

Hartree opening

starts revolution in High Performance Computing

The importance of high performance computing (HPC) to UK society and industry was highlighted in a series of events at Daresbury Laboratory earlier this year.



Professor John Womersley, Chief Executive at STFC, and Jim Crilly, Senior Vice President, Strategic Science Group at Unilever

A two day HPC workshop began the week, featuring speakers from well-known worldwide organisations such as Jaguar, Land Rover, IBM and Unilever, with presentations that showed off the many advantages of using HPC. Over 120 delegates from both industry and research institutions were present for the event, which was the first in a series that will provide current and prospective HPC users from all science sectors with information about the world class resources available and highlight potential collaboration opportunities.

company. Its facilities include a cutting-edge surround wall visualisation suite and advanced software training facilities. The Hartree Centre was formed to allow new collaborations and projects between industry, academics and the Government that will promote economic growth.

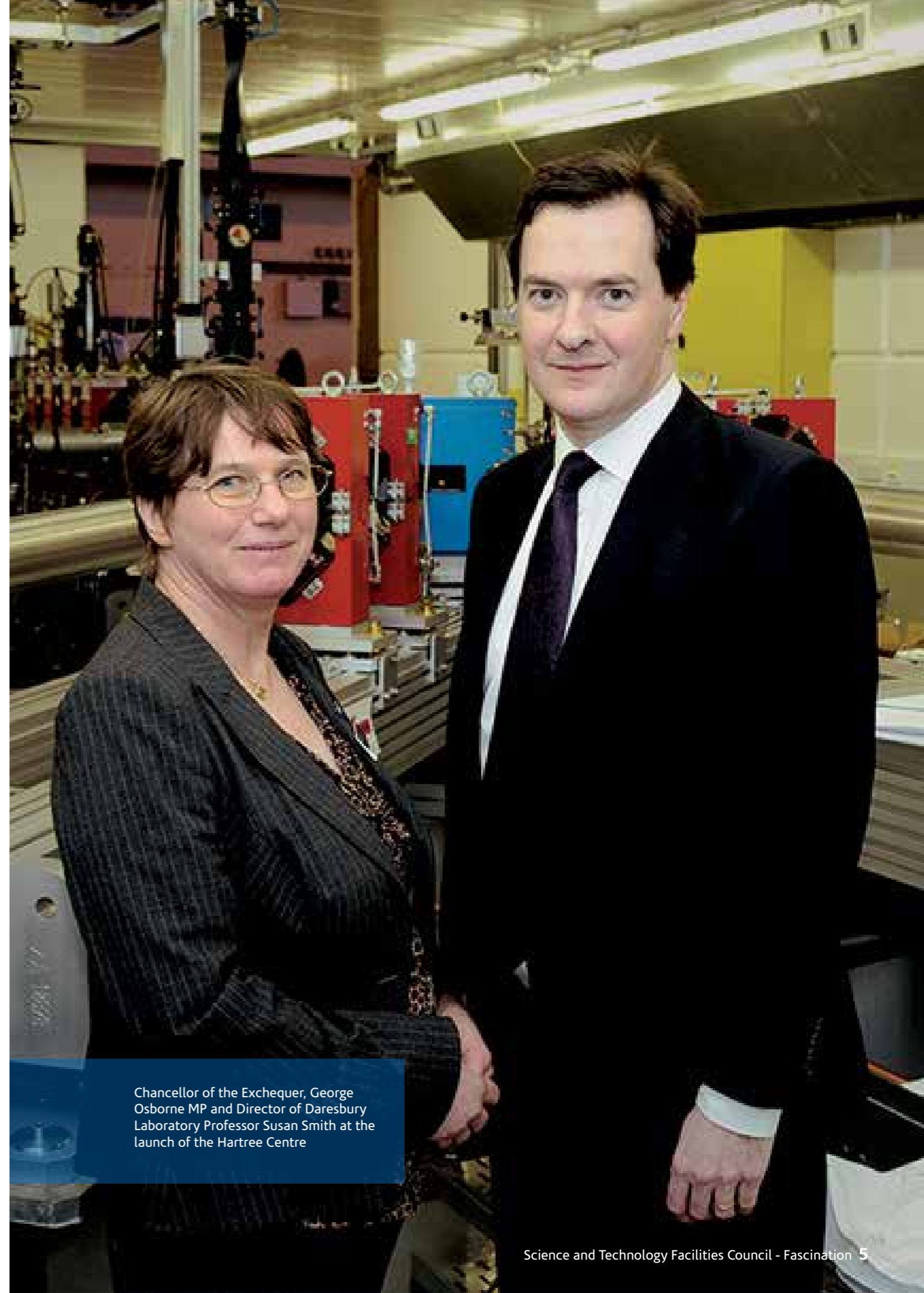
The Government's investment into the UK's e-infrastructure will support one of the Hartree Centre's main goals of developing energy efficient computing technologies, as well as data intensive computing for the SKA. The world's largest radio telescope is expected to produce an unprecedented amount of data; the data collected in a single day by the SKA would take nearly two million years to play on an iPod. Software capable of handling such large amounts of data is therefore a high priority. The development of new technology for scientific research will inevitably lead to spin-outs that will benefit society, from improved communications systems to entertainment.

The week culminated in a visit from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP, who announced a capital investment of £30 million into the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project and in HPC at the Lab, and to officially open the Hartree Centre. An essential signing with Unilever also took place, consolidating a promising research partnership.

STFC's Hartree Centre is a research collaboration with IBM, the world's biggest IT and consulting services



Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP officially opens the Hartree Centre at Daresbury Laboratory



Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP and Director of Daresbury Laboratory Professor Susan Smith at the launch of the Hartree Centre