

Other areas of improvement cited were the need for new ideas for product development and collaboration between the public and private sector, and between academia and industry. The NSTB, through its Research Development Assistance Scheme (RDAS), is setting an example with its funding of such collaborative R&D projects.

PRIORITY AREAS IN R&D

The Singapore government has identified fields that will be given priority in R&D endeavors. These areas include:

- biotechnology/biomedical sciences
 - pharmaceuticals
 - genetic engineering
- micro-electronics
 - consumer electronics
 - computer hardware
 - Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASIC)
- robotics & artificial intelligence
 - automation
- information technology
 - computer software
- laser technology and electro-optics
 - medical use
 - communications - fibre-optics
 - lenses
- communications technology
 - satellites
 - PABX systems
 - microwave communications

(Singapore Science & Technology, Science Council of Singapore).

While some of these fields have developed viable R&D activities, others have been slow to follow. Among the priority areas identified, the following have developed a relatively high level of R&D.