

TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY BOARD – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background information about the Board

The creation of a Technology Strategy was announced in the Innovation Report – “Competing in the Global Economy”, published in December 2003 (paras 3.23-3.26). This report proposed high priority Government action to encourage business to develop and implement new products and services, by promoting technological innovation.

The Innovation Report proposed developing a Technology Strategy with a medium to long-term perspective, to provide a framework for setting policy priorities and improving the effectiveness of DTI support to business. Over time, the Government’s aim is for the DTI Technology Strategy to be a focus of influence for a wide range of actions across Government that have as part of their objectives improving technological innovation in business. This forms a key element of the Government’s Science & Innovation Investment Framework, published July 2004.

The Technology Strategy will be business led, market focussed and have a high level of stakeholder input. The Government proposed the setting up of a high level Technology Strategy Board to oversee the process.

Purpose

The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to the Minister for Science and Innovation and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on a 3-10 year Technology Strategy for the UK’s long-term economic development.

More specifically the Board will make recommendations on:

- Business based technology priorities for the UK, set in a global context;
- The allocation of DTI funding across these priorities;
- The most appropriate form of intervention to support these priorities (working within the overall funding envelope and product set agreed by the DTI’s Business Support Investment Committee);
- The stimulation of business demand for new and innovative technologies and the encouragement of a greater business investment in R&D.

Terms of Reference

The Technology Strategy Board's responsibilities are:

- Annually, to assess the evidence and put forward a recommended strategy to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the business research and technology priorities for the UK, the allocation of DTI funding across these priorities, and the most appropriate form of intervention to support them;
- To consider a comprehensive set of inputs from stakeholder groups, including an assessment of UK science strengths, and recommend the creation of new stakeholder groups or other mechanisms where necessary to fill any gaps in these inputs;
- To highlight knowledge gaps and commission further work to strengthen the evidence base.
- To monitor progress and performance against the Technology Strategy, assessing the effectiveness of the technology priorities and intervention methods used on an appropriate timescale, in order to inform future development of the strategy.
- To recommend additional processes for stimulating business investment in innovation.

To ensure that the Government's investment framework for science and innovation is developed in a way that fosters business R&D and innovation in the UK, the Board will prepare an annual report for publication on its own activities (identified above), and also on Government policies that relate to

technology innovation and knowledge transfer. As stated in the Government's Science & Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014, published July 2004, this will include consideration of:

- The Research Council's technology priorities in relation to business;
- The extent to which Government regulation and procurement policies provide clarity as to the challenges and opportunities for business innovation over the coming decade;
- An independent assessment of the regional mechanisms for strengthening technology innovation and the extent to which they are developing cost-effective solutions;
- The extent to which the National Metrology System and the National Standards Strategic Framework is contributing to the early uptake of new technology; and
- The UK's priorities in the negotiation of the EU Framework Programme and its benefit to business.

Secretariat and Resource

The Board will be supported by a secretariat. It will also have at its disposal the resources of the DTI's Technology Assessment Unit (TAU) to manage the process of assessing key technologies and co-ordinate the gathering of evidence from all stakeholders. The TAU will have a budget for this.

Composition of the Board

The membership of the Board is:

External to DTI (10)

- 6 business people (including the Chair);
- 2 venture capitalists (with hi tech interest);
- 1 member of a Regional Development Agency or Devolved Administration (with business background);
- A Research Council Chief Executive to represent the interests of all Research Councils.

(Additional members may be recruited as necessary)

DTI and other government departments (5)

- Director General Innovation Group, DTI;
- Director General Business Group, DTI;
- Chief Economic Advisor and Director General Economics, DTI
- Director General Research Councils;
- 1 representative of other government departments.

The following DTI officials would normally attend meetings, ex officio:

- The Chair of DTI's Business Support Investment Committee;
- HMU Technology Innovation and Standards Directorate;
- Deputy Director General Innovation Group;
- Secretariat;
- Head of the TAU.

Others may attend at the invitation of the Chair.

Board Classification

The Board is classified as an advisory non-departmental public body (NDPB).

