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CaSE response to Innovation Nation

Campaign for Science & Engineering's (CaSE) initial reaction to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' *Innovation Nation* White Paper is that it could have gone further in preparing the UK for the "race to the top."

CaSE's Director, Nick Dusic, said, "Yesterday, the Chancellor highlighted the UK's history of scientific invention as central to the UK's success in the global economy. The Innovation Nation White Paper launched today needed to give more weight to the importance of science and engineering in preparing the UK to be globally competitive in the future."

Commenting on the **link between science and innovation**, Nick Dusic said, "The Government cannot lose sight of the importance of science and engineering to the innovation agenda. Investing in cutting-edge research is the only way the UK can compete with other countries in terms of attracting the skilled individuals and companies needed for high-tech innovation."

CaSE was pleased that DIUS will maintain a growing investment in the **research base**. However, Nick Dusic said, "The Government missed an opportunity to kick start a new wave of creativity in science and engineering by recognising the importance that scientific curiosity can play in sparking innovation. The increased focus on economic impact of basic research could stifle the UK's ability to develop the transformative technologies of the future. The track record of curiosity-driven research shows that it can yield a range of innovations that could not be foreseen at the outset."

CaSE was pleased that the Government will conduct a review of the **STEM skills** needed for the future. Nick Dusic said, "The UK's ability to produce highly skilled innovators for the future is dependent on having strong science and mathematics teaching now. Other than Project Enthuse, which is led by the Wellcome Trust and industry, there were no firm proposals for improving STEM education. The Government needs to ensure that every student has the same opportunity to excel in science and mathematics at school."

CaSE was pleased that the **FCO's Science and Innovation Network** would be taken over by DIUS. However, Nick Dusic said "It is critical that the FCO shows that it is not 'opting out of science' by producing a departmental science and innovation strategy and appointing a Chief Scientific Adviser. David Miliband should speak with Condoleezza Rice about the role her Science and Technology Adviser plays in informing foreign policy."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. For further information, please contact Nick Dusic, Director of the Campaign for Science & Engineering, on 07749 953041.