

CaSE Press Release

9th December 2009

CaSE responds to Pre-Budget-Report

Responding to the Pre-Budget Report 2009 the Campaign for Science & Engineering's Director, Nick Dusic, said "The Chancellor has sent mixed signals today about the future of science and innovation in the UK. He is looking for a significant cut in investment in the nation's research and skills base, whilst providing support for innovation that stems from it."

In the Pre-Budget Report (page 110) **£600 million of savings** are to be found in the higher education and science and research budgets. Nick Dusic said, "The UK's success in science, and the government's investment in it, will be undermined by £600 million savings in the science and higher education budgets. The government cannot afford to undermine the research base if it is going to achieve its goal of a more balanced economy."

"There needs to be an urgent statement from the Chancellor on the fate of the ring-fenced Science Budget and the future of the government's Ten Year Science and Innovation Investment Framework that is suppose to last until 2014. Both are vital to ensuring that the UK can compete with countries that are actually boosting investment in science and research."

The PBR announced an additional investment of **£200 million in the Strategic Investment Fund** to support innovative industrial projects across the UK. Nick Dusic said "The additional money for the Strategic Investment Fund should be targeted at boosting industrial R&D in key sectors, including low-carbon technologies."

The PBR proposed a **10% corporation tax rate on income which stems from patents** arising from research and development (R&D) in the UK. Nick Dusic said, "Using tax incentives to encourage investment in R&D in the UK makes economic sense and should help strengthen research and manufacturing in key sectors. It is disappointing that the reduced rate of income tax is only planned for patents registered after April 2013."

Ends

Notes to editors

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/>