

Two government agencies have been set up within the Science Park to assist private companies carrying out R&D activities. The National Computer Board (NCB) promotes and coordinates the implementation of the National Information Technology Plan. Through its research arm, the Information Technology Institute, training and consultancy services in the IT field are available. The Knowledge Engineering Resource Center serves as the library of the National Computer Board where IT information is available to organizations performing research in this field.

The National IT R&D Committee, set up in November 1990, is in the process of identifying the areas in which Singapore should concentrate its R&D efforts, the ways to build the R&D infrastructure, and how to apply the new technologies to the end-users. The Committee aims to make IT products and services that are for use in the home such as electronic transactions and home automation.

The NSTB, in the second half of 1991, will announce a masterplan to lead Singapore's R&D endeavors for the 1990s. Human resources and infrastructure development are the main essentials for increasing Singapore's technological capabilities. Key areas for growth include "niche areas" such as information technology, biotechnology, micro-electronics, materials technology, electronic systems, medical science, manufacturing technology, food and agro-technology, and water, energy and environmental technology. This plan includes the establishing of a Technology Promotion Division which will develop and oversee schemes to attract more R&D investment in Singapore.