

2016 Country Snapshot : Russia

The Global Innovation Index for 2016 placed Russia 43rd, lifting its ranking by 6 positions compared to 2014. Over 80% of Russia's R&D spend is state-funded, with the remaining 20% secured by private investors. Russian officials state the overall R&D spend is 1.13% of GDP for 2016 with public R&D spend around £5.2bln in 2015. In 2012 President Putin set a target spend of 1.77% of GDP by 2018 and in the current financial climate achieving this figure will be difficult. Under Government plans the focus of R&D expenditure is to move away from basic research and focus on applied sciences to support the Government's economic development plans but, as at 2016, there is little evidence R&D expenditure is

having the transformational change the Government desires.

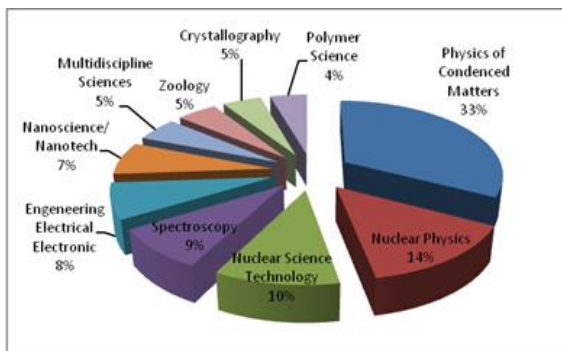


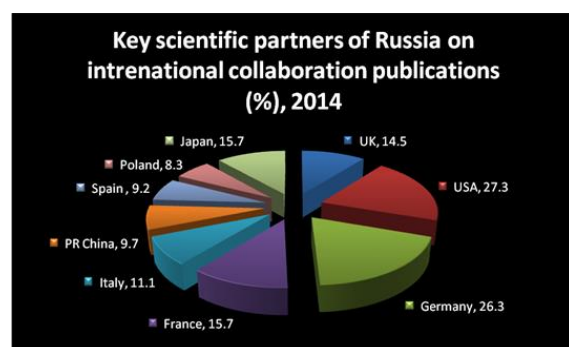
Chart - Top Ten Thematic areas for international collaboration 2003-14 (WofS)

In response to the current EU & US economic sanctions Russia is working to boost import-substitution across a raft of strategic fields (pharmaceuticals, food industry, aerospace, agritech).

This will require additional state R&D funding.

Russia has ambitious plans for deep-space exploration and intensified Arctic exploration which are backed by federal programmes and generous public budgets.

Developing scientific innovation is a top priority for Russia. Over the last 5 years, approximately 70 high-tech valley projects and technoparks have grown across the country. According to the Russian Communications Ministry, most Russian science parks specialize in the IT field. Among the other specializations are biomedicine, biotechnology, the production of medical products, nanotechnology, instrumentation and the development of new materials.



Three years ago Russian fundamental science shifted to the grant-based funding system and Russia's science infrastructure has been drastically reworked as part of a state-led reform: the Russian Medical and Agricultural Academies and the Russian Academy of Sciences were merged into a new "Russian Academy of Sciences" (RAS). The Russian government set up Russia's Federal Agency of Scientific Organisations (FANO) tasked with administrative supervision of scientific institutions previously under RAS. The move reduced RAS to a high-level consulting expert body entrusted with research supervision.

UK SCIENCE AND INNOVATION NETWORK

During the same period the Government has focused on improving the research output in Universities by providing additional funding for the top universities. Over the last 5 years Russian universities have increased from 10% to 30% their contribution of all top quartile papers published in Russia. The figure for the Russian Academy of Sciences is just over 50%.

UK Science and Innovation in Russia

The UK currently ranks 4th among Russia's top partners in the field of science and innovation behind the US, Germany and France. Majority of the links are ad-hoc and personal, often involving members of the relatively large Russian academic Diaspora in the UK.

Current UK S&I programmes include Researcher Links with the support of British Council, Glyndwr University and the Bauman University student exchange programmes (PhD) and Royal Society and Russian Foundation for Basic Research joint grant scheme.

SIN Russia recent success stories

Cosmonauts exhibition at London Science Museum

The Cosmonauts space exhibition in the London Science Museum featured some 150 unique Russian and Soviet space artefacts. SIN Russia were instrumental in helping make the Cosmonauts exhibition possible and were involved in the process from Day 1: facilitating contacts for the Science Museum, making introductions to key stakeholders and helping arrange meetings. For 4 years, the SIN team supported the project along the way.

Promoting dialogue

In October 2015 and June 2016 FCO Chief Scientific Adviser Prof. Robin Grimes visited Russia. He has visited Moscow and Tomsk and met a range of stakeholders from Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) President, Academician Fortov, Rector of Tomsk State University, Dr Galazhinsky and President of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), Professor Panchenko. The visits have helped highlight the importance of UK-Russia scientific links and ongoing cooperation as well as share the UK's expertise in the field of scientific research. As a result of the visits, RAS and the Royal Society have agreed to hold a series of bilateral scientific roundtables. In addition, Russian stakeholders have taken great interest in the UK's CSA system and the dialogue between UK's science, government and public and in early 2017 the Royal Society and RFBR plan to hold a Science Diplomacy event in Moscow to discuss these issues.

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