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“Wait-and-see on science spending – but Government needs long-term plan”

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The Chancellor has said that the “economic recovery must have its foundations in the private sector”, that the British economy needs to be “open for business”, and that the business community wants “certainty and stability from Government.”

He also said that he will “consult with business to review the taxation of intellectual property, the support R&D tax credits provide for innovation, and the proposals of the Dyson review.”

Imran Khan, the Director of the Campaign for Science and Engineering, said:

“Today wasn’t about setting the science budget – we will have to wait until the CSR in the autumn to see if the Government has understood the necessity of investing in science and engineering to secure economic growth.”

“But the Government has recognised the importance of the private sector to the recovery.”

“Stable public spending – and certainly not a spending cut - is essential for encouraging R&D investors to build the UK’s high-skills, high-tech economy of tomorrow.

“In a letter to the Times last week, industry leaders from companies including GSK and Airbus, said that the Government needs ‘a clear, strong, and long-term strategy’ for science and engineering which includes ‘investing in education and public sector research’.”

“We welcome the announced consultation on R&D tax credits and the Dyson review; the scientific and engineering community, including business, wants to partner Government in securing the recovery, helping to make the most of the UK’s enormous potential in this sector.”

“It is vital that the outcome of the proposed consultation becomes part of a long-term framework which sets out how Government will support science and engineering over the next decade, not just the forthcoming three years.”

ENDS

Notes to editors.

1. The letter to the Times is available down the page at this link:
<http://blog.sciencecampaign.org.uk/?p=1646>
2. CaSE is a member-funded organisation which advocates for science and engineering policy across a range of sectors. www.sciencecampaign.org.uk