THE FARADAY INSTITUTION

Candidate Brief

Board Trustees

The Faraday Institution

ANDERSON QUIGLEY



About the Faraday Institution

PURPOSE AND DIRECTION

The Faraday Institution (FI) brings together research scientists and industry partners to work on projects with commercial potential.

Its work combines electrochemical energy storage research, skills development, market analysis, and early-stage commercialisation. It seeks to improve battery performance, reduce costs, support scalable manufacturing, and develop solutions across the battery lifecycle.

Based at Harwell Campus in Oxfordshire, the FI is a registered charity with an independent Board of Trustees. Alongside Innovate UK and UKBIC, it is a main delivery partner for the Battery Innovation Programme.

Our mission

To advance energy storage research and innovation that directly addresses the UK's most pressing challenges: delivering clean energy, ensuring energy security, and fostering sustainable economic growth.

Our vision

To secure the UK's position as a global leader in battery research and innovation, enabling a sustainable, competitive and resilient frontier industry.



Collaboration across the FI research community.

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About the Faraday Institution

RESEARCH AND IMPACT

A connected research community

The FI's research programme spans 10 major projects that bring together 25 UK universities, more than 500 researchers, 148 UK industrial partners, and 30 international industrial partners. It connects academic discovery with the needs of organisations that will develop, manufacture and use future batteries.

Three research strands

Materials Development to Pack Design and Performance
Projects within this strand harness world-class research to deliver advances in battery chemistries, materials systems, and engineered components.

Sustainable Manufacture, Scale-up and Recycling
These projects target high impact areas to improve battery manufacturing cost, time and energy usage, by improving the fundamental knowledge of key manufacturing processes.

Next-gen Tech Demonstrators and Transformational Challenges
These projects accelerate the real-world validation of breakthrough battery chemistries by bridging fundamental research and practical demonstration. This strand advances research into, for example, solid-state, lithium-sulfur and sodium-ion batteries, from laboratory concept to practical use.

Five strategic priorities for research

The FI's strategic research priorities are:

- Pursue research shaped by real application needs
- Connect a global community of researchers and collaborators
- Move promising research towards commercial use
- Inform policy through independent evidence and analysis
- Develop a diverse pool of scientists, engineers and innovators

Connecting discovery with adoption

Industry sprints and fellowships create routes for collaboration, while support for start-ups helps promising technologies progress. The portfolio addresses applications across transport, aerospace and electricity systems.



Vertical Aerospace VX4 prototype. Photo: Adam Gasson / Vertical Aerospace.

Leadership and Governance

CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Professor Sir Steven Cowley

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Sir Steven became Chair in 2024. A theoretical physicist and authority on fusion energy, he is Director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory and Professor of Astrophysical Sciences at Princeton University.

He previously led the UK Atomic Energy Authority and served as President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. His experience includes leading major research programmes and advising governments on science and technology.

The Chair leads a Board whose members bring perspectives from academia, industry and public service, and act as ambassadors and advisers for the FI.



Professor Martin Freer

Chief Executive Officer

Martin joined as CEO in September 2024. He previously directed the Birmingham Energy Institute and the Energy Research Accelerator, connecting university research with industrial and public policy priorities.

He brings experience across energy technologies, research partnerships, and the development of facilities that help translate research into wider impact.

Executive and scientific leadership

Catherine Callow, Chief Operating Officer
Matthew Howard, Chief Strategy Officer
Prof. Sir Peter Bruce, Chief Scientist and Chair of the Expert Panel

The core team at Harwell combines scientific, commercial and operational expertise.

