Fire **S**afety **E**ngineering **G**roup

Centre for Numerical Modelling and Process Analysis

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PRESS RELEASE
74% of FSEG research quality rated 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' by peers in REF 2014

The Fire Safety Engineering Group (FSEG) of the University of Greenwich (UoG) has retained its excellent research rating in the Aeronautical, Mechanical, Chemical and Manufacturing Engineering Unit of Assessment 12 (UoA 12) in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, published on 18 December 2014. FSEG research represented the largest part of Centre for Numerical Modelling and Process Analysis (CNMPA) submission to UoA 12.

74% of the submission to UoA 12 was rated 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' in the latest official assessment of publically funded university research in the UK. The score represents a 4% improvement on the university's previous strong performance in the Research Assessment Exercise of 2008, and with 65% more staff (FTE) submitting their work in the latest assessment, reflects the breadth, as well as depth, of the research team. The Fire Safety Engineering Group (FSEG) accounted for approximately 40% of the CNMPA submission.

Overall, 25 UK university research groups made submissions in UoA 12. Panels of experts produced an overall assessment of the originality, significance and rigour of each submission, derived from weighted scores for the quality of research **outputs** (65% of the assessment), the **impact** of research beyond academia (20% of the assessment) and the research **environment** (15% of the overall results).

The submission achieved a 'grade point average' of **3.03** (out of a possible 4) for Research Output and Research Impact, eight hundredths of a point from a top five position. The CNMPA came 9th overall, with the first five places held by Cambridge, Imperial College, Manchester, UCL and Leeds. The CNMPA's score of 3.03 breaks down as:

2.95 for the quality of its research publications, seven hundredths of a point from a top five position. The CNMPA came 12th overall, with the first five places held by Cambridge, Imperial College, UCL, Manchester and Sheffield.

3.30 for its research impact, nine hundredths of a point from a top five position. The CNMPA came equal 8th overall (with Cambridge), with the first five positions held by

Imperial College, Manchester A, Manchester B, Leeds, and Bath. The CNMPA's impact score reflects the panel's assessment that 100% of the team's research impact was 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent.

The CNMPA achieved a 'grade point average' of **2.25** for its research environment, reflecting the fact that the UoG does not have the research infrastructure of a research-intensive university.

"One of the great strengths of the REF as a process is that it sets our research quality in an international context," said Professor Ed Galea, Director of FSEG and the UoA 12 coordinator for the UoG. "It is a tremendous credit to the research team that against the most challenging international benchmarks, three quarters of our research activity was assessed by our peers as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent.' Our results in both the REF and RAE demonstrate a consistent record of internationally excellent research stretching back over ten years.

"I'm overjoyed that we've improved the overall quality of our research, at the same time as increasing the number of people submitted by 65%. Given the high importance we have always placed on adding value beyond the traditional boundaries of academia, I'm also particularly pleased that 100% of our work is in the top two categories of excellence for impact."

CNMPA SCORE PROFILE:
The work of CNMPA was judged as:

Category 4* - World Leading – 17%
Category 3* - Internationally Excellent – 57%
Category 2* - Recognised Internationally – 26%
Category 1* - Recognised Nationally – 0%
Unclassified – Quality that falls short of National Recognised – 0%

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

1) CNMPA

The Centre for Numerical Modelling and Process Analysis is a world leader in providing computational engineering solutions to complex problems in industry, the environment and human systems. From Fire Safety Engineering to Aerospace; Materials Processing/Handling to Bio-medical Engineering; Information and Communications Technologies to Maritime Engineering, CNMPA staff have solved some of the world's most challenging multi-disciplinary engineering problems.

The CNMPA is made up of research groups from the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Engineering. The research groups are:

Department of Mathematics:
Fire Safety Engineering Group, lead by Prof Ed Galea
Computational Mechanics and Reliability Group, lead by Prof Chris Bailey
Computational Science and Engineering Group, lead by Prof Koulis Pericleous

Department of Engineering:
Wolfson Centre, lead by Prof Michael Bradley

Further information can be found at: http://cnmpa.gre.ac.uk/

2) REF 2014

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is a peer review conducted on a regular basis to evaluate the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. The REF is conducted jointly by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland (DEL). Research quality in UK Higher Education Institutions is assessed every few years as the basis on which to allocate an annual budget of £1.5 billion of UK government research funding and to provide information on the quality of research in HEIs. The last exercise – Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) was conducted in 2008. The results of the REF2014 were published on the 18 December 2014 by the UK Higher Education Funding Councils. A full listing of the results can be found at http://results.ref.ac.uk/

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