

CaSE Briefing

20th April 2009

Budget 2009

Through sustained increased investment the Government has strengthened the UK's ability to take advantage of its world-class science and engineering research base. The Prime Minister's recent commitment to maintain the upward trajectory of investment was an extremely important announcement. The Budget provides the opportunity for targeted investments to compliment and build upon the Government's long-term strategy for science and innovation.

There are two main reasons for adopting targeted investments:

- The UK needs to remain internationally competitive in attracting researchers and corporate R&D, as both are highly mobile. Although absolute investment has gone up we cannot be complacent when other countries, particularly the US, are making science and engineering central to their economic recovery.
- Scientists and engineers will be critical to achieving a more balanced economy.

A number of targeted proposals for science and engineering have been developed by a range of organisations, including the Royal Society and the CBI. They mainly cluster around three areas:

- **Skills:** Additional funding for scientists and engineers to develop their skills during the economic downturn, through post-graduate study or work placements.
- **Research:** Additional funding to upgrade research facilities, pay for unfunded but highly rated research projects and establish fellowships to attract international talent to the UK.
- **Innovation:** The Government could make better use of procurement, departmental R&D budgets and the Technology Strategy Board to facilitate research and innovation in priority areas.

Investment in science and engineering produces a short-term gain through the employment and skills it produces, but it also has a long-term return by developing the ideas that will shape the economy of the future. Now is the time to make science and engineering central to the nation's prosperity.

Further information

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