



Annual Report and Financial Statements 2015

The background image shows a man in a light blue shirt smiling as he works on a robotic arm. He is holding a component of the arm. In the foreground, the hands of another person are visible, working on a different part of the equipment. The setting appears to be a laboratory or workshop with shelves in the background. A decorative graphic of overlapping orange and blue squares is in the top right corner.

Communications

Our audiences can already identify with the name, logo, website and are starting to get a taste of what Esplora will be like.

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Foreword

BY THE HON. MINISTER DR EVARIST BARTOLO



The Malta Council for Science and Technology has a clear purpose and responsibility in the fields of Research and Innovation and Science Communication. The work being done by MCST is an essential driving force for the Government to reach its national and European targets.

Following the launch of the National R&I Strategy 2020, the specific measures to address the action lines in each of the three pillars of the new Strategy will be implemented through a rolling R&I Action Plan. This Action Plan is also a national document, championed by MCST, which is dependent on the involvement of all entities and stakeholders, with the aim to reduce the current fragmentation in R&I, and to contribute to the achievement of the 2020 Strategy targets including the R&D target of 2% of GDP.

FUSION, the R&I Programme, is composed of two sub-programmes. The Commercialisation Voucher Programme (CVP) is aimed at improving the development and commercialisation potential of innovative research ideas, through guiding and mentoring researchers through funded activities. The Technology Development Programme (TDP)

follows on and is where the technology research is performed through a public-private consortium boosting knowledge transfer and creating crucial competitiveness synergies. Although MCST has run a research funding programme since 2004, FUSION has attracted increased interest particularly after its revamp in early 2015. MCST funds some 16 CVP projects per year out of some 40-50 sound applications, and 5-6 TDP projects per year out of some 16 projected high quality applications. There is thus a clear need for the further strengthening of this programme through further investment in R&I.

Through the various experiences on offer, Esplora will serve as a hub for science communication and a provider of informal science education. Visitors in general and students in particular will be drawn to the world of science and be inspired to take up science related careers. This objective will be achieved with the provision of modern, specialised facilities which will offer students an alternative, more captivating environment. This will certainly support the Ministry's objective to provide present and future generations with the necessary skills and knowledge for citizenship and employability, in the 21st century and beyond.

Foreword

BY THE HON. CHRIS AGIUS, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION, YOUTH AND SPORT

Another year has passed and it's time to look back at the work of the Malta Council for Science and Technology during the past twelve months.

We have seen great progress at Esplora. The project which started in 2014, has restored the majestic Naval Hospital, bringing back to life this area of the Grand Harbour. It will also be home to the first interactive science centre, with an investment of 26 million Euro, where visitors will be able to develop skills, knowledge and an appreciation of science.

We have been making preparations to host the Maltese Presidency of the EU Council in 2017, whose fulcrum in research is the launch of the integrated programme 'PRIMA' or 'Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area'. The aim is to see that the national funds for Euro-Med projects match funding from the European Commission for

a period of 10 years. This will help considerably to improve the competitiveness of Malta regarding the application for funds from of the Commission for Research and Innovation in areas that are a priority for our country and for the Mediterranean. This programme should also build on the success of existing cooperation platforms and facilitate the participation of local researchers in Euro-Med projects. PRIMA will be the link between North African countries and the EU. The presidency will not only open Malta's doors for political discussion but will also act as a platform to acknowledge the further tourist potential of our country.

These are just two of the many initiatives undertaken by the Malta Council for Science and Technology. It is thanks to the commitment of our work force that we have reached these milestones and can look ahead with optimism.





Milestones of a Science Centre

Several major project milestones were achieved in 2015 in the implementation of the ERDF 311 National Interactive Science Centre Project

Message

BY DR JEFFREY PULLICINO ORLANDO EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN



This year our entity has launched several new projects and we have engaged in the continued implementation of major projects in hand. The expansion of the portfolio of projects has led to further growth of MCST's workforce in preparation for the set-up of the technical teams required to meet the demands of these endeavours, coupled with further staff capacity building investment.

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Project was launched in January. This project, coordinated by MaltaEnterprise aims to support local SMEs through cross-border collaboration by enhancing their innovation capacity and innovation management capacity through dedicated tailor-made services funded by Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) and Horizon 2020.

PRIMA, or Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area, is one of two priorities MCST will be championing throughout Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2017. Preparations for the Presidency took centre stage in much of the work undertaken by MCST over the past year, and we look forward to hosting many of the

planned Presidency events. The support given to us by the Honorable Parliamentary Secretary Chris Agius in this respect is greatly appreciated.

Several major project milestones were achieved in 2015 in the implementation of the ERDF 311 National Interactive Science Centre Project. Numerous related contracts were delivered including: the design, fabrication and installation of the majority of interactive exhibits inside the buildings, building restoration and the development and installation of ancillary facilities and services.

The Esplora brand came to life and was exposed across the media, and at diverse public and networking events throughout the year. Several high-level, official visits and press conferences were held at MCST to communicate project progress and the objectives of the science centre. MCST continued to organise and contribute to various science communication events including, #iCanDoScience, and the 2015 editions of the Robotics Olympiad, Science in the City and Ziguzajg. Capacity building was also high on the agenda for the Esplora staff in their operational planning and set-up, which culminated with a one-week, job shadowing experience at Glasgow Science Centre.

MCST was a key partner, together with the Ministry for Tourism and **Nederlands Lucht- en Ruimtevaartcentrum** (NLR) - Netherlands Aerospace Centre, within the Teaming to Extend Maltese Ambitions in the Aerospace Sector (TEMARA) project. As well as being a crucial contributor in the development of the concept of the National Aerospace Centre (NAC), MCST drove the EU funding application under Horizon 2020 Teaming Action under Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation. The project ranked 18 out of some 169 proposals EU-wide, receiving funding of approximately €375,000 for a one-year project. This project, with the aim of creating a business plan for such a Centre of Excellence, started in June 2015 and concluded in May 2016. The NAC is intended to act as a technically excellent, business-driven, economically viable entity, operating as a Centre of Excellence in Aerospace Research Development and Innovation (RDI) in strategic technology areas of value to national industry and European competitiveness. The project drew all the relevant stakeholders within the aviation sector together, through consultation sessions to provide their input. This was the first such initiative locally. Moreover, the project resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding with NLR, as well as delivering a professional and technical business plan, providing a strong background from which the Ministry for Tourism can pursue further the implementation of the NAC.

As part of the ImaGenX Project, funded by the Italia-Malta 2014-2020 programme, MCST organised an international scientific conference in July, where a number of key international speakers were invited. The project, which closed in September, sought to achieve advancements in breast cancer

research through the introduction of state-of-the-art technologies and the rationalisation of traditional resources from regional bodies in Sicily and Malta.

Efforts to broaden Malta's horizons in Research and Innovation included the first Joint Commission meeting between MCST and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, which was held in Malta in August and personally supported by the Honourable Minister Evarist Bartolo. As a result, aquaculture was recognised as an important topic for collaborative efforts, particularly with the increasing focus on food security. This has, in turn, paved the way for collaborative research efforts in the field of aquaculture and bolstered the relationship between Malta and the People's Republic of China.

A pilot scheme for the Internationalisation Partnership Awards was launched in August and has helped to support bilateral relationships between Maltese and foreign academics based in leading European Universities. In line with our efforts to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean collaboration in Research and Innovation, MCST also provided support for researchers embarking on projects under ERANET-MED, dedicating a budget of €300,000.

A workshop entitled Reuse Solutions in the Water Sector was organised by MCST in August, as part of the 'Sustainable Water Treatment and Nutrient Reuse Options' (SuWaNu) Project, funded under FP7. The project aimed at providing exchange of know-how among European Regions on alternatives for water and nutrient reuse and stimulate research on wastewater treatment technologies. MCST was mainly responsible for dissemination and outreach activities. This project was closed in December.

In September, MCST was honoured to receive Mr Jyrki Katainen, Vice President to the European Commission Responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness. In the same month, MCST embarked on another new project, EURAXESS TOP III, which is aiming to make European research careers more attractive by developing new services and enhancing those currently offered by the EURAXESS network. Moreover, MCST also took over the EURAXESS National Portal which will offer tailor-made information, in line with Horizon 2020 objectives, on making science careers attractive for researchers (especially young researchers) by providing access to a complete range of information and support services in all of Europe.

The Platform for Maltese Research and Innovation (PluMTri) was successfully developed in October. The web-based, national portal aims at showcasing local talent, facilitating knowledge sharing, networking as well as acting as a single point of contact in the fields of career prospects, funding opportunities and disseminating up-to-date news related to Research and Innovation.

Throughout 2015, MCST continued to build on the excellent relationship with the European Space Agency (ESA), which it has developed in recent years through its Observer agreement. MCST was committed to work with ESA to understand the feasibility of space-research uptake and commercial project uptake within the local scene, and this work culminated in a Technical Visit by ESA to Malta in October. Following this investigation, MCST is now discussing the formulation of a closer working relationship with ESA.

The project ranked 18 out of some 169 proposals EU-wide, receiving funding of approximately €375,000 for a one-year project

MCST furthered its working relationship with Eurisy, an association of European space agencies, by co-organising a high-profile conference entitled Satellite Solutions for Smarter Islands which was held in November, in Malta. It attracted international interest, with publicity amongst the other Eurisy Members at fora in Paris, including the European Space Agency, the European GNSS Agency and the Space Policy Directorate of the European Commission. The conference discussed how island economies can leverage Europe's investments in satellite services to boost their economy and live up to current challenges. The conference saw the launch of the Malta App Challenge, which was run in two strands: MCST-MITA

and MCST-MEPA challenges. A total of 6 prizes were provided to promising IT solutions using satellite and earth observation data, to overcome societal challenges across the Maltese Islands.

I am proud to say that this year has been characterised by organisational growth and expansion of our network with local and international partners. Our achievements are a testament to the team's collective effort, stakeholders' involvement, the backing of the Board of the Council and the constant support received from the Ministry for Education and Employment and the Parliamentary Secretariat for Research Innovation, Youth and Sport.

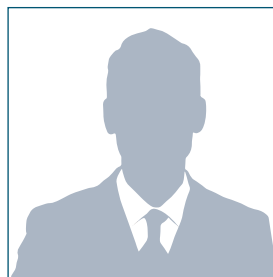


Board of Directors

The board consisted of:



