

This month's highlights...

- We launch three new research reports on Place and Innovation
- Apply now for our Crucible 2008 programme
- Health Innovation Accelerator makes first investments

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News



[Place and Innovation – our latest reports](#)

We examine the attributes of innovative cities, regions and rural areas, in our latest three research reports on Place and Innovation.



[Making Innovative Places webcast](#)

AnnaLee Saxenian, Dean of the School of Information at UC Berkeley, examined the importance of international 'brain circulation' - the transfer of talent flow and ideas to create new opportunities for regions - in her keynote speech at NESTA's Place Summit. Watch the webcast of her speech.



[Atlas of Ideas webcast](#)

NESTA was pleased to host a debate to help launch the next phase of Demos' Atlas of Ideas, which considered where global innovation is coming from and where it might be heading next. View a video of the event.



[Apply now to Crucible 2008](#)

Applications for Crucible 2008 are now open. Crucible gives 30 early-career researchers the opportunity to develop new collaborations across disciplines and learn how to make their research more innovative.



NESTA welcomes two new directors

We're pleased to announce the appointment of two new directors to our Innovation Programmes team. Jonathan Kingsbury, Head of External Supply at the BBC, and Rowena Young, Director of the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at the Saïd Business School, Oxford University, will take up posts in our Creative Economy and Social Innovation and Finance Programmes, respectively. Both directors will join us in January 2008.



[Making innovative places – Policy Briefing](#)

From Silicon Valley to Shoreditch, innovative places attract the brightest and most creative people. But we believe that too often innovation policy has been set at a national level, without taking account of the widely differing needs of regions and localities.

If you'd like to comment on any of our research, please contact research@nesta.org.uk



[Innovation goes global - Policy Briefing](#)

We argue that the UK should embrace globalisation by encouraging collaboration and giving UK businesses the skills and tools they need to compete.

If you'd like to comment on any of our research, please contact research@nesta.org.uk



[Swarmtteams – connecting musicians with their fans](#)

From January 2008, selected UK musicians will be able to trial Swarmtteams - a new type of community-engagement platform, which borrows communication principles from nature. Supported by NESTA Connect, the initiative aims to connect musicians with their dedicated fans.



[Health Innovation Accelerator takes off](#)

The Health Innovation Accelerator - a new model for speeding up the creation and development of social ventures in the health sector – has funded its first three early-stage projects, totalling £60,000.



[Making mini movies about science](#)

Planet SciCast is a new project that is challenging people of all age groups to make mini movies of exciting science experiments. Submit your entries by 4 January to enter the 2008 Awards. Winning teams will receive a statuette and £250 worth of Amazon vouchers. Another £250 is up for grabs for the overall best film.



[What I wished I'd known](#)

Together with BVCA, we asked 15 successful entrepreneurs to reveal 'what they wished they'd known' when starting up their business. Recently published: Alex Hoyer, Dr Ian Muirhead and Alaisdair Rawsthorne.

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Opinion



[Did ants invent the perfect system for communicating via mobile technology?](#)

Swarmtteams founder, Ken Thompson, writes about bioteaming - an exciting new field of research about how we can transfer communication mechanisms from nature into our own teams, groups, communities and social networks.

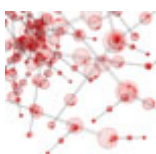


[Why interdisciplinary research is music to the ears](#)

We need to give creative people more rope to experiment with blue skies thinking, says Sarah Angliss – one of the speakers at our Crucible 2007 residential.

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Spotlight on innovation



NESTA Connect blog featured post

[Open Innovation guru Chesbrough visits NESTA](#)

David Simoes-Brown reflects on the impact and words of the 'godfather of open innovation' on his recent visit to NESTA.



Making Innovation Flourish blog featured post

[Making innovative places \(part three - conclusions\)](#)

Richard Halkett summarises the attributes that regional leaders require in his last of three blog posts on NESTA's Making Innovative Places Summit.



Blog post: SmallBizPod

[The climate change threat to your business](#)

"Sooner or later, if you provide goods and services to other businesses, your environmental credentials will be put to the test," argues David Tebbutt. "And, if you can't or won't provide an honest account, you will be sidelined in favour of those who will." [Email us with your views.](#)

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Book review



Each month, we're asking friends and colleagues to review a recently published book concerning innovation. [Email us your book reviews](#) for possible inclusion in a future issue of the NESTA Bulletin.

Weird Ideas That Work, by Robert Sutton

Reviewed by Gerard Darby, Future Innovators Manager

Despite considerable debate on the subject, there are surprisingly few books about how to develop an innovative culture in an organisation. *Managing Creativity and Innovation*, a publication in the Harvard Business Essentials series, explores the manager's role in sparking organisational creativity and provides useful insights into the process in a clear and concise style.

A very different book is *Weird Ideas That Work*, in which Robert Sutton suggests some quite unconventional approaches such as: 'Encourage people to ignore and defy superiors and peers' and 'Hire people who make you uncomfortable, even those you dislike'. Whilst seemingly impractical, his assertions are at the same time well-argued and he is able to back them all up with anecdotes from different organisations, which have successfully put them into practice.

An excellent publication on the same theme is Paul Sloane's *The Innovative Leader* in which, through a highly entertaining and readable narrative, he describes how to take the journey from analysing a problem, generating useful ideas, implementing them to providing the culture where such ideas will continue to grow.

[You can find out more or order the book from Amazon.](#)

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Events

To be included in this list of events for the forthcoming month, please email bulletin@enews.nesta.org.uk. Please note that we include non-NESTA events that we believe to be of interest to the wider innovation community and do not necessarily have any relationship with the organisers.



[EU a collaborative state, London, 9 January](#)

Representatives from EU countries will consider how different countries are working together to stimulate the exchange of ideas and entrepreneurial activity, and where challenges and opportunities exist for more effective collaboration.



[World Entrepreneurship Summit, London, 10-11 January](#)

Thought leaders, business leaders, policymakers and academics from around the world will set a 2008 agenda for the role entrepreneurs will play in enabling sustainable economic development.



[BETT 2008, London, 9-12 January](#)

Educators and learners can find out about new ways to put ICT at the heart of education, at a series of workshops, seminars and exhibitions at BETT 2008.



[Workshop for teachers and learners interested in the future of education, Birmingham, 15 January](#)

Futurelab is holding a one-day workshop to help teachers and learners (aged 11-18) identify their hopes, fears and priorities for the future of education.

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