Big Science Business Forum

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Key Messages from the roundtable on Big Science and EU policies

Brussels, 14 September 2026

In the run-up to BSBF2026, the organisers held a roundtable on the contribution of Big Science (Organisations) to EU policies with various stakeholders of the research and innovation ecosystem in Europe. These very fruitful discussions will hopefully be the start of talks between the BSOs and those responsible for EU policies. The five recommendations distilled from the Round Table discussions and stated hereunder could give inspiration for continuing interaction..
Big Science Organisations should be recognised not only as providers of scientific excellence, but also as strategic engines of innovation, industrial competitiveness, regional development, and European sovereignty. In this capacity they should be part of the implementation of relevant EU policies which at the same time can strengthen their role as ecosystem builders and technology integrators.

1. **Recognise Big Science Organisations as Strategic European Assets and position them as Anchors of Innovation Ecosystems**
   Big Science Organisations (BSOs) are among Europe's most valuable long-term assets, built through sustained public investment over the past 60 to 70 years. Their scientific excellence, technological capabilities, world-class infrastructures, and skilled talent base should be leveraged more systematically to address Europe's current and future challenges. The BSOs can act as accelerators for innovation and industrial transformation in vibrant innovation ecosystems that connects entrepreneurs, industry, investors, academia, regional authorities, national governments, and European institutions. Building successful innovation ecosystem is a long-term endeavour requiring sustained investment, policy continuity and a shared strategic vision.

2. **Strengthen European Sovereignty Through Big Science Organisations and their Ecosystems**
   BSOs provide a unique environment where world-class science, industrial capability, and regional development converge. By working *in close partnerships with governments**,** European institutions and industry, they can contribute to strengthening Europe's technological capacity, strategic autonomy, and long-term competitiveness and resilience in critical domains.

   To make this successful Europe should identify the scientific, technological, and industrial capabilities that are essential to its strategic autonomy and determine where

domestic capacity and knowledge security is required versus where international cooperation and shared infrastructures remain appropriate.

3. **Use BSOs as Integrators Across Policy Domains and connect BSOs into Key European Initiatives**
   BSOs naturally bridge research, technology development, industrial policy, regional development, skills, and innovation. Their cross-sectoral role positions them as important integrators within the European policy landscape. As a result, BSOs are well-placed to contribute to and connect with major European strategic technology initiatives related to for example computing, AI, and semiconductor programmes.

4. **Reconsider the Mission and Strategy of BSOs**
   The mandate and priorities of BSOs should evolve to reflect emerging European priorities, including strategic autonomy, industrial resilience, technology scale-up, sustainability, digital transformation, and economic security. This evolution should also take into account its implications for human and financial resources.

5. **Strengthen Collaboration with the European Innovation Council and Related Initiatives to bridge the Commercialisation Gap**
   Collaborations between BSOs, the European Innovation Council (EIC), project like ATTRACT and other innovation instruments should be reinforced to better translate scientific excellence into market solutions, industrial growth, and societal impact. BSOs can play a central role in bridging this gap by acting as integrated innovation partners that support technology maturation, validation, demonstration, and deployment beyond traditional Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs). Their unique combination of scientific expertise, advanced infrastructure, industrial partnerships, and innovation networks enables them to help de-risk emerging technologies and accelerate their journey to market.