Dr Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando
Executive Chairman



Prof. Richard Muscat
Vice Chairman



Dr Vince Micallef
Board Secretary



Ms Claudine Muscat



Dr Ivan Gatt



Mr David Degabriele



Prof. Janet Mifsud



Prof. Alfred J Vella



Dr Karen Mugliett



Dr Ing. John C. Betts



Mr Karl Herrera



Prof. Emmanuel Sinagra



Mr Robert Falzon



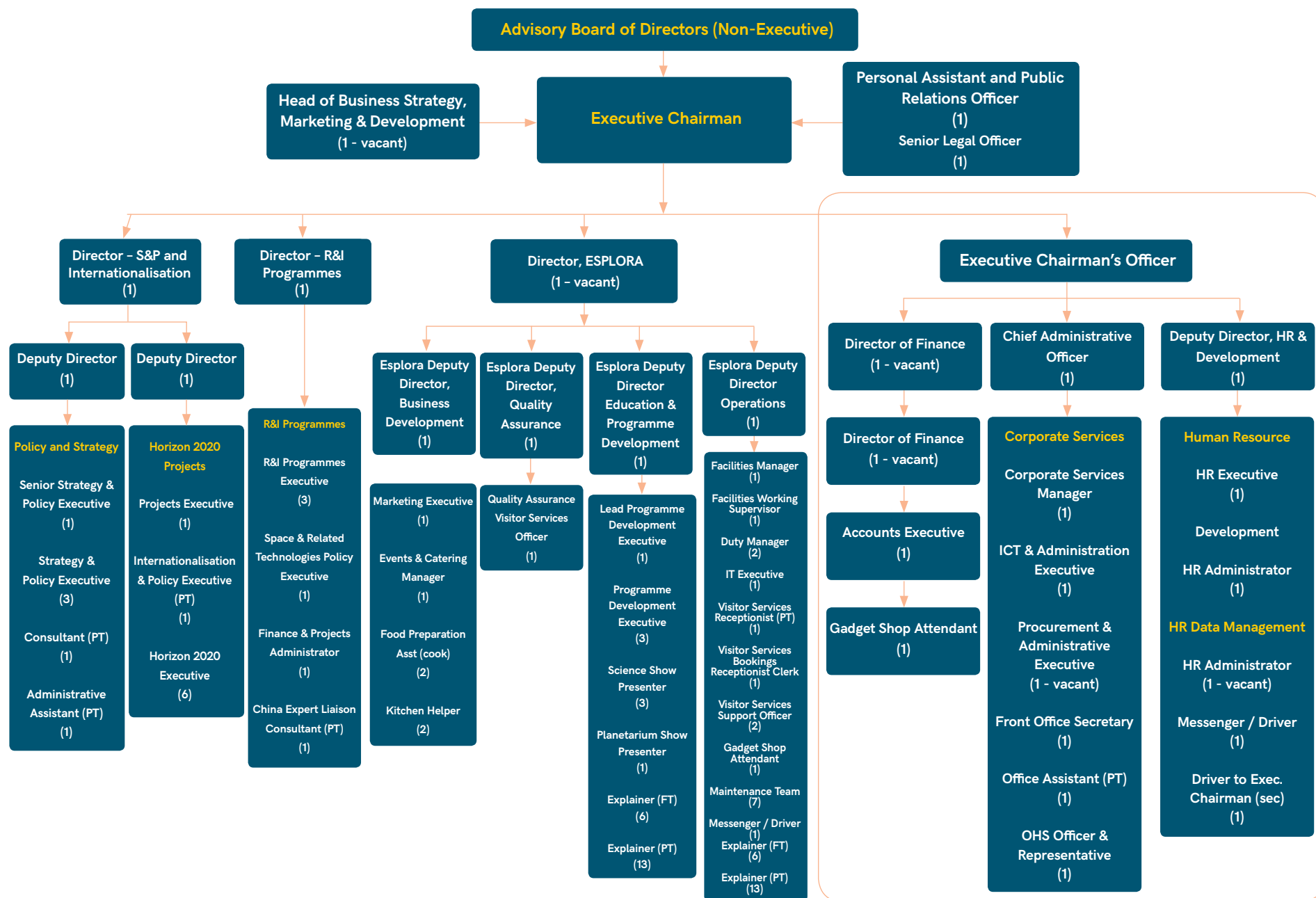
Prof. Maurice Grech



Dr Vincent Maione



Dr Kristian Zarb Adami





Policy Development

The team acts as a catalyst to bring together different entities working on related issues to ensure open dialogue, information exchange and, promote cooperation.

Policy, Strategy & Internationalisation Unit

DIRECTOR MS NADINE CASTILLO & DEPUTY DIRECTOR MS RAMONA SALIBA SCERRI

Policy, Strategy & Internationalisation Unit

The main function of the Policy, Strategy and Internationalisation team is to provide advice to Government on matters relating to research, innovation and space at both national, EU and international level. The team is responsible for championing the implementation of the new National R&I Strategy 2020, and ensuring that the principles of the Strategy are mirrored in other national policies and strategies to ensure a coordinated approach to policymaking across Government. In championing the Strategy's implementation, the team acts as a catalyst to bring together different entities working on related issues to ensure open dialogue, information exchange and promote cooperation. The team also represents Government in numerous EU-level fora and provides support and advice throughout the process of the development of a national position on EU matters concerning research, innovation and space throughout the whole negotiation process at EU level.

The National Research and Innovation Action Plan 2015 - 2020

The implementation of the National R&I Strategy 2020 will be achieved through the development of a rolling R&I Action Plan, which the Unit worked extensively on finalising in 2015. This complementary document has

identified specific measures to address the action lines in each of the three pillars of the R&I Strategy. The Action Plan, like the Strategy, is championed by MCST and is a national document which depends on the engagement of all entities and stakeholders to reduce the fragmentation in R&I and foster synergies. In 2015, MCST continued to provide support to the meetings of the Core Group and Steering Group, both of which are tasked with the prioritization and implementation of the R&I Action Plan. The Unit also focused on continuing consultations with ministries, public entities, industry and higher education institutions in order to further fine tune measures in the Action Plan.

MCST, in collaboration with the stakeholders, held focus groups in the relevant thematic areas to continue identifying Malta's core competences and competitive advantages. The preparation and refinement of the intervention logic behind each smart specialisation area helped strengthen the proposed measures.

In 2015 MCST also applied for specific tailored support from the Commission through the Policy Support Facility, and Malta was accepted as the first country to apply for such support. The Commission appointed two independent experts to assist MCST in developing the monitoring mechanism for the implementation

of the Strategy and Action Plan, as well as some key performance indicators for monitoring the measures in the Action Plan. Ongoing monitoring is essential to ensure that the Strategy is implemented effectively and that the measures are achieving the desired objectives. Through the Action Plan, the Policy, Strategy and Internationalisation Unit is contributing to the achievement of the 2020 targets set in the Strategy, including the target of 2% investment of GDP in R&D.

Policy Developments

During 2015, the Unit provided its input and advice to the development of the 2015 National Reform Programme for the achievement of the EU2020 objectives, and provided regular updates to the implementation of measures listed. The Unit also participated in the development of the European Research Area (ERA) Roadmap, and was part of the ad-hoc working group set up to select indicators for monitoring the six priorities of the roadmap. The Unit represented Malta during these discussions through several EU level fora, including the European Research Area and Innovation Committee. In 2016, MCST will coordinate the drafting of a National ERA Roadmap. To this end, the Unit has participated in workshops and attended mutual learning activities on a European level to prepare for this task. The Unit continued holding

its biannual meetings with Malta's delegates to the ERA-related groups. In this context, it also followed important developments with regard to Open Access and Open Science.

Work has continued in supporting Malta's participation in European R&I policy-making, mainly at the Research and Space Working Parties, COREPER and the Ministerial Competitiveness Council. In 2015, the main achievement was the adoption of Council Conclusions related to the ERA Roadmap, ERA governance, research integrity and gender equality. The Unit has also coordinated MCST's input to policy issues and strategies led by other entities which overlap with MCST's remit to ensure a synergistic approach in strategy and policy development at national level.

Analysis and Monitoring

Provisional EUROSTAT data is now available for 2014. The available data indicates a sustained increase in R&D expenditure in real terms, however when expressed as a percentage of GDP, Malta's figure has remained stable at 0.85% since 2012, following an increase in expenditure since 2010. The Figure opposite illustrates the latest figures for R&D expenditure in Malta by its different expenditure components: higher education (HERD), business (BERD) and government (GOVERD).

The Figure opposite shows the R&D expenditure trends over the period 2004 – 2014, a period of 10 years. The Gross R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP remained largely stable over the 2004 – 2009 period, averaging around 0.55%, but increased steadily from 2010 – 2012, and is currently stable at 0.85% (provisional data for 2014). This increase in R&D expenditure since 2010 is largely due to capital and recurrent expenditure increases in the higher

education sector, as well as improved data collection methodologies. Business expenditure, which accounts for roughly two thirds of the total R&D expenditure, and public sector expenditure have also increased in the past three years. Through the launch of the National R&I Strategy, and its implementation through the R&I Action Plan, R&D expenditure is expected to continue to increase with the aim of reaching the 2% R&D target by 2020.

Through the launch of the National R&I Strategy and its implementation through the R&I Action Plan, R&D expenditure is expected to continue to increase

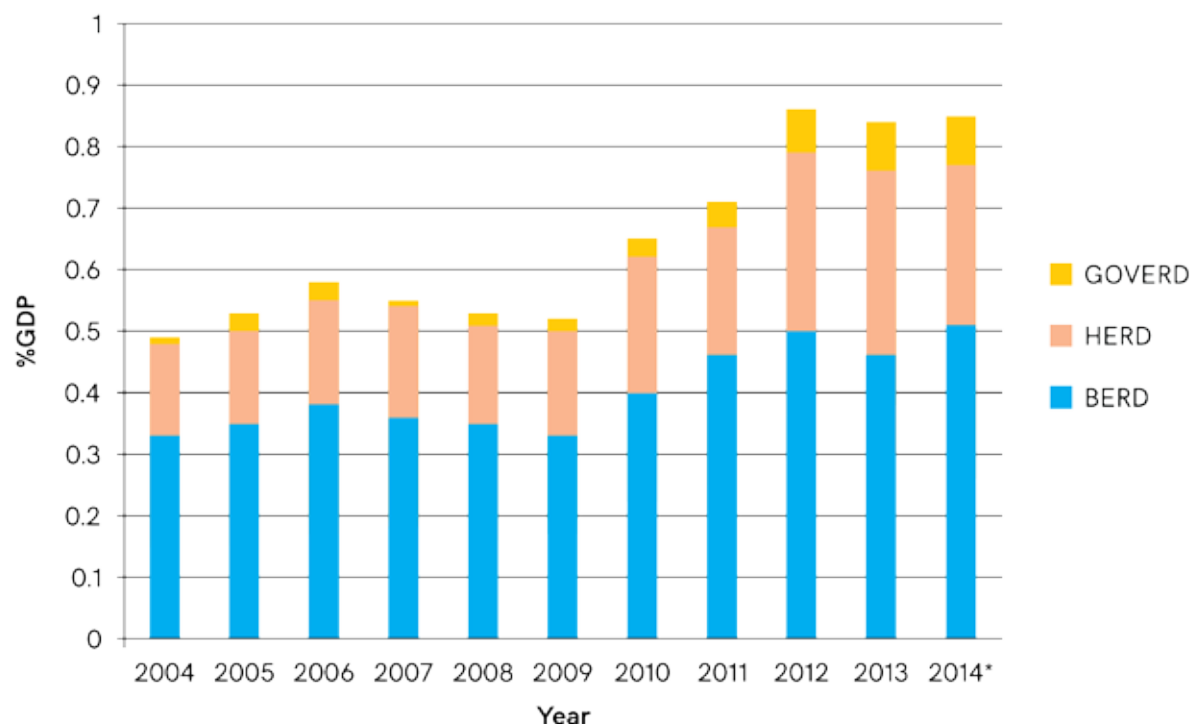


Figure: R&D Expenditure as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). *Provisional data available on EUROSTAT.



Preparations for Malta's Presidency in 2017

Throughout 2015, the Policy, Strategy and Internationalisation Unit was actively involved in the preparations for Malta's Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2017. The Unit formulated an action plan for its two research-related Presidency priorities: the 'Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area' (PRIMA) and streamlining of the R&I monitoring and reporting landscape. A number of meetings were held with the Ministry for Education and Employment as well as the Ministry for EU Affairs and Implementation of the Manifesto (MEAIM) to discuss developments in relation to the Presidency and ensure a coordinated way forward.

Internationalisation

Study on Internationalisation and the Internationalisation Partnership Awards Scheme 2015 (IPAS)

In the beginning of 2015, the 'The Review on Internationalisation Activity - Recommended Strategic Approach' was approved by the MCST Board. It contains an analysis of the opportunities and challenges offered by a number of EU-level initiatives, including Joint Undertakings, the European

Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), and others, as well as recommendations for taking forward future internationalisation activities. One of the recommendations presented in the review outlined the need for a study to be undertaken to explore the existing international partnerships in the academic setting, and the possible stumbling blocks to internationalisation among local researchers. The ultimate goal was to use the findings of this survey to design a tailor-made scheme that would offer opportunities for launching or strengthening transnational collaboration in research and innovation.

As intended, the Internationalisation Partnership Awards Scheme was developed with local researchers in mind and piloted in the summer of 2015. The scheme supported local academics to forge links with European centres of R&I excellence, through the creation of placements for local researchers, the organisation of workshops led by foreign experts in certain scientific fields, and collaborative work on proposals for third-party funding. Six proposers received an award and will be undertaking their activities in 2016.

Joint Programming Initiatives

In parallel to the promotion of bilateral partnerships between academic teams in Malta and across Europe, MCST also took on a more active role by participating in meetings of the Management Boards of two Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) - the JPI on Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans), and the JPI dedicated to Neurodegenerative Diseases (JPND). The aim of these JPIs is to coordinate research programming in specific thematic areas across EU countries. MCST's participation will hopefully result in future opportunities for local researchers to participate in joint calls for proposals that currently exhibit a better success rate than calls for transnational collaboration launched under Horizon 2020. In parallel to participating in two JPIs, the Policy, Strategy and Internationalisation Unit also continued to play an active role in the High-level Group on Joint Programming (the GPC), a policy forum that advises the Council of Ministers on matters related to JPIs.

Euro-Med Initiatives

2015 saw a number of developments in terms of Malta's participation in initiatives with a regional dimension and a specific focus on the Mediterranean.

The following are the most pertinent:

PRIMA

Further to the work undertaken on the PRIMA initiative in 2014, particularly the adoption of Council Conclusions in December 2014, the PRIMA consortium (of which Malta, through MCST, forms part) presented the PRIMA programme to the Commission in preparation for the launch of their Impact Assessment. The Impact Assessment will pave the way for the Commission to put forward a legislative package on PRIMA, which is currently foreseen for autumn 2016. Throughout 2015, The Unit continued to follow developments through the PRIMA General Assembly and was actively engaged in preparing a bid for a Coordination Support Action dedicated to PRIMA which is due to for submission in early 2016.

