

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2014 – 2018

OUR VISION

AINSE will be a leading authority and resource in addressing Australia's societal challenges through nuclear science and engineering

OUR MISSION

AINSE will reach its vision through

- being an effective link between all stakeholders of nuclear science and engineering
- playing an advocacy role for the Australasian nuclear community
- playing a leading role in nuclear education and training
- facilitating the development of multilateral and multidisciplinary strategic research initiatives
- Utilising new streams of funding to increase its impact

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

AINSE has identified the following key trends and uncertainties influencing the future environment in which AINSE will operate.

Trends

- Integration of technologies at discipline boundaries
- Increasing role of science and technology in addressing grand societal challenges
- Ever-increasing flood of big data
- Increasing importance of large-scale strategic research
- Increasing importance of metric-driven funding
- Declining international competitiveness of the Australian manufacturing industry
- Increasing risks related to capex investments
- Declining industry R&D
- Low level of innovation in some Australian companies
- Evolution of the CRC system as a funding model

Uncertainties

- Ongoing funding for established infrastructure (both ANSTO and Universities)
- Ongoing debate about nuclear energy
- Industry appetite for nuclear research
- State of the Australian Research Council
- Research environment in nuclear areas in Asia
- Changes in geopolitical priorities
- AINSE/ANSTO relationship
- Rate of employment
- Stability of financial markets (domestic and international)
- Incentives for researchers to engage with industry

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

AINSE has defined the following seven strategic priorities for its Strategic Plan. These will drive our focus, resource allocation and how we monitor our success over the life of the Strategic Plan.

1. Effectively communicate AINSE's purpose to a wide range of different stakeholders

- Clearly enunciate AINSE's value proposition and align it with the priorities of Government, ANSTO and the Universities.
- Enhance AINSE's outreach activities to reach a wider audience beyond nuclear scientists and engineers.
- Work with outcome-focused advocacy groups to enhance the impact of nuclear technology.
- Re-evaluate the metrics AINSE uses to measure and demonstrate its performance.
- Constantly review how we best serve our stakeholders.

2. Create an appropriate balance between funding project-based research and funding/facilitating multilateral and multidisciplinary collaboration

- Explore future opportunities for funded collaborative projects through workshops related to thematic areas.
- Ensure continued relevance of AINSE programs.
- Consider focussed program style grants in strategic areas.
- Maintain small grants opportunities.
- Encourage a broad engagement within member organisations.

3. Demonstrate leadership in the education of Australasia's next generation of scientists with and interest in nuclear science and engineering

- Expand AINSE's role in engaging the next generation of scientist with an interest in nuclear science.
- Engage with Universities at the executive level to be aware of, and align with, Universities' strategic priorities.
- Consider University accreditation for some AINSE activities (e.g. short/intensive courses).

4. Develop AINSE's role as a credible advocate for the Australasian nuclear science and engineering community

- Maintain and strengthen AINSE's independence while providing value to ANSTO.
- Speak with a coherent voice representing universities on nuclear aspects.
- Become a facilitator of increasing industry awareness (e.g. promotions, training courses, education, and professional development).
- Maintain and further develop a network of experts to communicate the state of the art in nuclear science and technology.
- Draw on AINSE alumni as a resource of support and expertise.

- Develop and maintain a catalogue of key messages that decision makers should be aware of.
- Provide leadership in the development of a decadal plan for nuclear infrastructure investment.

5. Provide an effective and efficient link between different capabilities related to nuclear science and engineering

- Support the user base across the facilities at ANSTO, Australian Synchrotron, and other AINSE-supported facilities.
- Become a facilitator for collaboration and complementary use of scientific infrastructure.
- Effectively access the expertise within AINSE to facilitate optimum use of capabilities.
- Make effective use of the expertise and enthusiasm of ANSTO staff.
- Re-establish AINSE's reputation with the ARC and NHMRC as credible lead organisation for funding proposals (e.g. LIEF, Centres of Excellence).

6. Seize new opportunities for funding beyond AINSE's traditional sources

- Be prepared to take advantage if/when new funding opportunities arise.
- Develop links with the philanthropy community through the AINSE Trust.
- Exploit our developed authority to leverage joint industry/government funding for innovation initiatives.
- Use our wide membership base and coherence as a credible argument to demonstrate an effective and efficient return on government/industry investment.

7. Diversify AINSE's membership and stakeholder base

- Increase the range of opportunities for existing members through flexible membership arrangements and new services.
- Review our membership fee calculation.
- Explore how to expand our stakeholder base, e.g. medical research organisations, international and environmental organisations, industry.