

The chart below describes NSTB's main tasks:

THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD

- o Promote research and development activities
- o Coordinate the formation and activities of existing and new research institutes
- o Be the central authority in issuing research funds
- o Assess and address Singapore's science and technology manpower needs
- o Undertake exchange and joint programmes with its overseas counterparts
- o Increase public awareness of science and technology
- o Form companies and joint ventures with private firms

("Science and Technology Masterplan on the Cards", Business Times, January 16, 1991).

Testing and calibration services as well as R&D consultancy and services in areas such as materials technology, food technology and product development and design are provided through the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research (SISIR).

Two special research centers have been set up at the National University of Singapore. The Institute of Systems Science (ISS) carries out work on information technology and the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IMCB) undertakes research in biotechnology.