BlueMed

MCST continued to follow discussions on the BlueMed initiative, particularly through the provision of input to the BlueMed Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) which was adopted in July, 2015. Hon. Chris Agius, Parliamentary Secretary for Research,

Innovation, Youth and Sport, together with two officials from MCST and the Malta Tourism Authority attended the Ministerial Conference on BlueMed which was held in Venice in October 2015, paving the way for further collaboration within the Mediterranean region. MCST has been invited to join a consortium that intends to submit a proposal for a Coordination Support Action in early 2016. MCST hopes to take on the role of a work package leader or co-leader within this Consortium.

The Fusion for Energy Joint Undertaking (F4E) & ITER

MCST continued to follow closely the discussions on ITER and the F4E, particularly with respect to the budgetary and procurement issues. Malta, through MCST, was present for the selection of the new Director of F4E at an extraordinary meeting of the Governing Board in 2015.

France-Malta Scholarships

Throughout 2015, MCST continued its collaboration with the University of Malta, the French embassy, and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in supporting four students to undertake short-term research placements at French institutions.



Research and Innovation Programmes Unit

DIRECTOR DR ING JAMES FODEN

FUSION

Commercialisation Voucher Programme and Technology Development Programme

The Commercialisation Voucher Programme is aimed at improving the development and commercialisation potential of innovative research ideas. The Programme is the precursor to the Technology Development Programme. Following a scientific opinion evaluation by independent experts, a total of 23 FUSION Commercialisation Voucher Programme projects were successfully funded through two open calls in 2015. These proceeded through 2015 requesting a total of almost €400,000 in funding for the duration of the projects. These proposals targeted 8 key areas: ICT, Health, Resource Efficient Buildings, High Value-Added Manufacturing, Aviation & Aerospace, Tourism Product Development, Maritime and Aquaculture. The following table portrays a breakdown of submissions.

Following the successful completion of the projects under the Commercialisation Voucher Programme in 2014 and the first call within 2015, 7 projects

were awarded funding for the Technology Development Programme during 2015. A total national funding of almost €1.4 million were committed to these projects, some of which will run into the beginning of 2018.

Between 2004 and 2015 inclusive, 80 proposals were accepted for funding, requesting a total commitment of approximately €10.4 million. A comprehensive list of these projects, indicating their progress and status, is provided in the subsequent pages. There were no calls in 2005 and 2007 and there were no closed calls in 2014 due to the dependency of the Commercialisation Voucher Programme.

A full account of Technology Development projects that were completed within 2015, or were ongoing, have been presented in the relevant table. Projects that had been completed prior to 2015 have been removed from this table and these can be viewed on the Council's website.

SHORTLISTED PROPOSALS BY SECTOR	NUMBER OF PROPOSALS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SUBMISSION
ICT	14	26%
Health	9	17%
Resource Efficient Buildings	7	13%
High Value-Added Manufacturing	8	15%
Aviation & Aerospace	8	15%
Tourism Product Development	2	4%
Maritime	2	4%
Aquaculture	1	2%
Other	2	4%

PROJECT NO	PROJECT NAME	STAGE	CONTACT PERSON
R&I-2014-001T	Melissa Medi	Initial	Dr Suzanne Wolfe Martin , Melissa Medi Ltd.
R&I-2014-026T	Innovative Solvent Recycling Technology	Initial	Dr Stefan Mohnani , Universal Import & Export Ltd.
R&I-2014-027T	Innovative High Power LED Luminaires for Sports Applications	Initial	Ms Diane Cassar, Altern Ltd.
R&I-2014-028T	Field Trials for Ultrawideband Antenna	Intermediate	Dr Kristian Zarb Adami, UoM
R&I-2015-001T	Studies of the Effects of Aspirin on Metabolism and Programmed Cell Death in Redox Compromised Yeast Cells	Intermediate	Prof.Rena Balzan, UoM
R&I-2015-015T	Advanced Aircraft-Pilot Interaction with Emerging Technologies	Initial	Prof. Ing. David Zammit Mangion, UoM
R&I-2015-024T	Multi Camera High Frame Rate Synchronisation	Initial	Dr Ing. Marc Anthony Azzopardi, UoM

ARIMNet2 – Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean Area

Mediterranean countries face common problems in agriculture and food security, and such issues need to be identified and addressed through a stronger scientific cooperation between countries in the Mediterranean area.

The ARIMNet2 project is a network of funding organisations and national research institutions that promote the coordination of national research activities and identify joint research programmes to fight fragmentation and exploit synergies.

The Malta Council for Science and Technology is a partner in this project together with another 23 partners from Northern, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. It supports collaborative interdisciplinary projects based on complementarities between scientists, disciplines and countries.

ARIMNet2 also identifies scientific priorities for researchers to work on a variety of transnational research projects that contribute to address societal challenges related to food, rural development, water and natural resources that Mediterranean countries are facing today.

MCST participated in the 1st call launched by ARIMNET2 with a committed budget of €50,000 to help support local researchers to cover travel expenses to aid participation in these projects. However, projects with Maltese partners were unsuccessful in being selected for funding from the first Call. MCST will actively participate in Call 2 for which discussions on research topics to be funded will be held in early 2016 and should be launched by mid-2016. Malta will be committing a budget of €39,000 to fund a research project within Call 2 of ARIMNET2. MCST will also support a young researcher to participate in a summer school which is

being organised by the ARIMNET2 partners between 30th May and 4th June 2016 at CIHEAM-IAM Montpellier. The Summer School will focus on the Science – Society challenge: **"How to better involve the end-users throughout the research process to foster innovation driven research for sustainable Mediterranean Agriculture at farm and local scale"**.

ARIMNET2 is also organising a two-day international conference to bring together funding agencies, researchers and stakeholders to identify priorities to foster and improve the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in the Mediterranean. MCST will also be supporting selected individuals to participate in the Conference to be held between 12th to 13th October 2016 in Antalya, Turkey.

ARIMNet2 is an ERA-NET project that is funded by the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and will run from 2014 to 2017.

ERA-NET-MED – Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through ERA-NET Joint Activities and beyond

ERA-NET-MED aims to enhance Euro-Mediterranean co-ownership through innovation and competitive research in the societal challenges faced by the region. The project works to reduce the fragmentation of programming by increasing coordination among national research programmes of European Member States, Associated Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). This project is also seen as a prelude to a longer and more stable cooperation among Mediterranean partners. The Malta Council for Science and Technology is a partner together with another 22 Mediterranean partners and acts as the local Managing Authority.

ERA-NET-MED goals include:

- Establishing a framework for communication and coordination of programme owners and managers related to science and technology cooperation from Europe and Mediterranean Partner Countries;
- Strengthening the Euro-Mediterranean Research and Innovation cooperation and promoting joint activities;
- Developing joint funding schemes and procedures between partners;
- Supporting long-term and stable Euro-Mediterranean cooperation;
- Strengthening MCPs capacities to enhance research and innovation and increase the impact of research on the socio-economic development of the region.

MCST participated in the 1st Call launched by the ERANET-MED with a contribution of €400,000 specifically earmarked to support local researchers. A number of applications were received from Maltese researchers and 2 projects with a total of 3 Maltese

partners were officially selected and will be funded through this call. A total budget of €300,000 was requested from the Maltese partners of these 2 projects. The projects are expected to start in mid to late 2016 with a 3 year duration. During 2015, MCST also participated in discussions leading towards the launch of a 2nd Call for ERANETMED. This call is expected to be launched later on in 2016 for which Malta has committed a budget of €150,000. The ERANETMED Call 2 will be somewhat discontinuous from the first call while addressing the important challenges of the region. The call will focus on environmental pressure and risk on vulnerable communities and their local resources like water, food and energy.

Lab4MEMS

Lab4MEMS was a Research and Development (R&D) project funded by the European Community under the ENIAC Nanoelectronics Framework. It aimed at establishing a European Pilot Line for key enabling technologies on advanced piezoelectric and magnetic materials, including advanced 3D Packaging technologies.

The Pilot Line aimed to reinforce the manufacturing facilities currently located in each respective participating country, as well as implement and optimise industrial processes and validate the supply chains and demonstrators that were suitable to penetrate the market. The main industrial Pilot Line is located in STMicroelectronics in Italy and Malta and is well supported by R&D Centres such as the University of Malta, SMEs and Research Labs distributed among the 9 European countries of the consortia. This streams the whole manufacturing chain from front-end to back-end.

The project started in January 2013 and was successfully completed in December 2015. The Malta Council for Science and Technology was the Managing Authority and disbursed National Funds to support this Project.

Lab4MEMSII

Lab4MEMSII is an R&D project funded by the European Community under the ENIAC Joint Undertaking, now forming part of ECSEL Joint Undertaking, focusing on the design, fabrication and characterisation of Micro-Optical-Electro-Mechanical Sensors (MOEMS). These devices, for example the pico-projector micro-mirror, enjoy various applications such as mobile phones, laptops and cameras.

The project is worth some €24 million with the coordinators being Okmetic Oyj (Finland). The University of Malta forms part of the 19 European partners participating in the project. The project will run from 2014 to 2017. The Malta Council for Science and Technology is the Managing Authority responsible for administering the project from a national level and it also disburses national funds to the University of Malta.

Space and Related Technologies

Following the Cooperation Agreement which Malta signed with the European Space Agency (ESA) on 20th February 2012, the Malta Council for Science and Technology maintained an active attendance to ESA Council meetings and other fora as the National Contact Organisation for ESA. The Council also represents national interests through Malta's Observer status with ESA. Through its motivation to pursue relevant opportunities with ESA, in October 2015 the Malta Council for Science and Technology

organised a Technical Visit in Malta during which an esteemed number of Maltese SMEs and public institutions were interviewed by ESA experts. The objectives of the visit were two-fold: to facilitate the identification of areas that a national space strategy should specifically address and to help map the existing local capabilities or potential in contributing to such areas.

As a result of becoming a member of Eurisy, an association of space agencies that raises awareness of emerging satellite applications, in November 2015 the Council co-organized the 'Satellite Solutions for Smarter Island Conference' in Malta. With the participation of high profile entities, such as ESA, the European GNSS Agency and the Space Policy Directorate of the European Commission, the one-day conference discussed how island economies can leverage Europe's investments in satellite services to boost their economy and live up to current challenges. Case studies from private and public sectors exhibited the potential of satellite applications in various sectors such as tourism, transport and maritime. The conference was very well attended with over 100 participants converging from some ten countries. During the conference, the Council in collaboration with the Malta Information and Technology Agency and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority launched the 'Satellite Solutions for Smarter Islands App Challenge' and invited competitors to think of creative ideas for apps that help solve environmental and socio-economic challenges in Malta. As a follow up to the conference, this aimed at raising awareness about the potential of exploiting open data, including European satellite datasets over Malta, for the benefit of Maltese citizens.

As part of the continued effort to achieving a critical mass of knowledge within the sector, the Council also issued an open call for applications for a one-year ESA International Research Fellowship. Following an interview process, a candidate was selected for sponsorship. The candidate will be based in the ESA Directorate of Science and Robotic Exploration.

TEMARA

TEMARA (Teaming to Extend Maltese Ambitions in the Aerospace Sector) and the MCST role in the project

The National Aerospace Centre (NAC) has been legally constituted as a Government Agency by Legal Notice (LN68/2014) published in 2014. The NAC is intended to act as a technically excellent, business-driven, economically viable entity, operating as a Centre of Excellence in Aerospace Research Development and Innovation (RDI) in strategic technology areas of value to national industry and European competitiveness.

In order to promote the establishment of the NAC as a Centre of Excellence, the Government has concluded that teaming of the NAC with a leading world-class institution of research and innovation excellence in aerospace would be essential. The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 also calls for such cooperation between member states entities in its "Teaming action" under "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation".

In this context, TEMARA is a teaming project, co-financed through Horizon 2020, initiated in 2015 between the Nederlands Lucht- en Ruimtevaartcentrum (NLR) - Netherlands Aerospace Centre and the Government of Malta through the Ministry for Tourism (responsible for aviation). This project also includes the

Malta Council for Science and Technology, providing contributions in the development of the Business Plan associated with establishing the NAC as a Centre of Excellence. The project started 1 June 2015. The project's first phase concludes on 31 May 2016 with the delivering of a Business Plan for the first 5-7 years of the NAC operations.

COST

COST, European Cooperation in Science and Technology, is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology that facilitates the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level. The programme contributes to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities by connecting high-quality scientific communities in Europe and worldwide, providing networking opportunities for Early Stage Researchers (ESR) and increasing research impact on policy makers, regulatory bodies and national decision makers as well as on the private sector. Malta, through the Malta Council for Science and Technology, has been a member of COST since 1997 and has participated in over 235 COST Actions to date.

