

CaSE Briefing - Autumn Statement 2013

December 5th 2013

This document sets out CaSE's summary of announcements made today in the Autumn Statement that are relevant to science and engineering. They cover

- Science and innovation
- Education and skills
- Infrastructure and capital
- Departmental resource reduction

You can also read CaSE's response to the Autumn Statement [here](#).

Science and Innovation

Science and Innovation Strategy

The Government has announced it will be publishing a Science and Innovation Strategy for Autumn Statement 2014. This strategy will set out how the government's long-term commitment on science capital announced at Spending Round 2013 will deliver the research and innovation infrastructure needed by the UK.

Scientific Research

Funding Announcements

- Provide £270 million over five years to fund a programme of Quantum Technology Centres - supporting translation of quantum research into applications and supporting new industries. £190m of this is new resource funding from EPSRC.
- Create an Emerging Powers Research Fund of £75 million per year to improve the research and innovation capacity of emerging powers and support collaboration with the UK. This funding will not come from BIS, but from the Official Development Assistance (ODA), part of the FCO.
- Fund £80 million over five years to establish a Global Collaborative Space Programme, enabling UK scientists and companies to build stronger links with emerging powers in developing space capabilities and technology.
- Creation of the Higgs Centre at Edinburgh University, named in honour of British Nobel laureate Peter Higgs, to provide big data capabilities to support high tech start ups and academic researchers specialising in astronomy and particle physics. The Centre will receive a capital investment from the Treasury of £10.7 million and then operational funding of £2 million per year from the STFC over a period of five years.
- Producing a review on the development of driverless cars by the end 2014, and a prize fund of £10 million for a town or city to develop as a test site for consumer testing. Also investing £5 million during 2014-15 in a large scale electric vehicle-readiness programme for public sector fleets.

Education and Skills

Funding Announcements

- Extra funding for STEM students of £50 million per academic year from 2015-16
- Providing £40 million to deliver an additional 20,000 higher apprenticeship starts in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years
- Invest around £10 million a year in Jobcentre Plus support for 16 and 17 year olds who want help to find apprenticeships and traineeships, to be delivered in partnership with local authorities

Higher Education Student Number Reform

- Increase the cap for HEFCE-funded institutions by 30,000 for the academic year 2014-15.
- Remove the cap on student numbers at publicly-funded higher education institutions in England by 2015-16.
- Retain number controls at alternative providers in 2014-15 on the basis of their 2012-13 levels.
- From 2015-16, allow student numbers at alternative providers to be freed in line with HEFCE funded institutions.

Infrastructure and capital

National Infrastructure Plan 2013

Yesterday, the Government published an updated version of its National Infrastructure Plan, setting out the government's vision for UK infrastructure investment and providing a refreshed list of the UK's top 40 priority investments.

The National Infrastructure Plan 2013 brings investments related to science and innovation into its list of its priority investments for the first time.

This comes after the Government announced as part of the 2013 Spending Review that it was increasing science capital funding in real terms from £0.6 billion in 2012-13 to £1.1 billion in 2015-16, and in line with inflation to 2016-17. The Government will also set a long-term capital budget for science in the next Parliament growing in line with inflation to 2020-21.

Three main areas of science and innovation investment in the National Infrastructure Plan 2013 are as follows:

Science majors

This covers capital investments which deliver research facilities and large-scale projects, supporting the government's objective of ensuring that the UK is a world leader in research, technology development and innovation. These key projects include:

- The Francis Crick Institute
- Diamond Phase 3
- Skylon SABRE

- ELIXIR
- Pirbright Institute Phase 2
- Agri-tech Innovation Centres

Research Partnerships Investment Fund (RPIF)

This fund supports strengthening links between business and academia, by using government's investment in cutting-edge research facilities to leverage private and charitable investment. RPIF has been provided to 22 projects, and the government will monitor progress at an overall programme level.

Catapult Centres

Ongoing support for the network of Catapult Centres that accelerate commercial exploitation of new technologies through the Technology Strategy Board.

Departmental resource reductions

Alongside the funding and policy announcements the Autumn Statement also outlined Departmental resource reductions for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

- Departmental budgets will see total reductions in resource of £1bn a year in 2014-15 and 2015-16
- The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will expect to see £304m reductions in resource over the next two years
- Reductions by department are outlined below
- The protection of the NHS and schools spend is maintained
- The Barnett formula means that over the next two years, the budgets for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will see a net increase

Reductions in departmental resource budgets

	£ million	
	2014-15	2015-16
Defence	277	272
Education	167	156
BIS	157	148
HO	118	113
DWP	84	57
Justice	77	71
Scotland	55	51
Transport	41	36
DCLG Communities	24	13
Wales	22	20
NI	21	19
Other departments	79	72
Total reductions	1122	1028

Source: Departmental resource reductions taken from Autumn Statement 2013

CaSE has previously warned that government departments have disproportionately cut their research and development (R&D) budgets, as part of overall cuts in Whitehall.