

## EPSRC CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING IN COMPUTATIONAL METHODS FOR MATERIALS SCIENCE

### BULLETIN ISSUE 4

The Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) has recently moved into the new Maxwell Building on the Cavendish Site. The Building was designed to encourage interaction at many levels, not only between researchers in the Building itself but also between different disciplines and with the aspiration of removing the boundaries between academia and industry. It is clear that the design of the



building has successfully addressed the challenges of enhancing this interaction. The space appears fluid with many and varied communal areas which encourage conversation and discussion. The students have been making the most of their new environment and encouragingly a number of researchers who have no immediate connection with the Maxwell Building have started using it as their 'thinking space' because they find the environment so stimulating.



There is space in the Building for the CDT's Industrial Partners to drop in for short visits or to spend extended periods of time based there so please contact us if you would like to join us in the building. Perhaps the coolest thing about the new building is the 'high-tech' coffee system with which you select your coffee to the milligram, your water to the millilitre before the brew appears magically from a sparkling stainless steel pipe, as you can see in the accompanying picture!

We are delighted that Alice Allen, a member of the first cohort student cohort, is organising a series of informal seminars at which the CDT students give short presentations of their work. These events provide an opportunity for the student cohorts to meet together and have been very well attended and greatly appreciated by the students.

Our Steering Panel will meet next on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July and we would like to remind you all about the CDT Networking Event that day. The students will present posters on their projects, many of the academics will be present as will members of the CDT Steering Panel if you would like to discuss any CDT related issues with them.

We are aware that many of you were not at the Opening Ceremony of the Maxwell Building so we have decided to run our own mini-Opening event later in the afternoon of Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Plans are still being formulated but we will organise tours of the building, assemble some of the displays from the Opening event and have drinks and canapes.



In the meantime, the day-to day business of the CDT has continued with remarkably little disruption from the move. Since the last newsletter (November 15) the current cohort of students have sat their written examinations and submitted their two written assignments. In February, we interviewed candidates for the 2016 intake (Cohort 3), offering 14 places to date. The students will be submitting their progress reports (the working draft of their dissertation on the main research project) in mid-May followed by presentations to fellow colleagues, supervisors and the external examiner a week later.

It would be wonderful to see at the Networking Event and/or the mini-Maxwell Opening event and do feel free to invite your work colleagues as well. If you and/or your work colleagues wish to attend please could you contact [admin@csc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admin@csc.cam.ac.uk).

*Mike Payne, James Elliott, Nikos Nikiforalis*



*Photograph courtesy of Kevin McKenzie*