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STM Welcomes growing transatlantic alignment on Open Access

The International Association of Science, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM) noted with interest the 'Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research' memorandum issued by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The Association sees this memorandum as both a pragmatic and a measured response to current open access trends within both research funding and the wider STM publishing industry.

The OSTP memorandum issued on 22nd February 2013 directed agencies with annual research and development budgets of more than \$100 million to submit plans within the next 6 months for ensuring that the public can read, download and analyse digital data and final manuscripts within professional journals without charge. The memorandum indicates that individual research agencies should allow for delayed access to those manuscripts to prevent negative impact to scholarly communication. Although a 12 month embargo period provides a guideline, agencies may tailor the plan to best serve the scientific fields and agency mission.

Speaking of the memorandum, Michael Mabe, STM CEO said: "The memorandum from the OSTP, in combination with the practice of many large U.S. agencies to allow grant funds to be used for gold open access, indicates an increasing empathy between US science policy and that of the UK. Likewise, it matches closely the key points laid out by the Finch Report, particularly on embargo periods for green open access." He added: "Across the leading research nations, it is now EU policy which seems out of alignment with the rest of the world. At a meeting held at the Royal Society on 25th February 2013, UK Science Minister David Willetts described current EU thinking on a six month embargo period for green OA as both 'unsupportable' and 'unsustainable'. STM therefore hopes that this OSTP memorandum will continue to lead to greater alignment, particularly within the EU.

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Notes to Editors

- 1) ['Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research'](#) was issued by the Office of Science and Technology Policy on 22nd February 2013.
- 2) [STM](#) is an international association of over 120 scientific, technical, medical and scholarly publishers, collectively responsible for more than 60% of the global annual output of research articles, 55% of the active research journals and the publication of tens of thousands of print and electronic books, reference works and databases. We are the only international trade association equally representing all types of STM publishers – large and small companies, not for profit organizations, learned societies, traditional, primary, secondary publishers and new entrants to global publishing.