

September 2021

We are very proud to announce the publication of the **Strategic Intelligence Foresight System** for the European Commission's Research and Innovation Directorate.

In the words of the Director General of Research and Innovation, M Jean-Eric Paquet, the project will “support and complement the strategic foresight efforts of all the DGs concerned with the preparation of the 2nd Strategic Plan of Horizon Europe and its future work programmes”



This is a very comprehensive project, delivering an entire system for testing policy against the future. SAMI developed the Strategic Intelligence Foresight Framework – a comprehensive set of 44 scenarios (4 global scenarios and forty scenarios for ten global regions), as part of a collaborative project known as SAFIRE with the Commission and our partners, I|FOK, Cadmus and the Danish Board of Technology.

In its development of an comprehensive foresight system, SAFIRE is ground-breaking. We are privileged to be part of it and look forward to seeing its use within the EU.

To find out more about SAFIRE, and how we can apply our skills and expertise to futures and foresight projects, please get in touch.

A second round of the *SAMI Cohort* is just beginning. The Cohort is a small group of professionals working with foresight and scenario planning, who gather every couple of months to learn from each other and SAMI staffers in a mutually supportive online environment. Cohort members choose the topics for discussion. Further members are welcome. Contact Jane.Dowsett@samiconsulting.co.uk for further information.

SAMI is running a free webinar on Gill Ringland and Patricia Lustig's new book ***New Shoots – people making fresh choices in a changing world*** on November 4th.

Huw Williams presented an updated version of his *Key Drivers of Change* presentation to the Derby and Nottingham branch of CQI. If you'd like a copy, or to talk about the major drivers of change, please contact him at huw.williams@samiconsulting.co.uk.

A major review of ***42 select books by futurists past and present*** included SAMI Principal Patricia Lustig's highly respected ***Strategic Foresight: Learning from the Future***.

Executive Education

Our online course “Understanding the Future” will be run again on 22nd to 26th November. The course fee is £490 + VAT, and discounts may be available for self-funded individuals. For more information, please email us at training@samiconsulting.co.uk.

A range of information on various **futures techniques** – our version of the GOS Futures Toolkit – is available on our website.

Futures Issues

Over the summer, the *IPCC* produced another **hard-hitting report** on global heating: “*Climate change: widespread, rapid and intensifying*”. They conclude: “*The biggest uncertainty in all climate-change projections is how humans will act.*” This at the time that the **Amazon rainforest has become a net carbon emitter**.

Russia announced it had successfully tested a **hypersonic cruise missile**, fired from a warship, that travelled at around seven times the speed of sound before hitting a ground target more than 350 km away. The combination of speed, manoeuvrability and altitude of hypersonic missiles makes them difficult to track and intercept – the Russians claim it can evade a U.S.-built missile shield.

Electroflight and Rolls-Royce are developing a single-seater aircraft that they hope will soon break the **world speed record for an electric aircraft** by travelling at more than 480km/h (300mph). To help keep the weight down they have housed the battery system in a carbon fibre shell. Experts think however that for longer flights we are going to need hydrogen or alternative green fuels.

Electric VTOL taxis are due to launch in Sao Paulo by 2025. Sao Paulo, with a population of 12 million, is one of the world’s most congested cities.

Astronomers are concerned that **internet satellites** will interfere with observations of the night sky. About 2,000 have been launched over the past 2 years. Tens of thousands of satellites could be added to Earth orbit in the next few years to provide broadband Internet, if companies and governments build and launch all the networks, or ‘megaconstellations’, they have publicly announced.

Researchers have developed a new kind of material with adjustable and reversible properties. This new **smart fabric** is 3D printed with interlinked particles, like chain mail. Applying pressure jams the particles together and the fabric becomes stiff and solid until the pressure is released. This unusual property could be useful for reusable casts and other medical applications.

A herd of cows has been “**potty-trained**” in an experiment that scientists say could pave the way for more environmentally friendly farms. Waste from cattle farms often contaminates soil and waterways and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and the acidification of soil.

Our Blogs

Since our last newsletter we have published a number of blogs on a variety of subjects. Back in July we looked at an **FCA report on the use of artificial intelligence in financial services**, from automation to machine learning and data analysis and we considered possible

implications. We then moved to examine a report from the **Hoover Institute which explored the strategic and policy directions that China may follow** looking, in particular, at possible scenarios for China -USA relations. Following this, we shared some thoughts on **action learning, our experiences with our Futures Cohort** and our plans for our continuing Futures Cohorts. As the summer holidays started, we looked at some thoughts and ideas on **how scenario planning informs strategy**, using a variety of responses to the pandemic as examples.

After a summer break we returned to the topic of resilience, which we have discussed as a way for organisations to deal with the unexpected, and looked at why, whilst **resilience is good to build, it is not a sufficient foresight strategy**. We then published the first in a series of blogs based on a new book (to be published this autumn) by Patricia Lustig and Gill Ringland. This first blog looked at **issues arising from the worldwide falling birth rates and the implications** of these. Lastly we published a blog which **looked at four recent reports of futures work and scenarios** from the OECD, Imperial College Foresight, Shell and the International Energy Agency.

If you'd like to receive reminders when our blogs are published, then **check the link on our website** or if you would like to write a blog for us, then please **contact us here**.