In 2015, researchers based in Malta joined 40 new COST actions. In addition, more than 300 researchers based in Malta have benefitted from COST participation in various areas. Furthermore, over 300 researchers based in Malta have benefitted from COST participation in various areas. Key contributions include improving health and social care standards for migrants and ethnic minorities in Europe, reducing carbon through improved design and the management of urban buildings, design of new solar panels for energy, literacy, and the improvement of water quality. In 2015, 15 COST-related meetings were organised in Malta.

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The JRC provides the Commission with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support on EU policy and collaborates with over a thousand organisations worldwide whose scientists have access to many JRC facilities through various collaboration agreements. Supported by the Council's efforts, the JRC has collaborated with our national authorities, academia and industry on 12 scientific networks, 3 Framework Programme Projects (2 FP7, 1 H2020) and 3 Collaboration agreements.

In May 2015, the Council, in collaboration with the JRC, organised an information seminar at Villa Bighi which targeted the research community. The seminar, addressed by Prof. Emmanuel Sinagra (Malta's representative on the JRC Board of Governors) and

Moritz Haller (NCP Coordinator) in addition to other presenters currently working on various initiatives with the JRC, gave academics, researchers, industry players and students an insight about ongoing collaborations between Malta and the JRC, job and training opportunities and information on access to JRC research infrastructure facilities.

International Cooperation

The Governments of Malta and China agreed in the MoU on a **Medium-Term Cooperation Plan (2014-2019)**, signed in July 2014, to re-activate a 2002 bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. MCST and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) in Beijing, were mentioned as the designated implementing agencies for the cooperation. In fact, the first Joint Commission

meeting between MCST and MoST was held in Malta in August 2015. An MoU between MCST and MoST outlining the consideration to the proposal of a **Malta-China Joint Research Laboratory in Aquaculture** ("Joint Research Laboratory") was signed by the two parties. During MoST's visit to Malta, MCST introduced the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC) as the local party that would undertake the research. A cooperation agreement was then pursued whereby MSDEC and a Chinese entity appointed through MoST, would collaborate through a two-stage project involving firstly desktop research activities on closed-cycle farming and hatcheries, followed by a possible stage two which would see the development of a joint lab between the two entities in Malta.



2010 Table 1: R&I 2015 TDP projects list with legacy projects that continued in 2015

PROJECT NO	PROJECT NAME	STAGE	CONTACT PERSON
R&I-2010-030	Molecular Characterization and Authentication of Maltese Honey	Complete	Dr Everaldo Attard, UoM
R&I-2010-038	No-discharge Energy-efficient Prototype for Treatment of Urban Municipal Effluent (for water self-sufficiency in Public Gardens)	Complete	Mr Alberto Miceli Farrugia, Architecture Project Ltd

2011 Table 2: R&I 2015 TDP projects list with legacy projects that continued in 2015

PROJECT NO	PROJECT NAME	STAGE	CONTACT PERSON
R&I-2011-010	Digital Gaming Clouds for Mobile Users	Complete	Dr Ing. Saviour Zammit, UoM

2012 Table 3: R&I 2015 TDP projects list with legacy projects that continued in 2015

PROJECT NO	PROJECT NAME	STAGE	CONTACT PERSON
R&I-2012-002	Exploiting Multi-Material Micro Injection Moulding for Enhancing Manufacturing Competitiveness	Complete	Dr Philip Farrugia, UoM
R&I-2012-024	"Harnessing and Maximising the Potential of Next Generation Sequencing Technology "	Final	Dr Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger, UoM
R&I-2012-041	Innovative photovoltaics on water (SolAqua)	Final	Prof. Luciano Mule Stagno, UoM
R&I-2012-057	Robust, Cost-effective Eye Gaze Technology for Assisted Communication	Complete	Prof Kenneth P.Camilleri, UoM
&I-2012-058	Development of a Hollow Concrete Block with improved thermal properties, having same dimensions and load bearing characteristics as the traditional HCB.	Complete	"Charlon Grima, Galeacurmi Engineering Consultants ltd"
R&I-2012-0061	Improved Meshing Designs for Skin Grafting	Complete	Dr Ruben Cauchi, UoM
R&I-2012-065	Advanced flight guidance and management using emerging interactive display technologies	Closed	David Zammit Mangion, UoM
R&I-2012-066	In vivo drug discovery targeting mitochondria in animal models of Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease and Diabetes Mellitus	Final	Dr Ruben Cauchi, UoM

2013 Table 4: R&I 2015 TDP projects list with legacy projects that continued in 2015

PROJECT NO	PROJECT NAME	STAGE	CONTACT PERSON
R&I-2013-008	Generating Online Monitors from Tests Automatically	Intermediate	Dr Christian Colombo, Mr Adrian Mizzi
R&I-2013-014	Closed-loop Serotonin Optogenetic Stimulation with EEG recording to Suppress Epileptic Seizures: A Therapeutic Device	Intermediate	Prof Giuseppe Di Giovanni
R&I-2013-023	Offshore Passive Photovoltaics	Intermediate	Ing. Ray Vassallo
R&I-2013-025	CLEAN-FLIGHT 2	Intermediate	Dr Kenneth Chircop
R&I-2013-028	Thermal Imaging for Peripheral Vascular Disease Monitoring in Diabetics	Intermediate	Dr Owen Falzon
R&I-2013-039	Development of a framework to put human-machine interfaces (HMI) in the cloud	Intermediate	Mr Christopher Spiteri
R&I-2013-041	Malta Human Genome Project	Intermediate	Prof. Alex Felice
R&I-2013-042	Situation Awareness and Guidance for RPAS Operations	Intermediate	Mr Roger Archer

2015 Table 5: R&I 2015 TDP projects list with legacy projects that continued in 2015

PROJECT NO	PROJECT NAME	STAGE	CONTACT PERSON
R&I-2014-001T	Melissa Medi	Initial	Dr Suzanne Wolfe Martin , Melissa Medi Ltd.
R&I-2014-026T	Innovative Solvent Recycling Technology	Initial	Dr Stefan Mohnani , Universal Import & Export Ltd.
R&I-2014-027T	Innovative High Power LED Luminaires for Sports Applications	Initial	MsDiane Cassar, Altern Ltd.
R&I-2014-028T	Field Trials for Ultrawideband Antenna	Intermediate	Dr Kristian Zarb Adami, UoM
R&I-2015-001T	Studies of the Effects of Aspirin on Metabolism and Programmed Cell Death in Redox Compromised Yeast Cells	Intermediate	Prof.Rena Balzan, UoM
R&I-2015-015T	Advanced Aircraft-Pilot Interaction with Emerging Technologies	Initial	Prof. Ing. David Zammit Mangion, UoM
R&I-2015-024T	Multi Camera High Frame Rate Synchronisation	Initial	Dr Ing. Marc Anthony Azzopardi, UoM
R&I-2012-066	In vivo drug discovery targeting mitochondria in animal models of Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease and Diabetes Mellitus	Final	Dr Ruben Cauchi, UoM

2015 Table 6: R&I CVP 2015 Report Table with Funded Projects

VOUCHER NUMBER	CLIENT NAME	ORGANISATION	STATUS
VCR 2014-001	Mr Ray Sciberras	Golden Island, Melissa Research Institute Ltd	Fusion technology development programme
VCR 2014-002	Mr Eric Flask	Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology	Exited
VCR-2014-003	Dr Ing. Marco Cremona	Marco Cremona	Completed
VCR-2014-005	Mr Joseph Paul Portelli	Skoperta Ltd	Exited
VCR-2014-008	Mr Luke Satariano	MCL Components Limited	Exited
VCR-2014-018	Mr Albert Zerafa	Sea Island Projects Ltd	Exited
VCR-2014-019	Mr Edward Borg	Vreite Ltd	Exited
VCR-2014-024	Mr Ray Vassallo	Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology	Completed
VCR-2014-025	Mr Harold Felice	Avantech Ltd	Completed
VCR-2014-026	Dr Stefan Mohnani	Universal Import and Export Limited	Fusion technology development programme
VCR-2014-027	Mr Mathew Spiteri	Altern Ltd	Fusion technology development programme
VCR-2014-028	Prof. Kristian Zarb Adami	University of Malta	Fusion technology development programme
R&I-2015-003-V	Mr Charles Azzopardi	AJD Tuna Ltd	Exited
R&I-2015-007-V	Mr Ruben Cuschieri	Seifert Ltd	Completed
R&I-2015-015-V	Prof. Ing. David Zammit Mangion	University of Malta	Fusion technology development programme
R&I-2015-016-V	Prof. Ing. David Zammit Mangion	University of Malta	Completed
R&I-2015-019-V	Dr Alex Rizzo	Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology	Ongoing
R&I-2015-021-V	Dr David Magri	University of Malta	Completed
R&I-2015-023-V	Dr Pierre Schembri Wismayer	University of Malta	Completed
R&I-2015-024-V	Dr Ing. Marc Anthony Azzopardi	University of Malta	Fusion technology development programme

VOUCHER NUMBER	CLIENT NAME	ORGANISATION	STATUS
R&I-2015-032-V	Prof. Kenneth P. Camilleri	University of Malta	Ongoing
R&I-2015-035-V	Mr Chris Falzon	Integrated Project Solutions Ltd	Ongoing
R&I-2015-036-V	Mr Paul Dalli	Celier Aviation Ltd	Ongoing
R&I-2015-037-V	Mr Paul Dalli	Celier	Ongoing
R&I-2015-038-V	Dr Alex Rizzo	MCAST	Ongoing
R&I-2015-039-V	Dr Pierre Schembri Wismayer	Wiza R&D	Ongoing
R&I-2015-042-V	Dr Philip Farrugia	University of Malta	Ongoing
R&I-2015-043-V	Dr Kenneth Chircop	University of Malta	Ongoing
R&I-2015-044-V	Prof. Tonio Sant	University of Malta	Ongoing
R&I-2015-045-V	Dr Adrian Attard Trevisan	AAT Medical Ltd	Ongoing
R&I-2015-047-V	Prof. Joseph Cilia	University of Malta	Ongoing
R&I-2015-048-V	Dr Owen Falzon	University of Malta	Ongoing
R&I-2015-049-V	Dr Pierre Schembri Wismayer	University of Malta	Exited
R&I-2015-050-V	Mr Claude Vella Bonnano	University of Malta	Ongoing
R&I-2015-052-V	Dr Brian Azzopardi	MCAST	Ongoing



Research and innovation in mind

Horizon 2020 aims to contribute to the creation of growth and jobs in Europe in response to the economic crisis and to address people's concerns about their livelihoods, safety and environment.

Horizon 2020 Unit

DIRECTOR MS NADINE CASTILLO & DEPUTY DIRECTOR MS ANTHEA FABRI

The Council, via the Horizon 2020 Unit, is the National Contact Point Organisation for Horizon 2020 (H2020), the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

Horizon 2020 is the largest EU Research and Innovation funding programme, with nearly €80 billion of funding available over a period of 7 years (2014 - 2020), in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. H2020 aims to contribute to the creation of growth and jobs in Europe in response to the economic crisis and to address people's concerns about their livelihoods, safety and environment. In turn, this will strengthen the EU's global position in research, innovation and technology.

The Programme is built around three main pillars comprising of numerous topics and calls: Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges. The current H2020 Work Programme (2016-2017) comprises 18 thematic sections and is complemented by the separate work programmes for the European Research Council (ERC), Euratom, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Strategic Innovation Agenda for the European Institute of

Innovation and Technology (EIT). Horizon 2020 is open to everyone from individual researchers to public and private entities including SMEs, to NGOs and universities and research centres. The Programme has also been simplified in relation to the previous framework programme (FP7) to allow participants to focus on what is really important, while ensuring that new excellent projects kick off quickly and achieve results faster.

The Horizon 2020 team, comprising of both National Contact Points (NCP) and Programme Committee Members (PCM), strives to highlight the importance for Maltese entities to actively participate in high priority EU projects in partnership with foreign entities. The team collects data on Maltese participation to monitor progress in research, development and innovation in the various fields, and to be in a better position to offer the best advice possible to prospective participants. NCPs and PCMs are also a necessary tool to voice Malta's position on current issues.

In 2015, MCST's role further extended to represent the programme on steering committees and panel discussions via the Innovation Leaders project,

funded by the European Social Fund 2007-2013 and managed by the Malta Business Bureau (MBB). The project aimed at building and strengthening the operational capacity within enterprise to tap into direct EU funding. The Unit offered guidance and assistance on matters pertaining to Horizon 2020 in order to contribute to converting project ideas developed by future leaders into reality. The Council's close working relationship with MBB and other entities is foreseen to be strengthened in the coming year via the establishment of EU funding events, workshops and info sessions on Horizon 2020 and other programmes alike.

