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From Save British Science to the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE)

Save British Science today announced that it was changing its name to the *Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE)*. Announcing the change, Professor Richard Joyner, Chair of the Executive Committee, said: "Save British Science was formed in 1986 as a spontaneous protest by active scientists against savage cuts to university research. It has developed into a small but effective and respected campaigning organisation. *We want the UK to be the best place in the world for research, for science-based industry and for science education.*

We are the only campaigning organisation that embraces all of this broad community, and our role today is no less important than it was when SBS was formed. We believe that our work will benefit from a name that more accurately reflects what we do, and we decided earlier in the year that we should become CaSE.

CaSE will build on the strong position that SBS has built in the last nineteen years. We will continue to provide you in the media with timely and succinct comments on issues of policy, and to produce accurate analyses (we are launching *Science Policies for the Next Parliament* today).¹ We will lobby the Government and Parliaments in Westminster, Europe, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. We will engage in dialogue with knowledge-based industries. We will continue to draw attention to policy failures, like the lack of adequate funding to teach laboratory-based subjects in English Universities. And we will continue to applaud good things, such as the Chancellor's renewed commitment to investment in research indicated in last week's budget. *Under the CaSE banner we will be able to do what the science and engineering community needs us to do, and we will be able to do it even more effectively.*

I am sure that you will want to ask, 'Has British Science been Saved?' There is no doubt that the situation has improved substantially over the last two Parliaments, and that the Government's continuing commitment to research and innovation is very welcome. Be in no doubt, however, that serious problems remain. I have already referred to the underfunding of teaching. Another worry is the relatively low level of UK industry's investment in R&D, which must be improved if the economy is to thrive. Another issue is that if we do not offer the salaries to attract the best people into our universities, there is a serious risk that recent investment in infrastructure, will be wasted.² A fourth concern is the increasing concentration of science and engineering teaching in a small number of 'research intensive' universities, which CaSE believes will cut off careers in science and engineering to many. So there is still plenty of scope for progress, and we look forward with confidence to working for it under the CaSE banner."

Our new web address is **www.sciencecampaign.org.uk**

(1) <http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/texts/documents/2005/CaSE0503.htm>

(2) <http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/texts/documents/2004/SBS0407.pdf>

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