

Laboratory. DTI support for innovation is in the region of £400m per annum. Technology development is driven through schemes such as: Faraday Partnerships; the Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Technology initiative (Smart); the Small Business Research Initiative; and R&D tax incentives. In addition, the DTI also supports sector-specific programmes in sustainable technologies, energy (both nuclear and non-nuclear), space, civil aeronautics, construction, IT and biotechnology. A *Knowledge Transfer Strategy Committee* is being established, to ensure the UK makes the most of the knowledge that comes from its investment in the science base. The Head of the STI group will sit on this committee, along with the DGRC, the Chief Scientific Adviser and others. There is also a strong regional dimension to the DTI and the department works with regional development agencies to promote business clusters and regional economic growth, through initiatives like University Innovation Centres and Regional Innovation Funds.

The British Government attaches a great deal of importance to scientific advice and receives advice from a wide variety of committees and groups located at various levels of the government system. The Council for Science and Technology is the highest level advisory body, providing advice on policy issues to Cabinet Ministers. The advisory framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology has recently undergone a major review leading to the creation of the *Human Genetics Commission* and the *Agricultural and Environment Biotechnology Commission*. Their membership is expected to consider the social and ethical implications of scientific developments and their regulation as well as the science itself. These bodies work alongside the *Food Standards Agency* which has responsibility for GM food and the three are widely admired for being transparent and making public accountability a high priority. The Chief Scientific Adviser has also recently issued new and stronger guidelines on how scientific advice should be used in drawing up Government policy, and a Code of Practice for scientific advisers, which commits them to high levels of openness in their work.

S&T issues are also of considerable interest to British parliamentarians, with both Houses having Select Committees undertaking reviews, collecting evidence and issuing reports on S&T topics to which the Government must respond. The Lords Committee conducts enquiries into issues which affect public policy (e.g. Science in Society, Stem Cells), whereas the Commons Committee has a narrower remit to examine "the expenditure, policy and administration of the OST". The UK also has a Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, which is charged with providing independent and objective analyses and information on S&T related issues of concern to Members of Parliament.

In terms of industrial R&D, the UK's 2001 Scoreboard shows that levels of business expenditure on R&D have been rising steadily in the UK over recent years, from 1.18% of GDP in 1997 to 1.25% in 1999. However, despite this increase, British companies still invest considerably less than their international competitors, with overall UK R&D intensity (R&D investment as a percentage of sales) at 2.1% compared to an international average of 4.2%. Also, trends in business R&D are very different in the UK: Whereas internationally the IT and automotive sectors account for a large percentage of R&D investment (27% and 18% respectively), these sectors only account for a combined total of 13% in the UK. In contrast, pharmaceutical companies and the aerospace and defence industry dominate in Britain, accounting for 38% and 10% respectively. In addition, 17% of international R&D is carried out in electronics, chemicals and engineering compared to under 10% in the UK. The UK, on the other hand, has over 10% in food processors and oil & gas compared to just over 2% internationally.

### **C) S&T Organizations in the United Kingdom in 2002**