The Horizon 2020 team provides guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in H2020 to individuals and organisations alike, including:

- Guidance on identifying relevant H2020 topics and types of action;
- Advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues;
- Training and assistance on proposal writing;
- Distribution of documentation;
- Dissemination and exploitation activities through regular info days, seminars, dissemination events and

workshops are a core focus of the team in ensuring concrete field action at national level. In this regard, a series of informative sessions is planned for 2016 and these will address important aspects including innovation, proposal writing, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, and other sessions dedicated to specific H2020 areas. The sessions are expected to assist prospective applicants to become more familiar with the specificities of the programme. The sessions will be led by experts in the relative fields and are planned to be spread over the whole year.

Following a year of uncertainties and changes with regards to the Programme's ownership, the Horizon 2020 Unit embarked on a mission to reach out to as many new comers to the programme as possible. Emphasis was also placed on attracting SMEs and all other academic and industry-oriented potential applicants. This was made possible via numerous one-to-one meetings, presentations, participation in bilateral visits and above all, thorough assistance via e-mail and phone calls as per day-to-day practice. Some of the entities that benefited from such tailor-made services include WasteServ, the University of Malta, Mater Dei, Young Business Entrepreneurs, Malta Communications Authority (MCA), Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency (MIEMA), the Funds and Programmes Division (FPD) and Europe Direct.

Additionally, members of the team were also present during the Eurisy conference "Satellite Solutions for Smarter Islands" held at Le Meridien St. Julians Hotel and Spa on the 12th November 2015, where a presentation on the thematic area of 'Space' was presented in line with the nature of the conference so as to promote further research, development and innovation within this field.

During one-to-one meetings and other tailor-made presentations with potential stakeholders, the promotion of the work carried out by the other units within MCST has also been endorsed and recommended when potential co-operation was foreseen.

It is to be mentioned that liaison between the various units within MCST is of significant importance for a deepened nation-wide understanding of the important role of Science and Technology in today's dynamic lifestyle. Throughout the years, the notion of strong cross-sectoral collaboration has further safeguarded the opportunities and best interests of the local research community, not only at the local level but also at an international one. In 2015, the Horizon 2020 Unit teamed up with the R&I Programmes Unit, responsible for the local research and innovation programme, **Fusion** and with the Policy and Strategy Unit, responsible for the **Smart Specialisation Strategy**. This relationship has not only enriched the networking scenario at the local level, but has also propelled the strategic lobbying mechanisms set in place to secure funding from the European Commission for the upcoming Presidency Events that are to be held in 2017.

The H2020 Unit has also provided support to the R&I Programmes Unit on various aspects of TEMARA, a H2020 Teaming project with the Netherlands Aerospace Centre (NLR) that aims to develop the basis for the setting up of the National Aerospace Centre (NAC). The Ministry of Tourism is coordinating the project.

EURAXESS Top III and EURAXESS Portal

Furthermore, in 2015, the Unit embarked on a new project called **Making European research careers more attractive by developing new services and enhancing the current services of the EURAXESS network** -

The University of Malta is the top participant in Horizon 2020 projects with 12 signed grant agreements

EURAXESS TOPIII. This project which is composed of partners from 39 countries altogether, is aimed at significantly contributing to matching research talents with R&I needs and capacity on a European scale and helping the circulation of researchers within Europe and among sectors. In addition to this, the already existing EURAXESS national portals throughout the EURAXESS member countries, will offer tailor made information in line with Horizon 2020 objectives on making science careers attractive for researchers, especially young researchers. To this end, throughout 2015, this Unit succeeded not only in establishing advantageous relationships with further Euraxess member states via conferences and trainings, but to also revamp the national portal. The latter consisted of updating all content, amending the portal's functionality to better suit the needs of the researchers and to create a stronger link, to and from the European Commission's web portal.

PluMTRI

In 2015, the Malta Council for Science and Technology successfully deployed the Platform for Maltese Research and Innovation (PluMTRI), a web-based National Portal for Research and Innovation aimed

at showcasing local talent, facilitating knowledge sharing, networking as well as acting as a Single Point of Contact in the fields of career prospects, funding opportunities as well as disseminating up-to-date news related to R&I. Throughout 2016, the focus will be on dissemination and to populate the Portal to maximise its use and potential for the benefit of Maltese researchers located in Malta and abroad.

Enterprise Europe Network

The team's involvement in the Europe Enterprise Network (EEN) as from 1 January 2015 proved fruitful through greater outreach to local SMEs in a combined effort with its project partners Malta Enterprise, Malta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Malta Business Bureau. Through the extensive network of SMEs, forming the backbone of the local and European economy, the team acquired a tool and an approach to provide more comprehensive information, covering opportunities relating to growth and development available through all partner organisations involved. EEN focuses on the growth of local SMEs through cross-border collaboration, and on the enhancement of their innovation capacity and their innovation management capacity through a dedicated tailor-made service funded by the European Commission. The project is funded through COSME and H2020. The current project cycle will run up to the end of 2016.

IMaGenX

The H2020 Unit handled the final phase of MCST's role as part of the IMaGenX project, funded by the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 programme. The project sought to achieve advancements in breast cancer research through the introduction of state-of-the-art technologies and the rationalisation of

traditional resources from regional bodies in Sicily and Malta. The H2020 Unit was responsible for the organisation of an international scientific conference held on 9th and 10th July 2015, where a number of key international speakers were invited. The team also took the initiative to produce two short educational videos with the aim to raise awareness on the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle and on the process of breast self-examination. The project came to an end in September 2015.

SuWaNu

SuWaNu, funded through FP7, is a project dealing with sustainable water treatment and nutrient reuse options that came to an end in December of 2015. The H2020 Unit handled MCST's tasks, mainly dissemination, during the last two quarters of the project. The team helped achieve the relevant project targets and participated in a workshop entitled "Reuse Solutions in the Water Sector" on 21 August 2015.

Horizon 2020 Statistics

By the end of December 2015, 301 Horizon 2020 applications have been submitted with the involvement of Maltese entities. Of these, 30 projects with 40 Maltese participants have been retained for funding. The total EC contribution to Maltese entities amount to approximately €3.5 million. Approximately €890,000 of the EC contribution is going to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The funding received is spread as seen in the table below.

The University of Malta is the top participant in Horizon 2020 projects with 12 signed grant agreements, acting as coordinator in one of these projects. The Ministry of Tourism is also coordinating a Horizon 2020 project and Malta Enterprise is coordinating 2 projects.

PILLAR	FUNDING RECEIVED
Excellent Science	€ 707,500
Industrial Leadership	€ 352,759
Societal Challenges	€ 1,655,537
Spreading Excellence & Widening Participation	€ 242,843
Science with & for Society	€ 510,693
Cross-Theme	€ 14,043
Total	€ 3,483,375



A taster of what Esplora will offer

MCST participated in 'Science in the City' with a colourful programme of performances and activities, bringing to the public a taster of what Esplora will offer. The programme prepared by MCST was one of the most popular at the event, drawing a sizeable audience in the square in front of the new Parliament Building in Valletta.

Esplora Unit

DIRECTOR JEFFREY PULLICINO ORLANDO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR ELTON MICALLEF,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RACHAEL BLACKBURN & DEPUTY DIRECTOR NIGEL PACE ASCIAK

ERDF 311 National Interactive Science Centre – Project Implementation

This year has been marked with the achievement of major milestones in the implementation of the ERDF 311 National Interactive Science Centre. This project is being led by MCST and is part financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The allocated funds for 2015 were disbursed as per grant agreement, and additional EU funding was awarded and disbursed by December 2015.

Restoration and civil works on the historic buildings were completed. Mechanical and electrical works progressed well throughout the year and the landscaping works also started to take shape. A parking area was built in the vicinity to support the increased need for car parking spaces, once the Science Centre opens.

The year saw the design, fabrication and installation of the majority of interactive exhibits inside the buildings. The Main Exhibition Hall and Basement Rooms 'Little Esploras' were completed and the exhibits were almost fully installed in their final places. The Cot Lift Exhibition 'Life at Bighi' was completely installed and signed off. The water exhibits and large scale

exhibits for the Outdoor Science Experience were manufactured and prepared for delivery in early 2016. The supporting graphics and label text content for all the exhibition areas were also completed.

Throughout the course of the year, a number of contracts were awarded, namely: audio visual equipment for the Activity Centre; science related art pieces; marketing services; IT equipment; electronic point of sale; graphic design and supply of signage; supply of science show scripts and training and the modular performance stage. By the end of the year, a call for quotations for the supply of vehicles and a tender for security services were issued.

The remaining tenders required for Esplora operations were initiated, including: carrying out the market research and drafting of the first aid equipment; maintenance tools and equipment; general laboratory equipment for the Activity Centre; cleaning services and staff uniform tenders.

Communications

Our brand came to life this year, we have taken every opportunity to expose the Esplora brand across media. We were present at public events reaching out to the

general public. Our audiences can already identify with the name, logo, website and are starting to get a taste of what Esplora will be like. We had a strong media presence, through the production of a television advert in English and Maltese. The advert was aired on Television Malta during prominent shows such as the Junior Eurovision, and popular football shows such as the Champions League, the UEFA 2016 Qualifiers and the Europa League. The advert was also screened at the Joseph Calleja Concert in summer.

One of the more prominent events was definitely the presentation about Esplora to Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II by MCST's Executive Chairman Dr Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando and one of the Esplora team members. The Queen was interested in the project and she was very excited to know that Esplora will be having its own planetarium. The event was broadcast live on national television.

Another important milestone was the awarding of the marketing contract. The deliverables of this contract will be rolled out throughout the opening phase of the Centre. Through this contract a marketing strategy and an associated media plan will be devised and the holistic Esplora marketing campaign will ensue.

Since Esplora is a project which is partially funded by ERDF, an ongoing contract to publicise the ERDF 311 National Interactive Science Centre Project is being implemented with MPS Marketing Communications. This contract is using a combination of media, including: print, TV radio and other means in order to increase visibility and awareness of the role of the European Union in the funding of the project.

Esplora started its Public Relations in 2015 when an Open House for Local Residents was organised. The Kalkara residents who attended were very enthusiastic about Esplora and were keen to learn about the progress and what the Interactive Science Centre will offer.

Members from the Science Popularisation Unit started meeting with stakeholders in the Ministry for Education and Employment and the Malta Tourism Authority. These meetings were beneficial as through onsite visits, images and videos, the members present could understand what Esplora has to offer and in this way they could better present it to their audiences. The MTA has already started promoting Esplora as one of the unique spots to visit in Malta.

Science Communication Initiatives and Events **#iCanDoScience**

A national camp, entitled 'iCanDoScience', was organised to promote STEM subjects and related careers among members of the Malta Girl Guides (MGG). Approximately 100 Girl Guides, from various village-based Girl Guide groups, participated in a three-day camp coordinated by the MGG's Science Team, with content generated by the SPU. Over the three days, the girls familiarised themselves with scientific subjects in a practical and holistic way,

through fun, hands-on experiences, while discovering the scientist within. The girl-guiding method and an inquiry-based approach were used to enable the participants to discover and develop their potential, while sleeping under tents in the lush green area surrounding Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi.

Among the various activities organised was a 'Speed Mentoring Session - Meet the Scientist', where female scientists, who are already working in the industry, offered career guidance to the camp participants. Other activities included: bridge building, light painting, archery, astronomy and tinkering. The SPU team backed this initiative as part of its efforts to popularise science among young people. The SPU team contributed to the programme planning of the camp and ran the majority of the camp activities. This initiative is also in line with the EU wide initiative 'Science: It's a girl thing!' This campaign targets girls from 13 to 18 years of age and aims to challenge stereotypes around science and show that science can be a great opportunity for their future.

Careers and Education Fair

The SPU team took part in the 'Careers and Education Fair' at Smart City Malta organised by Global College Malta, in collaboration with MBR. The event, which included the participation of around 15 organisations, was aimed at directing and recruiting job seekers and students.

An information stand was set up to inform the public about Esplora. The visitors had the opportunity to talk to members of the SPU about the forthcoming job opportunities at Esplora, positions which offer great prospects to embark on a fun career in science communication and more specifically in the science

centre industry. A presentation was delivered and leaflets distributed to all visitors.

Robotics Olympiad 2015

The Malta Robotics Olympiad 2015 was again held at the Cottonera Sports Complex. This annual event is open to students between the ages of eight and twenty. Over twenty teams made up of primary and secondary school students participated in three categories of challenges. Each team, comprised of an adult coach and two or three students, used engineering, programming, creativity and problem solving skills to build and programme a robot to solve a number of tasks. The teams were cheered by fellow classmates who were also able to participate in hands-on workshops and displays.

