IOP statement

15 July 2021

Stimulating Physics Network project subcontracted to STEM Learning in England

As we move to the implementation phase of our ambitious strategy, we are changing some of the ways in which we work in partnership with other organisations to enable us to deliver more.

In order to be aligned with our overall strategy and aspirations, we are now broadening our approach to physics education projects to include all underrepresented groups – as demonstrated by our Limit Less campaign – rather than focusing solely on gender.

This has meant we have had to make some difficult decisions. One of these is the decision to retain oversight of the Stimulating Physics Network (SPN) project and a new Inclusion in schools project, while tendering for the hands-on delivery of these two contracts, in order to select the best-fit providers to continue this important work.

Today, we're pleased to announce that after a full tender process, the SPN Physics Support for Schools in England has been subcontracted to [STEM Learning](#) with effect from midnight on 1 September 2021, ahead of the start of the next academic year.

STEM Learning is a well-established and respected provider of science continual professional development (CPD); it manages the National STEM Learning Centre and the network of Science Learning Partnerships. This project will sit well in its portfolio.

Separately, the tender process for the new inclusion project is still ongoing. We will share further details on this as soon as we are able to, but we remain on track to subcontract to a new provider on 1 September, ahead of the academic year.

We are pleased to announce this concrete step towards our new model of partnership working, which will ultimately enable quicker progress towards our aspirations, and support better, more inclusive physics teaching across the UK and Ireland. We continue to work with the Department for Education to ensure the highest quality of teaching support is provided to teachers of physics into the future.

IOP Institute of Physics