Leadership and Governance

THE BOARD AND ITS SUPPORTING STRUCTURES

Board of Trustees

Sir Steven Cowley (Chair of the Board)
Chair; Director, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

Robin Brundle
Co-founder and Director, Recyclus Group

Professor Dame Lynn Gladden (Chair of the People Committee)
Shell Professor of Chemical Engineering, Cambridge

Neville Jackson
Chair, RAC Foundation and UK Automotive Council Strategy Group

Mark Newman (Chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee)
CEO, Electric Revolution Ventures

Rachel O'Reilly
Professor of Chemistry and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Birmingham

Isobel Sheldon
CEO, Western CAM

Venkat Srinivasan
Director, Argonne Collaborative Center for Energy Storage Science

Fabrice Stassin
Secretary General, Batteries European Partnership Association

Esther Taylor
Head of Research, Thatcham Research

Board committees

People Committee
Reviews and advises the Trustees on issues relating to nominations, remuneration, equality and diversity, recruitment and overall HR policies for the Faraday Institution.

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee
Reviews and reports back to the Trustees on issues relating to audit, financial management and oversight, and risk.

Business Impact Committee
Looks at industry's requirements of the FI, e.g. scientific research areas, understanding strategic challenges for the battery technology industry, and developing and delivering active two-way links with industry.

Independent advice and engagement

The **Expert Panel** combines battery specialists from academia and industry with PIs to guide the research programme.

The **Training and Diversity Panel** and **EDI Working Group** contribute advice on talent and inclusion. **Training Champions** and the **Early Career Researcher Committee** support engagement across the community.

Sir Oliver Letwin serves as a Special Advisor.

Meet the Board of Trustees

The Trustee Roles

PURPOSE AND CONTRIBUTION

Help shape the direction of energy storage research and innovation with the potential to transform the UK's energy future.

As a Trustee, you will contribute expertise, judgement and perspective to the strategic direction and governance of the FI. You will support an organisation that connects research excellence with the skills, partnerships and commercial opportunities needed for wider impact.

Your contribution

- Help guide strategic priorities and the organisation's next phase of development.
- Support effective governance and keep the FI's charitable objectives central to Board discussions.
- Bring insight into the conditions that enable research to reach end users and deliver public benefit.
- Strengthen connections across the battery ecosystem and act as an ambassador for the organisation.
- Support the development of the next generation of scientists and practitioners.



Battery energy storage in Melksham, Wiltshire. Photo courtesy of Gresham House.

Why this work matters

Energy storage can support the transition to cleaner energy, strengthen energy security, and contribute to sustainable economic growth. Research must respond to the practical requirements of the industries and communities that will use it.

The Board is seeking to strengthen its understanding of commercialisation, end-user adoption, investment, and the wider strategic environment for UK battery innovation. New Trustees will help the FI connect these perspectives as its work develops.

The Trustee Roles

EXPERIENCE AND PERSONAL QUALITIES

We are seeking significant experience in one or more of the following areas.

Energy storage end-user industries

Experience in sectors such as grid energy or aerospace, bringing insight into how energy storage technologies are adopted and used.

Defence

Expertise or experience in the defence sector and an understanding of its wider strategic environment.

Finance and investment

Expertise in finance and/or investment, contributing insight into the resources and conditions needed to support innovation and growth.

Academia and publicly funded research

Experience in senior academic or publicly funded roles in fields that complement the FI's work.

Public or charitable sector governance

Experience of serving on Boards, with expertise in governance in the public or charitable sector.

What you will bring

You will offer strategic insight, sound judgement, and a commitment to the FI's charitable objectives. You will be able to contribute your expertise to a high-powered Board that draws on different sectors and professional backgrounds.

The appointments will strengthen the Board's collective capability. Candidates should demonstrate clearly where their experience can add value, whether through scientific leadership, commercial understanding, investment, end-user knowledge, or governance.

A shared approach

The FI values collaboration, pioneering thinking, and work that makes a difference. Trustees should be motivated by the opportunity to support research and innovation whose benefits extend beyond any individual institution or sector.

A willingness to prepare carefully, engage with different perspectives, and contribute to discussions between formal meetings will be important to fulfilling the role effectively.

Eligibility

Candidates must be over 18 and prepared to sign a declaration of willingness to act as a Trustee.

The Trustee Roles

COMMITMENT AND INCLUSION

Appointment term

Trustees are appointed for an initial term of up to three years and may be reappointed. In exceptional circumstances, longer service may be agreed in order to provide continuity and sustained impact.