In the evening, the public was invited to attend the awards ceremony, a design and technology expo, presentations, interactive displays and participate in robotic activities. Free gifts were distributed to those attending the events. An information stand was also set up to inform the public about Esplora.

The olympiad was organised by the Department of eLearning and the Department of Curriculum of the Ministry of Education and the MCST with the support of Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Malta Ltd and IMS Ltd.

Science in the City 2015

Once again, MCST participated in 'Science in the City' with a colourful programme of performances and activities, bringing to the public a taster of what Esplora will offer. The programme prepared by MCST was one of the most popular at the event, drawing a sizeable audience in the square in front of the new Parliament Building in Valletta. MCST received very

good coverage in the media. The programme targeted various age groups – the very young ones were entertained by Fonzu l-Fenek and Micu with songs related to nutrition and healthy smoothy recipes. Ian Russell, a science communicator from the UK, filled the square with bubbles to the amazement of all those present. Later in the evening, Ian Russell performed two science shows on 'Exploding Custard' to an audience that spilled out into Republic Street.

Ziguzajg 2015

MCST sponsored an exciting and creative show as part of a week of events for children, better known as ZiguZajg. This annual event is organised by Fondazzjoni Kreattività, a catalyst for the contemporary art scene in Malta, which aims to become a hub where people of all ages and from all walks of life can join in the enriching act of creativity.

The show, 'Squaring the Wheel', combines circus elements, strange mechanisms and contraptions, puppetry, magic and music into an unusual theatre extravaganza. A pre-show activity for the children attending both the morning shows and the evening shows was delivered by the Esplora Education and Programmes Team, whereby an Explainer introduced the concepts of potential and kinetic energy, using a set of purpose-built dominos.

Capacity Building

Belbin Team Roles Exercise

The ESPLORA Team carried out a Belbin Team Roles Exercise. This exercise involved the team members responding to an online questionnaire on each of their colleagues. The feedback collated was presented as a profile to each person and provided insight into each team member's behavioural strengths

and areas of development in the workplace. This exercise helped the team to raise self-awareness and personal effectiveness and build mutual trust and understanding, thus enhancing working relationships as the team progressed through the implementation of the project, to the operational planning stage.

Science Centre Business and Operations Training

Seven members of staff attended a three-day training workshop at the International Centre for Life Trust sponsored through ESF funds. This workshop was a crucial component of continuous professional development for the newer members of the team, in preparation for operations at Esplora.

The course allowed staff to gain a deeper understanding of the business of science centres, science communication and large-scale event management; specifically the Maker Faire UK, for which Life is internationally held in high esteem. The knowledge gained increased the team's ability to manage the operational planning more efficiently, which will support them to make better informed decisions in future operations.

Job Shadowing and Management and Operations Training

Ten members of Esplora's newly set up team, attended an intensive five-day **Job Shadowing and Management and Operations Training** at the Glasgow Science Centre.

The specific purpose of this training was to fill the experience gap and create a common point of reference for all Esplora staff. This bolstered the formation of the organisational culture and helped staff feel more confident in their new roles, more able to make decisions informed by best practice to achieve organisational objectives.

Since no similar visitor attraction has ever been established in Malta, this experience was vital to Esplora's successful operation to provide the staff with first-hand experience of best practices in one of the most versatile and dynamic centres in Northern Europe.

Plans are also in place for the Science Show Presenters and Programme Development Executives to receive the same training in February 2016 once the whole group has been recruited.

ECSITE 2015

Two members of staff attended the annual ECSITE conference; a gathering of around 1,000 science communication professionals from fifty countries. This conference is an ideal place for professional collaboration and cooperation with international stakeholders in the science centre industry.

The conference included panel sessions with key note speakers; workshops offering in-depth exploration of science centre operations; science demonstrations, games, shows and short training courses to instill new ideas for engagement; round table sessions; a World Café and an open stage presentation where distinctive speakers shared inspirational experiences or ideas with the audience. Participation in such conferences helps keep Esplora well informed of best practice and developments in the field of science centres.

Science Communication Staff Training

Esplora was founded by MCST with the intention of making science fun and accessible for all. Before making this a reality, it was essential for the newly appointed Education Team to receive science communication training. A two week programme

was developed to help the Education Team make the wonder of science more accessible to all, by avoiding the use of scientific jargon and facilitating engagement through discussions, exhibits and inquiry-based techniques. The science communication training also included examples of press releases, attitudes survey reports and attributes of an effective science communicator. In groups, the team worked on developing ideas for science workshops for various age groups.

During the second week of training, the team met up with James Piercy of Science Made Simple, who used his years of experience as a science show presenter to bring to light a number of issues which need to be considered when planning the content of science shows. Furthermore, the presenters were given the opportunity to present the shows in front of James and the rest of the team, who then supplied constructive feedback with respect to the performance.

Networking

Establishing key relationships with other entities and memberships with networks with shared objectives in the field of science communication,

engagement and education is crucial for Explora to thrive as a science centre. Such collaborations and memberships are carefully selected to grant Explora the opportunity of benefiting from shared knowledge, expertise, involvement in projects and participation in international fora.

This year, MCST renewed memberships with the European Network of Science Centres and Museums (Ecsite) and the European Science Events Association (EUSEA). MCST also became a sustaining member of the North Africa and Middle East Science Centers Network (NAMES). Through ECSITE, MCST was accepted as a third party participant in the SPARKS project. This project will be implemented in 2016 and 2017 and will include: participation in two training workshops; hosting a travelling exhibition, seven science cafés and a local event.

During the five-day Job Shadowing and Management and Operations Training at the Glasgow Science Centre, Dr Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando and Dr Stephen Breslin, CEO of Glasgow Science Centre, held meetings to plan closer collaborations between MCST and Glasgow Science Centre, in the near future.



Corporate Services Unit

MR MARIO BORG, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The Corporate Services Unit includes Administration, PR, Legal, ICT, Procurement & Purchasing, Health & Safety and Security.

The Unit coordinates various administrative and auxiliary services within The Malta Council for Science and Technology, to ensure that all support and services provided by the entity are of the highest quality, as well as the provision of a well-maintained and equipped work environment that operates in the safest and most cost-effective manner.

Public Relations

More than 10 press releases dealing with issues central to the Council's remit, were also published.

A number of events were organised at the Council during 2014, making optimal use of the Villa's lower grounds. Incorporating a 90-seat Conference Hall that is fully equipped with a PA system and projection, Villa Bigħi hosted 6 workshops/seminars, 10 conferences, 13 information sessions and various press conferences. The Council also provided 12 sponsorships of various individuals/entities. In addition, over the year, 27 parliamentary questions were answered.

Procurement & Purchasing

In total, 16 contracts were awarded during 2015 through public procurement for various works, supplies and services. Furthermore, the process of issuing 9 other calls was initiated during the year. An improved purchasing system was also implemented which ensures more transparency and accountability.

Health and Safety

The Unit further developed and enhanced the MCST Health and Safety Policies and Procedures, in line with the Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act (ACT XXVII of 2000, as amended by Act XXXII of 2007 and Legal Notice 426 of 2007). In addition, staff received ongoing training in different areas related to occupational well-being at work.

ICT

In 2014, the Unit continued to ensure the upkeep and upgrade of all IT equipment. The telephony system was also upgraded to cater for the additional staff complement. The network systems was also substantially enhanced to cater for the expected influx expected with the opening of ESPLORA.

Legal

Throughout 2015, the legal officer continued to oversee the legal aspects of MCST's work, providing particular support in the formulation of grant and procurement contracts. The office ensured that the reputation of MCST was safeguarded by guaranteeing that the entity strictly followed statutory guidelines and by providing legal advice to management about all relevant issues.

Finance Unit

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER MR GAETANO AVALLONE

The Finance Unit is responsible for the organisation of financial and accounting affairs and the continued provision of information to assist the Executive Chairman and the Unit Directors in making strategic decisions as well as to ensure up-to-date reporting to the Line Ministry. It holds ultimate responsibility for the management of the organisation's cash flow and ensures the precise, transparent and adequate disbursement of funds through the year. The unit also prepares periodical forecasts to systematically calculate the ongoing financial requirements and out flows.

During 2015 we have upgraded our accounting software to SAGE Evolution ERP version 7. It is the aim of the Finance Unit to always improve on the current account system so as to enable a better understanding of the accounting matrix.

Various FP7 projects reached the final reporting stage and were completed within the set deadlines. In 2015 New Horizon 2020 projects have been initiated. The Malta Council for Science and Technology had 256 visits abroad during the year against 191 visits in 2014 and the finance department handled the financial side and recorded all cash inflows and outflows of these successfully.

In line with the Charter Document of the Foundation, the Unit is also responsible for preparing financial statements and provide the necessary to ensure a smooth audit process. For 2015 the auditors confirm that they have audited all financial statements and concord that they have been properly prepared and give true and fair view of the state of affairs, in accordance with the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Smaller Entities) 2009, and the schedule accompanying and forming part of these regulations.

It is the aim of the Finance Unit to always improve on the current account system



Human Resources Unit

DEPUTY DIRECTOR MS DENISE ZAMMIT

A number of developments took place within the MCST HR Unit in 2015. The HR Unit evolved along the year by increasing its manpower as well as its responsibilities. The HR function provided employee services to all the ESPLORA and MCST employees and maintained employee relations support along the year.

Strengthening Employee Services

In February 2015, the HR Deputy Director was appointed and immediately started engaging with all members of staff on an individual basis to further understand the employees' backgrounds and to gain familiarity with the different work processes within the Unit. The feedback was taken into consideration by the management and where feasibly possible, changes were implemented throughout the yearly processes.

Recruitment

The first major task within the HR Unit was to seek the approval for the recruitment structure from the Principal Permanent Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister. The approval for the recruitment structure enabled the HR Unit to benefit from a delegated recruitment scenario as per Directive 7 to facilitate and expedite the recruitment procedures for the Council.

In February 2015, the HR Unit reviewed and re-drafted the MCST HR structure to incorporate the evolving needs of ESPLORA as well as those of the Council in terms of salaries, allowances and positions. After discussions with the Public Administration HR Office, the Public Administration Collective Bargaining Unit within OPM and the Permanent Secretary's Office at MEDE, approval for the MCST / ESPLORA structure was issued in June 2015. This facilitated the recruitment process since a delegated recruitment scenario would only require an approval for external recruitment from the Permanent Secretary if there was the necessary budget allocated.

Following this approval, in 2015, 46 recruitment processes were initiated which included a complement of 70 posts. The HR Unit received and reviewed 428 candidate applications of which 148 candidates were called-in for a 1st interview. Subsequently, 36 candidates have been called-in for a 2nd interview.

The HR Deputy Director and the Education and Programs Deputy Director painstakingly carried out 15 practical sessions to assess the individuals' competencies for the ESPLORA Science Show Presenters / Programme Development Executive.

The tests focused on assessing the presenters' show presentation skills and the creativity of programme developers in promoting science to adolescents.

Fourteen posts were filled internally whilst 25 posts were filled by external candidates. In total 31 out of the 46 vacancies created in 2015, were filled-in and closed by the end of the calendar year. By the end of December 2015 the workforce within the Council increased by 39%.

Recruitment Adverts – Social Media

Following the current trends which indicate low popularity in printed media, for the first time in collaboration with the Executive Chairman's office, MCST used social media tools for advertising recruitment. During the last quarter of 2015, 9 vacancies were published through social media, of which 7 candidates have been engaged.

Student Workers

The Government offered to sponsor students from MITA to the Public Administration across the board. MCST sent in its application and was granted four sponsorships. These students worked closely with the ESPLORA team, Corporate Services and the Research and Innovation Unit to provide IT support.

Data Management

The HR Unit felt the need that a consolidated data management system was to be in place to develop further data management systems and the reporting processes with the aim of using historical data to develop strategic objectives. A new verification of attendance system was introduced for the Council and Explora employees, aimed to enhance flexibility in the employees' working schedules but at the same time conforming to Public Administration attendance regulations.

In March 2015, approval was sought through the Executive Chairman's Office to purchase additional units to the current HR system which included further data recording fields, the clocking system as well as an identification card printer. The clocking system was installed and set up by the end of the year. Thus employees benefitted from a decrease in the core working hours.

Family Friendly Measures

Since the council strongly believes in family work/life balance, in 2015, a number of teleworking, maternity, parental leave, reduced hours, and flexible hour applications were processed.

Training and Development

The full responsibilities of the training function were assigned to the HR Unit in the last quarter of the year.

Team Building

The annual teambuilding event was aimed to strengthen team work between the different units within the Council. The event was held in June, and all the employees were divided in eight different groups and assigned a number of activities.

