



Press release: 27 February 2009

CaSE response to Prime Minister's speech on "Science & our economic future"

The Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) welcomed the Prime Minister's speech on the importance of science to the UK's economic future. Commenting on the Prime Minister's Romanes Lecture at the University of Oxford Nick Dusic, Director of the Campaign for Science & Engineering, said: "The Prime Minister is absolutely right that now is the time to show the world the UK is the place to do science. Unfortunately he needed to go further today in his commitments because other countries are raising the bar by making science and engineering central to their economic recovery."

Commenting on the commitment to **maintain investment** in science Nick Dusic said, "Just maintaining current spending commitments will mean that we are losing ground against countries, like the US, that are giving science a huge boost within their stimulus packages. The government has got the UK back in the race to be a world leader in science, but unless it keeps pace we will lose talent and investment to other countries that are following up fine words with hard cash."

Commenting on **science teaching** Nick Dusic said, "The government's 90% target for triple science does not go far enough. Every able student should have the right to study separate biology, chemistry and physics GCSEs. The fact that only 2% of students on free school meals currently do so means that the government is not giving all kids a fair shot at a career in science."

Ends

1. For further information, please contact Nick Dusic, Director of CaSE, on 020 7679 4995 or 07749 953041.

2. Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) is a policy advocate for science and engineering in the UK. CaSE is supported by its members, which includes individuals, corporations, universities and learned societies. Further information on CaSE can be found on our website:

<http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/>