

**Dr Frances Saunders CB FEng CEng CPhys FInstP**

**President Institute of Physics**

**Formerly Chief Executive, Dstl**



Following her graduation from Nottingham University, Frances worked as an Electronic Engineer in the motor industry before joining the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment at Malvern as a research scientist in the Liquid Crystal Devices team. She undertook a variety of research and science and technology management roles within the MOD establishments and in BIS,

where she oversaw the interface with the Research Councils and RCUK. Whilst working with the RCs she also set up the Diamond Light Source, supported the activities of the British Antarctic Survey and represented the UK on the Council for CERN and at the OECD Global Science Forum. The culmination of her Civil Service career was her role as Chief Executive of Dstl, which she held from 2006 until her early retirement in March 2012.

Frances was a founding Non-Executive Director of Ploughshare Innovations Ltd, the subsidiary of Dstl she set up in 2006 to exploit its intellectual property. She has experience as an NED of technology start-up companies and is currently an NED of Sentinor Ltd. She has been a Member of Cranfield University Council since 2007, was a member of the industry advisory panel to the Cockcroft Institute from 2009-12 and is a Trustee of the Engineering Development Trust. She also sits on advisory boards for the UK Space Agency and the Defence Academy. She was a member of the Physics Panel for the REF2014 university assessment exercise and was elected as President Elect of the Institute of Physics in 2012, taking up the office of President in October 2013.