Management Training

ESPLORA

Following the appointment of the ESPLORA management team, the HR Unit embarked on carrying out a training needs analysis in collaboration with the ESPLORA Quality Assurance Unit, to improve employee's understandings and enhance communication between team members in order to facilitate ESPLORA's transition from a project team to an operational team.

Following this exercise, a number of training topics were identified and the training requirements were forwarded to the Corporate Services Unit to seek out a training provider.

ESPLORA and MCST

Top Management training was also discussed in detail with the Executive Chairman with the intention of addressing fundamental strategic organisational issues focusing on the core organisational values, the overall vision and mission as well as the present and future overarching objectives within the Council.

In this regard, the HR Unit drafted a training plan and through the Corporate Services Unit, initiated the procedures to procure this training programme.

Induction Training

The HR Unit started delivering one and a half hours of induction training to all new recruits in March 2015. On their first day at the Council employees were provided with information about the mission and vision of the council aiming to help them accustom themselves to their new job and make them familiar with their new working environment and colleagues.

Employees were then provided with support and assistance within their Unit to engage them further in their new role within the respective Unit.

Visit to 'Life' Newcastle Science Centre

In collaboration with the Quality Assurance Unit, a training programme was coordinated for a number of ESPLORA and Council employees to attend training at the 'Life' Science Centre in Newcastle. The HR Unit made use of ESF funds to financially sustain the training of 7 employees within Explora and the Council.

Staff Activities

During such a busy year the HR Unit continued to strengthen relations between the employees. Fourteen activities were organised along the year to further increase internal communication and enhance team efforts.

Re-Structuring of the MCST / ESPLORA

Maintenance Team

Due to the forthcoming ESPLORA operations, the Executive Chairman together with the HR Unit proposed a new working system for the Maintenance Team. Since ESPLORA was to operate on a 7 day week basis, the HR Unit proposed a split of the maintenance team in two, in order to meet the maintenance requirements of both ESPLORA and MCST on shift basis.

Financials

Malta Council for Science And Technology

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Chairman's Report

The Chairman presents his report and the audited financial statements of the Malta Council for Science and Technology for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Principal Activities

The Malta Council for Science and Technology (hereafter referred to as the Foundation), is responsible for the development of science and technology in Malta.

Performance review

The level of business and the Foundation's financial position are in line with expectations, and the Council expects that the present level of activity will improve in the foreseeable future.

Council

The following are the details of individuals who have served as Members of the Council of the Foundation during the year under review:

Chairman:	Dr. Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando	(resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
Deputy Chairman:	Mr. Saviour Zammit	(appointed 13 October 2016)
	Prof. Richard Muscat	(resigned 17 July 2016)
Secretary:	Dr. Vincent Micallef	(resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
Board Members:	Prof. Angela Xuereb	(appointed 13 October 2016)
	Ms. Elizabeth Olivieri	(appointed 13 October 2016)
	Ms. Desiree Scicluna Bugeja	(appointed 13 October 2016)
	Ms. Lara Maria Mangani	(appointed 13 October 2016)
	Mr. Karl Herrera	(appointed 23 June 2015, resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
	Prof. Emmanuel Sinagra	(resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
	Dr. Karen Mugliett	(resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
	Mr. David Degabriele	(resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
	Prof. Janet Mifsud	(resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
	Dr. Ivan Gatt	(resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
	Mr. Vincent Maione	(resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
	Dr. Kristian Zarb Adami	(resigned 17 July 2016 and re-appointed 13 October 2016)
	Dr. John Betts	(resigned on 15 March 2015)
	Mr. Robert Falzon	(resigned on 23 June 2015)
	Ms. Claudine Cassar	(resigned on 17 December 2015)
	Prof. Maurice Grech	(resigned 17 July 2016)
	Prof. Alfred Vella	(resigned 17 July 2016)

Statement of Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required by the Charter Document of the Foundation to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Foundation and of the surplus or deficit of the Foundation for that period. In preparing these, the Council Members are required to:

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Chairman's Report – continued

Statement of Council's Responsibilities – continued

- adopt the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Foundation will continue in the business;
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- account for income and charges relating to the accounting period on the accruals basis;
- value separately the components of asset and liability items; and
- report comparative figures corresponding to those of the preceding accounting period.

The Council Member are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Foundation and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charter Document of the Foundation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Foundation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Financial reporting framework

The Council Members have resolved to prepare the Foundation's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 in accordance with the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Smaller Entities) Regulations, 2009 and the Schedule accompanying and forming an integral part of those Regulations.

Auditors

Busuttill & Micallef have intimated their willingness to continue in office. A proposal to reappoint Busuttill & Micallef as auditors of the Foundation will be put to the forthcoming Council meeting at which these financial statements are approved and authorised for issue.

By order of the Council



Dr. Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando
Chairman

Malta Council for Science and Technology
"Villa Bighi"
Kalkara
Malta

17 November 2016

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Council Members of the Foundation

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Foundation set out on pages 5 to 18, which comprise the balance sheet as of 31 December 2015, and the income and expenditure account, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

This report is made solely to the Council Members of the Foundation for Science and Technology. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Council Members those matters we are required to state in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Foundation and the Council Members, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinion we have formed.

Council's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

As also described in the statement of Council's responsibilities on pages 1 and 2, the Council Members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Smaller Entities) Regulations, 2009 and the Schedule accompanying and forming an integral part of those Regulations. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Council Members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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Independent Auditor's Report - continued

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Foundation as of 31 December 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with General Accounting Principles for Smaller Entities.

Other Matter

The financial statements of the Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2014 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on 30 July 2015.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charter Document of the Foundation, which permits compliance with the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Smaller Entities) Regulations, 2009 and the Schedule accompanying and forming an integral part of those Regulations, for qualifying entities as prescribed in those regulations.


Hector Spiteri
Partner

For and on behalf of
Busuttill & Micallef
Certified Public Accountants

Nr. 11, "L-Ufficijj"
Misrah 28 ta' Frar 1883
Birkirkara
BKR1501
Malta

17 November 2016

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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Income and Expenditure Account

		Year ended 31 December	
		2015 €	2014 €
Project income		1,309,626	1,727,260
Project expenses		(1,305,797)	(1,688,477)
Gross surplus		3,829	38,783
Administrative expenses		(1,631,690)	(1,569,668)
Operating deficit	5	(1,627,861)	(1,530,885)
Other income	3	1,777,294	1,794,728
Investment income	4	2,002	3,162
Surplus for the year		151,435	267,005


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Balance Sheet

		As at 31 December	
		2015	2014
		€	As restated €
	Notes		
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	15,413,079	9,999,557
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	9	286,913	321,118
Cash and cash equivalents	12	2,463,994	1,775,628
		2,750,907	2,096,746
Total assets		18,163,986	12,096,303
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Retained earnings		777,557	626,122
Non-current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	15,270,246	9,763,859
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	2,116,183	1,706,322
Total equity and liabilities		18,163,986	12,096,303

The financial statements set out on pages 5 to 18 were approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 17 November 2016 and signed on its behalf by:


Dr. Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando
Chairman


Dr. Vincent Micallef
Secretary

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Statement of Changes in Equity

	Note	Retained earnings €	Total €
At 1 January 2014		372,612	372,612
Surplus for the year		267,005	267,005
Prior year adjustment	14	(13,495)	(13,495)
At 31 December 2014 as restated		626,122	626,122
At 1 January 2015 (as restated)		626,122	626,122
Surplus for the year		151,435	151,435
At 31 December 2015		777,557	777,557

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Cash Flow Statement

		Year ended 31 December	
	Notes	2015 €	2014 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Operating deficit		(1,627,861)	(1,530,885)
Adjustment for:			
Depreciation		29,424	61,683
		(1,598,437)	(1,469,202)
Change in trade and other receivables		34,205	70,159
Change in trade and other payables		409,861	224,008
		(1,154,371)	(1,175,035)
Cash used in operations			
Interest received		2,002	3,162
Other income	3	1,777,294	1,794,728
Net cash generated from operating activities		624,925	622,855
Cash flows used in investing activities			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(5,442,946)	(9,248,529)
Cash flows generated from financing activities			
Contribution from government grants		5,506,387	9,122,075
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		688,366	496,401
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,775,628	1,279,227
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	12	2,463,994	1,775,628

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Annual Report and Financial Statements - 31 December 2015

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the Foundation have been prepared in accordance with the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Smaller Entities) Regulations, 2009 and the Schedule accompanying and forming an integral part of those Regulations ("GAPSE").

1.2 Basis of measurement

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis.

1.3 Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in Euro (€), which is the Foundation's functional currency.

2. Significant accounting policies

2.1 Property, plant and equipment

Recognition and measurement

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset when it is probable that the future economic benefits that are associated with the asset will flow to the entity and the cost can be measured reliably. Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost comprising the purchase price, any costs directly attributable to bringing the assets to a working condition for their intended use, and the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. Subsequent expenditure is capitalised as part of the cost of property, plant and equipment only if it enhances the economic benefits of an asset in excess of the previously assessed standard of performance, or it replaces or restores a component that has been separately depreciated over its useful life.

After initial recognition, property, plant and equipment are carried under the cost model, that is at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the carrying amount of the asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life. Depreciation of an asset begins when it is available for use and ceases at the earlier of the date that the asset is classified as held for sale (or included in a disposal group that is classified as held for sale) in accordance with Section 24 of GAPSE or the date that the asset is derecognised. The depreciation charge for each period is recognised in profit or loss.

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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2 Significant accounting policies - continued

2.1 Property, plant and equipment - continued

The rates of depreciation used are the following:

▪ Improvements to building	-	10%
▪ Office equipment	-	10%
▪ Soft furnishings	-	10%
▪ Technical equipment	-	20%
▪ Furniture, fixtures and fittings	-	10%
▪ Motor vehicles	-	20%
▪ Computer hardware and software	-	33.33%

No depreciation is being provided for on the National Interactive Science Centre (Esplora). Government funds are available to set up the National Interactive Science Centre at the Bighi complex in Kalkara. The Science Centre has so far incurred expenses relating to design and in accordance with Section 7.20 of GAPSE, no depreciation is being provided for until the asset is made available for use.

2.2 Investment in associate

An associate is an entity over which the Foundation has significant influence and that is neither a subsidiary nor an interest in a joint venture. Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the associate but is not control or joint control over those policies.

An investment in an associate is initially measured at cost. After initial recognition, an investment in associate may be carried under the cost method, or under the equity method, that is at its initial recognition amount, subsequently adjusted to recognise the Foundation's share of the profit or loss or changes in equity of the associate after the date of acquisition, and to recognise any impairment losses.

After initial recognition the investment in associate is carried under the cost method.

Under the cost method, the investment is measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Distributions received from the associate are recognised as investment income in profit or loss when the Foundation's right to receive the dividend is established.

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2 Significant accounting policies - continued

2.3 Impairment

The carrying amounts of the Foundation's property, plant and equipment and trade and other receivables are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

Whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised and the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless they relate to an asset which is carried at revalued amount, in which case they are treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with the applicable Section in GAPSE.

The carrying amounts of the Foundation's assets are also reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication that an impairment loss recognised in prior periods may no longer exist or may have decreased. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. An impairment loss previously recognised is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. When an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, to the extent that it does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. Impairment reversals are recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless they relate to an asset which is carried at revalued amount, in which case they are treated as a revaluation increase in accordance with the applicable Section in GAPSE.

2.4 Financial assets and financial liabilities

Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are carried at cost less any impairment losses (refer to accounting policy 2.3).

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are stated at their nominal value.

2.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term investments that are held to meet short-term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes.

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2 Significant accounting policies – continued

2.6 Income

Project income

Project income is recognised when there is reasonable assurance that all the conditions attaching to it are complied with and the grants will be received. Any grants relating to future periods are recognised as deferred income. Project income is recognised in income and expenditure so as to match it with the cost towards which it is intended to contribute.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised when there is reasonable assurance that all the conditions attaching to them are complied with and the grant will be received. Any grants relating to future periods are recognised as deferred income. Government grants are recognised in income and expenditure so as to match them with the cost towards which they are intended to contribute. Such grants are presented in Other income in the income and expenditure account.

Interest income

Interest income is recognised when the inflow of economic benefits associated with the transaction is probable and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Interest income is accrued on a time proportion basis.

