus, The University of Nottingham, NG7 2QL ([map](#))
Accommodation: Ancaster Hall of Residence, University Park Campus, The University of Nottingham.

Application

Participation and full board are provided free of charge (thanks to BBSRC funding), but places are limited.
Attendance will be on successful application only.
Application deadline 30 June 2014

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO APPLY

visit <http://www.c1net.co.uk/Activities-sandpit-1.html>
email jacqueline.minton@nottingham.ac.uk
register interest http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/c1net-bbsrc-nibb-sandpit-tickets-11708772253?utm_campaign=new_eventv2&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb_email&utm_term=eventurl_text



**£150K
PROOF OF
CONCEPT**

BA agrees deal for UK jet biofuel plant

Edited from Richard Scott, BBC News
See full: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8515620.stm>

British Airways has struck a deal to build the first plant in Europe to produce jet fuel from waste matter which would otherwise be destined for landfill. Some 500,000 tonnes of waste will be used by the UK facility each year to produce 16 million gallons of fuel.

Construction of the plant in east London will start within two years and should begin production 4 years later, creating up to 1,200 jobs. The waste will be fed into a high temperature "gasifier" to produce BioSynGas. A chemical process called Fischer Tropsch will convert the gas into biofuel. BA said the plant would produce twice the amount of fuel needed to power all its flights from London City Airport.



STOP PRESS

The UK and French innovation clusters BioVale and IAR are to sign an agreement to collaborate in building the global bioeconomy.

The Yorkshire-based biotechnology innovation cluster, BioVale and its French counterpart, the Industries & Agro-Resources (IAR) cluster, are to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The two organisations are to work together to support world-class research and innovation, boost the global bioeconomy, and open up multibillion pound opportunities for UK and French businesses. The agreement will be signed at the York Mansion House, to coincide with the Yorkshire Grand Départ of the Tour de France.

This agreement will lead to joint research and development projects; staff and student exchanges; shared access to facilities; and co-operation on developing new markets for UK and French bio-based businesses. <http://www.biovale.org/>



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@C1Net_NIBB