Structural Ceramics Network:
Road Map Executive Summary
The road mapping process would not have been possible without the members of SCERN and especially the contributions of the following people:

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For further information please visit the SCERN website http://portal.surrey.ac.uk or contact the SCERN chairman:

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The Structural Ceramics Network (SCERN)

The Structural Ceramics Network (SCERN) was funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) during the period June 2005 to June 2008.

The original aims of SCERN were as follows:

- To improve communication both within the structural ceramics community and between this community and other interest groups
- To act as a ‘knowledge centre’ on structural ceramics
- To produce a ‘roadmap’ for research on structural ceramics that builds on existing strengths and identifies new topics that will either support UK industry and/or extend academic boundaries
- To stimulate collaboration between members such that proposals are developed in line with the roadmap
- To put forward proposals for priority areas for funding from EPSRC and other bodies
- To be self-sustaining at the end of the funding period.

To date, over 90 individuals from 46 organisations have joined the network. SCERN has also become an Affiliate of the Materials Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN).

The increased numbers of people attending meetings and the lively debate at these events is proof that SCERN has achieved its major objective in that the community is considerably more coherent and vibrant than it was a few years ago. Further, through the contributions of the members to the SCERN website (http://portal.surrey.ac.uk) and interaction with the Materials KTN, SCERN is acting as a knowledge centre for structural ceramics.

The chief activity over the last three years has been the identification of two or three theme areas that would bring the community together, stimulate academic research and provide support for the manufacturing and customer base. This has been achieved through a road mapping process, the executive summary of which is presented here.

From this process, the three themes that were identified for further development were:

- Understanding and enhancing toughness
- Joining, integration and design of ceramic components
- Non-destructive evaluation

Although EPSRC support has now come to an end, the final original aim has been met, in that SCERN will be organising workshops around these three themes over the coming year.