Meetings and preparation

The Board meets at least three times a year, with interim briefing calls between meetings. Trustees are expected to read Board papers in advance, prepare for discussions, and contribute outside formal meetings when required.

Committee service

Trustees may also be invited to join one or more Board committees, contributing their expertise to specific areas of governance and oversight.

Remuneration and expenses

The roles are voluntary and unpaid. Reasonable travel and subsistence expenses may be claimed.

Discussing the commitment

Please discuss the practical arrangements and expected involvement with Anderson Quigley as part of a confidential conversation about the opportunity.

Diversity and inclusion

The FI is committed to building a Board that reflects the diversity of the communities and sectors it serves, with a balanced mix of perspectives from academia, industry, and other relevant sectors.

Applications are welcome from all backgrounds. Applications are particularly encouraged from people from ethnic minority backgrounds, disabled people, women, and people from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

An inclusive process

If you require reasonable adjustments at any stage of the recruitment process, please let us know so that appropriate arrangements can be discussed.



Different perspectives contribute to a stronger research community.

How to Apply

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS

The Faraday Institution has engaged Anderson Quigley to advise on these appointments.

Your application

Please prepare a comprehensive CV and a brief statement outlining your motivation and relevant experience.

Your statement should explain your interest in the FI and the contribution you could make as a Trustee. Identify the areas of expertise on page 7 that best reflect your background and provide concise examples of relevant experience.

Please submit your application on the dedicated portal, which can be found at https://andersonquigley.com/job/aq3792/

Confidential contact

Richard Heeks

Partner
Anderson Quigley

richard.heeks@andersonquigley.com

Please contact Richard if you would like to discuss the role and/or any reasonable adjustments.

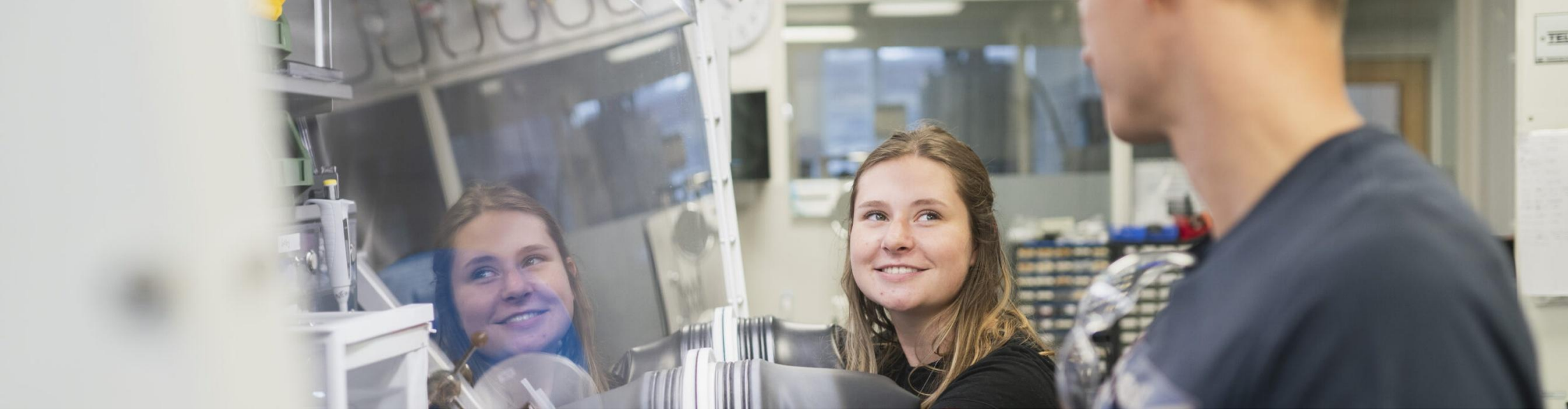


Bringing the battery research and innovation community together.

Find out more

Explore the FI's research, commercialisation activities, people and governance before preparing your application.

faraday.ac.uk



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