3 Other income

Other income is analysed as follows:

	2015 €	2014 €
Government of Malta subvention	977,922	1,000,000
Grants related to capital expenditure	40,000	124,776
Refund of salaries and expenses	63,672	91,528
Science Centre subvention	695,700	575,504
Sundry income	-	2,920
	<u>1,777,294</u>	<u>1,794,728</u>

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4 Investment income

	2015 €	2014 €
Interest receivable on bank balances	1,702	3,162
Income from hire of hall	300	-
	<u>2,002</u>	<u>3,162</u>

5 Operating deficit

5.1 Operating deficit is stated after charging the following:

	2015 €	2014 €
Depreciation	29,424	61,683

5.2 Total remuneration paid to the Foundation's auditors during the year amounted to:

	2015 €	2014 €
Auditors' remuneration	2,300	1,700

5.3 Staff costs incurred during the year are analysed as follows:

	2015 €	2014 €
Wages and salaries	1,060,880	1,100,740
Social security costs	76,409	77,480
Council Members' emoluments	7,500	5,800
	<u>1,144,789</u>	<u>1,184,020</u>

5.4 The average number of persons employed by the Foundation during the year was as follows:

	2015 No.	2014 No.
Management and administration	46	46

6 Income taxes

No provision for Malta income tax has been made in these financial statements as the Foundation is exempt from Malta income tax.

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7. Property, plant and equipment

	Improvement to buildings €	National interactive science centre €	Office equipment €	Soft furnishings €	Technical equipment €	Furniture, fixtures and fittings €	Motor vehicles €	Computer hardware and software €	Total €
At 1 January 2014									
Cost	473,166	488,561	47,867	19,608	87,561	224,745	8,852	270,807	1,621,167
Accumulated depreciation	(330,898)	-	(46,062)	(18,937)	(86,424)	(153,181)	(8,852)	(236,174)	(880,528)
Net book amount	<u>142,268</u>	<u>488,561</u>	<u>1,805</u>	<u>671</u>	<u>1,137</u>	<u>71,564</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,633</u>	<u>740,639</u>
Movements for the year ended 31 December 2014									
Opening net book amount	142,268	488,561	1,805	671	1,137	71,564	-	34,633	740,639
Additions	-	9,226,212	329	653	-	8,491	-	12,844	9,248,529
Prior year adjustment - cost (Note 14)	(180,181)	180,181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge	(20,372)	-	(411)	(158)	(351)	(11,423)	-	(28,968)	(61,683)
Prior year adjustment - depreciation charge (Note 14)	72,072	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72,072
Closing net book amount	<u>13,787</u>	<u>9,894,954</u>	<u>1,723</u>	<u>1,166</u>	<u>786</u>	<u>68,632</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,509</u>	<u>9,999,557</u>
At 31 December 2014									
Cost	292,985	9,894,954	48,196	20,261	87,561	233,236	8,852	283,651	10,869,696
Accumulated depreciation	(279,198)	-	(46,473)	(19,095)	(86,775)	(164,604)	(8,852)	(265,142)	(870,139)
Net book amount	<u>13,787</u>	<u>9,894,954</u>	<u>1,723</u>	<u>1,166</u>	<u>786</u>	<u>68,632</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,509</u>	<u>9,999,557</u>
Movements for the year ended 31 December 2015									
Opening net book amount	13,787	9,894,954	1,723	1,166	786	68,632	-	18,509	9,999,557
Additions	-	5,434,253	698	-	-	6,223	-	1,772	5,442,946
Depreciation charge	(2,354)	-	(411)	(158)	(351)	(11,599)	-	(14,551)	(29,424)
Closing net book amount	<u>11,433</u>	<u>15,329,207</u>	<u>2,010</u>	<u>1,008</u>	<u>435</u>	<u>63,256</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,730</u>	<u>15,413,079</u>
At 31 December 2015									
Cost	292,985	15,329,207	48,894	20,261	87,561	239,459	8,852	285,423	16,312,642
Accumulated depreciation	(281,552)	-	(46,884)	(19,253)	(87,126)	(176,203)	(8,852)	(279,693)	(899,563)
Net book amount	<u>11,433</u>	<u>15,329,207</u>	<u>2,010</u>	<u>1,008</u>	<u>435</u>	<u>63,256</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,730</u>	<u>15,413,079</u>

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8	Investment in associate		
		2015 €	2014 €
8.1	Investment in associate undertaking at cost	-	-
	Registered office	Percentage of shares held	
		2015 %	2014 %
8.2	EuroMedITI Limited (in liquidation)	33	33
	Villa Bighi Kalkara KKR 1320 Malta		
9	Trade and other receivables		
		2015 €	2014 As restated €
	Trade receivables	9,017	27,353
	Prepayments	21,123	10,855
	Accrued income	55,562	37,245
	Indirect taxation	136,206	154,137
	Other receivables	65,005	91,528
		<u>286,913</u>	<u>321,118</u>
10	Retained earnings		
	Retained earnings represent accumulated surpluses and deficits.		
11	Trade and other payables		
11.1	Non-current liabilities	2015 €	2014 €
	Government grants	<u>15,270,246</u>	<u>9,763,859</u>

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11	Trade and other payables – continued		
11.1	Non-current liabilities – continued		
	In accordance with the Foundation's accounting policies relating to grants received for the purchase of tangible non-current assets, grants are included with non-current liabilities and are credited to the income and expenditure account when the asset is available for use, on a straight-line basis over the expected useful lives of the related costs. The balance at end of year refers to grants granted by the Government of Malta to the Foundation for the design and construction of the National Interactive Science Centre (Esplora).		
11.2	Current liabilities	2015 €	2014 Restated €
	Trade payables	17,971	708,756
	Contingency	-	2,578
	Accruals	168,722	143,388
	Deferred income	1,927,990	851,600
	Other payables	1,500	-
		<u>2,116,183</u>	<u>1,706,322</u>
12	Cash and cash equivalents		
	Cash and cash equivalents included in the cash flow statement comprise the following balance sheet amounts:		
		2015 €	2014 €
	Cash at bank and in hand	<u>2,463,994</u>	<u>1,775,628</u>
13	Contingent liabilities		
	At 31 December 2015, guarantees amounting to €4,660 (2014: €4,660) were given by the Foundation during the normal course of operational activity in favour of third parties over which no loss is expected to arise.		
	Design Solutions Limited have initiated legal proceedings against the Foundation, claiming that the National Interactive Science Centre (Esplora) contract be awarded to them. The Foundation has requested a retrial which is currently being heard. The Foundation's lawyers are unable to quantify any potential contingency arising from the said case due to the nature of the claims.		

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14 Prior year adjustments

Prior year adjustments have been made to the comparative figures to adjust for the following transactions:

- i. Explora fixed assets additions have been erroneously posted under Villa Bighi.
- ii. Payables balance has been erroneously treated as deferred income.
- iii. Erroneous VAT claims have been made prior to 2015.
- iv. Depreciation has been erroneously charged on fixed assets additions relating to the National Interactive Science Central (Esplora) for the period 2011 – 2014. Esplora is not yet available for use and thus no depreciation should have been charged.
- v. Receivables balance has been erroneously posted twice.

The effect of the restatement of these financial statements is summarised below:

Effect on balance sheet	As previously stated €	As restated €	Difference €
Property, plant and equipment	1,117,924	1,189,996	72,072
Trade and other receivables	262,397	176,830	(85,567)
Trade and other payables	(1,051,372)	(1,051,372)	-
Retained earnings	(639,617)	(626,122)	(13,495)

15 Related party transactions

The Malta Council for Science and Technology is a public Foundation funded by the Government of Malta. Transactions with the Government of Malta during the year arose as shown hereunder:

	2015 €	2014 €
Government subvention	977,922	1,000,000

Salaries payable to the Council Members have been disclosed separately in note 5.

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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16 Statutory information

The Malta Council for Science and Technology acting for and on behalf of the Foundation for Science and Technology is a public body established by the Government of Malta and falls under the responsibility of the Ministry for Education and Employment.

17 Comparative information

Certain comparative information has been reclassified to conform with the current year's disclosure for the purpose of fairer presentation.

Schedule I

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Detailed Results - 31 December 2015

Income and Expenditure Account

	Year ended 31 December	
	2015 €	2014 €
Project income (schedule II)	1,309,626	1,727,260
Project expenses (schedule II)	(1,305,797)	(1,688,477)
Gross surplus	3,829	38,783
Administrative expenses (schedule III)	(1,631,690)	(1,569,668)
Operating deficit	(1,627,861)	(1,530,885)
Other income (schedule III)	1,777,294	1,794,728
Investment income (schedule IV)	2,002	3,162
Surplus for the year	151,435	267,005

Schedule II

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Detailed Results - 31 December 2015

Project income

	2015 €	2014 €
FP programmes	36,698	149,981
RTDI programmes	967,588	1,229,999
ImagenX programmes	39,953	67,255
ENIAC programmes	216,135	280,025
Sundry income	49,252	-
Total project income (schedule I)	1,309,626	1,727,260

Project expenses

	2015 €	2014 €
FP programmes	74,451	113,978
RTDI programmes	965,165	1,176,092
ImagenX programmes	50,046	118,382
ENIAC programmes	216,135	280,025
Total project expenses (schedule I)	1,305,797	1,688,477

Schedule III

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Detailed Results - 31 December 2015

Administrative expenses

	2015	2014
	€	€
Accounting fees	11,647	-
Advertising and promotions	95,511	70,082
Audit fees	2,300	1,700
Cleaning	7,638	6,843
Computer expenses	10,694	8,175
Depreciation	29,424	61,683
General expenses	10,177	6,279
Hospitality	5,712	5,254
Insurance	12,239	11,923
Internationalisation	40,459	-
Legal and professional fees	6,054	16,928
Motor car expenses	4,553	3,511
Printing, postage and stationery	28,260	17,288
Repairs and maintenance	12,298	11,608
Staff training	53,667	7,452
Staff welfare	3,974	4,092
Subscriptions and memberships	9,495	10,265
Telecommunications	15,743	14,308
Travelling and entertainment	98,118	99,686
Wages and salaries	1,149,727	1,188,745
Water and electricity	24,000	23,846
Total administrative expenses (schedule I)	1,631,690	1,569,668

Other income

	2015	2014
	€	€
Government of Malta subvention	977,922	1,000,000
Grants related to capital expenditure	40,000	124,776
Refund of salaries and expenses	63,672	91,528
Science Centre subvention	695,700	575,504
Sundry income	-	2,920
Total other income (schedule I)	1,777,294	1,794,728

Schedule IV

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Detailed Results - 31 December 2015

Investment income

	2015	2014
	€	€
Interest receivable on bank balances	1,702	3,162
Income from hire of hall	300	-
Total investment income (schedule I)	2,002	3,162

A photograph of two young men in a laboratory setting. They are focused on a robotic arm or a piece of electronic equipment. The man in the foreground is wearing a grey sweater and is looking down at the device. The man behind him is wearing a light blue shirt and is also looking at the device. The background is a blurred laboratory environment with various equipment and a blue cushion. In the top right corner, there is a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping triangles in shades of orange, yellow, and blue.

Our Mission

Working towards increasing Malta's competitiveness through the strengthening of the areas of Science, Technology, Research and Innovation.

Credits

Chairman's report for the year ending 31st December 2015

The chairman presents his report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2015.

Principal Activities

The Malta Council for Science and Technology (hereafter referred to as the Foundation), is responsible for the development of science and technology in Malta.

Review of the business

The level of business and the Foundation's financial position is in line with expectations, and the Council expects that the present level of activity will improve in the foreseeable future.

Council

The member of the Council were:

- Chairman: Dr Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando, B.Ch.D.(Hons)
- Secretary: Dr Vince Micallef, LL.D

Board Members:

- Prof. Richard Muscat
- Dr Ivan Gatt, Ph.D
- Prof. Alfred J Vella, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D (Col.Sch. Mines), CSci, CChem, FRSC
- Dr Karen Mugliett, Ph.D.
- Prof. Emmanuel Sinagra, Ph.D

- Prof. Janet Mifsud, Ph.D
- Dr David Degabriele
- Prof. Maurice Grech, B.Eng.(Hons), M.Sc.(Birm), Ph.D.(Birm), C.Eng.F.I.M., M.I.B.F.
- Dr Karl Herrera
- Dr Claudine Muscat
- Dr Vincent Maione
- Dr Kristian Zarb Adami, Ph.D

Statement of Council's responsibilities

The Council is required by the Charter Document of the Foundation to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Foundation as at the end of each financial period and of the surplus or deficit for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council members are responsible for ensuring that:

- Appropriate accounting policies have been consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates;
- The financial statements have been drawn up in accordance with the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Smaller Entities) Regulations, 2009 and the Schedule accompanying and forming an integral part of those Regulations;
- The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Foundation will continue in business as a going concern.

The council is also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Foundation and to enable the council members to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charter Document of foundation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Foundation, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

A resolution to reappoint the firm Mercieca, Azzopardi & Co. as auditors of the Malta Council for Science and technology will be proposed at the forthcoming meeting at which these financial statements are approved and authorised for issue.

By order of the council.

Dr Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando, B.Ch.D.(Hons)
Chairman
"Villa Bighi"
Kalkara
Malta
June, 2016

Notes

