

John Womersley

Professor John Womersley trained as a particle physicist and has several decades experience as a manager of large national and international scientific and technical organisations. He is a graduate of Cambridge and Oxford, and played a leading role in particle physics both in Europe and the United States, including leading a major international experiment at Fermilab, before working as a scientific advisor to the Department of Energy in the US. From 2011 to 2016, he led the Science and Technology Facilities Council, the United Kingdom's funding agency for particle physics, astronomy and for large research facilities, where he delivered flagship projects including the Square Kilometre Array telescope, the Hartree Centre for high performance computing, and the Science and Innovation campuses at Harwell and Daresbury. From 2016 to 2021 he served as Director General of the European Spallation Source, a €3B project to build a neutron scattering facility ten times more powerful than anything available today, to address key research challenges for society and the economy. He is now a special advisor in the University of Edinburgh, working to establish new interdisciplinary research initiatives.