UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
by
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R&D Expenditures 1998	226.7 billion $US
R&D/GDP 1998	2.18%

	R&D Performed 1998	R&D Funded 1998
Industry	74.6%	65.3%
Government	7.9%	30.7%
Higher Education	14.4%	

1. Snapshot of S&T in 2001

In the United States of America over last decade, as the federal investment in R&D, the US economy, and the federal budget surplus all expanded, and the national debt has continued to shrink, there has also been good news from US industry. Once again, the total US R&D enterprise continued to grow in the 1990's. Recently, the National Science Foundation (NSF) released preliminary projections for total US R&D in calendar years 1999 and 2000, including industry-funded R&D. NSF estimates that total US R&D performance in 2000 was $264 billion. This represents a 7.9% or nearly $20 billion increase over the $245 billion total in 1999, which itself was a 7.5% increase over 1998.

In 2000, US industry is expected to spend $179 billion on R&D from its own funds, an increase of 10.3% over the previous year, far outstripping the more modest growth in federal R&D. Industry has consistently expanded its share of total US R&D over the past four decades, and now funds two-thirds of total US R&D. This remarkable growth in R&D has been fuelled by a record-setting economic expansion over the past decade, the rapid growth of technology-dependent industries such as information technology and biotechnology relying heavily on R&D for future growth, and the ever-increasing importance of new technology as a key element in economic competition for a broad range of industries. Industry is expected to fund $14.8 billion of basic research in 2000, although the federal government continues to be the majority sponsor of basic research. Growth in total R&D has exceeded growth in the US economy as a whole as measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the NSF estimates that total US R&D will reach 2.72% of GDP in 2000, up from 2.65% in 1999 and the highest share since 1967.

Heading into 2001, there is some doubt as to whether large increases for industrial R&D that were seen in the 1990's in the US can be sustained. Recently, there have