TECHNOLOGY PROSPECTING ABROAD

- 2. EUREKA and EEC Programs. EUREKA (launched in 1985) encourages industrially-led projects with European Community and other European partners with the UK participants receiving varying proportions of financial support from the UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). UK companies are also encouraged to obtain support from the EEC Programmes, and are participating in many, e.g. BRITE, EURAM, ESPRIT. The UK is contributing about £660m to the EEC Framework Programme (1987-91).
- 3. ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME (ATP). Collaborative research among companies supported by the DTI to promote long term research and industrial application. For instance the Information Engineering Programmes have replaced the well-known Alvey Program. ATF also supports Advanced Robotics, Wealth from the Oceans, High Temperature Superconductivity, etc.
- 4. INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTRES. University-based Centres of Excellence in fields such as Superconductivity (Cambridge), Molecular Sciences (Oxford), Optics and Lasers (Southampton/Univ College), Surface Science (Liverpool), Process Simulation and Control (Imperial), Engineering Design (Glasgow), and Population Biology (Imperial). University Research Councils fund the Centres at a cost of £15-20m annually.
- SMART. (Small firms Merit Award for Technology). DTI assistance for small high-tech firms to improve strategies and management.

- 6. CLUBS, groups of companies jointly funding projects in particular areas of common interest (e.g. biotransformation) with contributions from DTI.
- 7. THE TEACHING COMPANY SCHEME assists manufacturing companies to form partnerships with higher education institutions including specialist support or placing science or engineering students in the company as well as preferred access to universities, polytechnics or the Scottish central institutions. This popular and successful scheme has proven to be an excellent mechanism for diffusing technological innovations.

Some industries are forming new research units without direct government assistance, for instance Warwick University in Coventry will house a £7m Rover advanced technology centre and a £3m Rolls Royce advanced Ceramics Centre. Of longer standing are about 24 Industry Sector Research Associations, which are exclusively supported by UK company members, among them the Food Research Institute and the Production Engineering Research Association. Other ancillary organizations have also sprung up to serve industry including Defence Technology Enterprises which aims partly to secure civilian applications for (Ministry of Defence) defence technologies.

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CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

Any UK company with manufacturing and/or research facilities in the UK would be eligible for support if the requirements are met. Often the costsharing ratio is determined on a case-bycase basis. Ownership of companies is not an eligibility criterion although availability of finance from abroad (eg. from the parent organization) is an important criterion and can reduce the UK contribution.