

**CaSE Press Release**

22nd April 2009

### **Budget refocuses the Science Budget**

Responding to the Budget 2009 the Campaign for Science & Engineering's Director, Nick Dusic, said "Although the Budget provided additional support for key technology areas, the Chancellor has weakened the UK's innovative potential in the future by meddling with the science budget."

Commenting on the **refocusing of research spending** (page 130 of the Budget Report), Nick Dusic said:

"The Chancellor has undermined the independence of the research councils by making them re-allocate £106 million of research funding towards areas with predicted economic potential. There needs to be an urgent review of this decision as it completely destroys the idea the research councils operate at arm's length from government. Rather than boosting investment in the research base, like our international competitors, the government has moved money around."

Commenting on support for key **technology areas**, Nick Dusic said:

"Through the Technology Strategy Board and the new Strategic Investment Fund the government can provide vital investment for late-stage technological innovation. This investment is how the government should be supporting key technology areas rather than interfering with the research councils."

Commenting on support for **science and mathematics teaching**, Nick Dusic said:

"The additional investment in science and mathematics teaching is more than welcome and definitely needed. The government should go further to guarantee that all children who would gain from taking triple science, that is, physics, chemistry and biology GCSEs together, have the opportunity to do so. At the moment, the current government target is for 90% of schools to offer triple science, despite a previous target for 100% of students to have that valuable opportunity."

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/>