

Research Centre Discovers Rocket

March 2008 saw the initial commissioning of an A700 Rocket composter at the Science and Technology Facilities Council, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire. The composter is to be used on site to tackle the food wastes generated at the centre, mixed with seasonal supplements of green wastes. The compost is destined to be reused around the magnificent site pictured below. The landscaping contract, operators of composting equipment and ultimately the intended end users of the resultant food waste compost, is the nationwide based landscaping company, Gavin Jones Landscapes.

Pictured below, STFC site in Didcot, composting building built to house rocket.

The Science and Technology Facilities Council is an independent, non-departmental public body of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

They were formed as a new Research Council on 1 April 2007 through a merger of the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC) and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) and the transfer of responsibility for nuclear physics from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). They are one of seven [national research councils](#) in the UK.

STFC is a science-driven organisation. They make it possible for a broad range of scientists to do the highest quality research tackling some of the most fundamental scientific questions.

They do this by:

- funding researchers in universities directly through grants particularly in astronomy, particle physics, space science and nuclear physics.
- providing in the UK access to world-class facilities, including [ISIS](#), the [Synchrotron Radiation Source](#) (SRS), the [Central Laser Facility](#), and [HPCx](#). They are also a major stakeholder in the [Diamond Light Source](#), which started operating this year.
- providing in the UK a broad range of scientific and technical expertise in space and ground-based astronomy technologies, microelectronics, wafer scale manufacturing, particle and nuclear physics, alternative energy production, radio communications and radar.
- providing access to world-class facilities overseas, including through [CERN](#), the [European Space Agency](#) (ESA), the [European Southern Observatory](#) (ESO), the [European Synchrotron Radiation Facility](#) (ESRF), the [Institut Laue-Langevin](#) (ILL) and telescope facilities in [Chile](#), [Hawaii](#), [La Palma](#), [Australia](#) and the [MERLIN/VLBI National Facility](#), which includes the Lovell Telescope at Jodrell Bank Observatory.

They supply highly skilled scientists and engineers and generate ideas and technologies that have a much broader social and economic impact.

They encourage researchers to create new businesses based on their discoveries and they help established companies to use the fruits of our research as the basis of new or improved products and services.

[Weblink to The Science and Technology Facilities Council website](#)

