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## SCIENCE POLICIES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) today launched its agenda of science policies for the next five years.

Speaking at the launch of *Science Policies for the Next Parliament: Agenda 2005-2010*, Dr Peter Cotgreave, Director of CaSE, said: "The current Government has done much that is good for science and engineering, but there is a long way to go before we can achieve the Prime Minister's aim of making the UK the best place in the world to for research and for science-based industry. This document sets out a detailed analysis of the current situation, and makes more than 60 recommendations for the Parliament and Government that will be elected at the coming General Election.

For example, to stimulate more R&D in the private sector, we recommend that the role of the Research Councils should be expanded routinely to include support for high-quality research and development in the private sector.

In the cultural field, we recommend that the distribution of National Lottery funds should more accurately reflect the known charitable interests of the population at large; the public are much more supportive of scientific areas, such as health and environment research than is reflected in the Lottery's awards. To improve policy-making, we urge the Government to make much better use of secondments, to bring scientific expertise into the civil service.

None of these will be possible or worthwhile without a healthy research base and strong system of scientific education, and half of our recommendations cover these two areas. For example, we believe the government must find ways of ensuring adequate funding for novel, research with a high risk of failure, which is dwindling in our universities. And as a matter of urgency, we need new and innovative ways of giving good careers advice to schoolchildren, who are still being given the impression that studying sciences is not a good way to prepare for an interesting, exciting or rewarding career.

*Science Policies for the Next Parliament* is a realistic basis for a five year programme, and we at CaSE urge whoever is elected to Government to follow as many of our recommendations as possible.

*Science Policies for the Next Parliament* is available in hard copy from CaSE or can be downloaded from CaSE's website at <http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/texts/documents/2005/CaSE0503.htm>

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