UNITED KINGDOM by Caroline Martin

R&D Expenditures 1997 22.6 billion \$US purchasing power parities R&D/GDP 1997 1.87%

Industry Government Higher Education	R&D Performed 1997 65.2% 13.8% 19.7%	R&D Funded 1997 49.5% 30.8%
World Share of Publications 1996	7.89%	
Share of Co-authorship with Canada 1996	7.61%	

1. Overview of Science and Technology in the UK

Science and Technology in the UK is decentralised, with each government department being responsible for S&T within its own areas of interest. There is, however, a central unit - the Office of Science and Technology (OST) - which has responsibility for the cross-departmental co-ordination and development of government policy on science, engineering and technology (SET), the allocation of the science budget and hence the strength of the UK's science base, promoting the public understanding of science, and maximising the effectiveness of EU and international collaborations in meeting UK objectives. In mid-1995, the OST moved from the Cabinet office to its present position within the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to allow science policies to be developed alongside industrial ones. Whilst the health of the UK's S&T knowledge base remains a primary responsibility of the OST, the transfer of this knowledge and its successful exploitation by industry falls within the remit of the DTI, who are concerned with stimulating innovation and forging partnerships between business, government and academia to promote technology transfer, support technology development and encourage best practice, especially by SMEs.

The UK is known for its strong capability in S&T; with only 1% of the world's population, the UK funds about 4.6% of its research, publishes about 8% of the papers, and receives around 9% of the citations. The Gross Expenditure on R&D in 1997 was £14.7 billion, 1.80% of GDP, and of this expenditure approximately one third (32%) was financed by government, a half (49%) by industry, 15% from abroad, and 4% from other sources (charities and other non-profit organisations). When compared internationally, these figures place the UK fifth amongst the G7 countries. Of the government's total expenditure on SET in 1997-98 (£6.37 billion), 36% (£2.31 billion) went to defence, with the remainder divided between the Science Budget - 21% (£1.33 billion), Civil Departments - 21% (£1.33 billion), Higher Education Funding Councils - 16% (£1.03 billion), and contributions to the EU - 6% (£0.35 billion).