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Skills

Science & Innovation Network

Annual Review
2007–08

Science & Innovation Network

Working Globally for UK Science & Innovation

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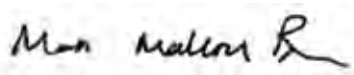
Foreword by the Rt Hon Lord Malloch–Brown and Lord Drayson

It has been a good year for the UK Science & Innovation (S&I) Network. Its strong record of achievements, such as a Franco-British seminar on the future of cancer treatment and imaging, using new physics-based techniques, and nine major collaboration projects with China on new and renewable energy science to the value of £6.4m, testifies to the importance of the Network to customers across Whitehall and beyond. Continued support of the Network, which is situated in UK embassies, high commissions and consulates around the world, demonstrates the Government's commitment to a global platform for British science. We see the decision announced in the *Innovation Nation* White Paper to move the Network towards becoming a truly shared Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)/Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) asset as a great opportunity to ensure its continuing effectiveness.

The joint team which manages and tasks the 90 full-time equivalent (FTE) science officers worldwide has already been embraced as an integral part of DIUS' new International Science and Innovation Unit, bringing with it fresh skills and new perspectives. This reflects the vital contribution that the Network makes to the achievement of the Government's Public Service Agreements target to "promote world-class science and innovation in the UK" on which DIUS leads, based on its responsibility for the UK science budget and science across Government. The Network also contributes directly to FCO Departmental Strategic Objectives. It is central to our efforts to promote a low-carbon, high-growth economy. Furthermore, it plays an important role supporting UK business, often in collaboration with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), by promoting inward investment for UK academic and commercial customers.

The examples in this report illustrate the success of the Network. A rigorous system of performance metrics ensures that the Network does what it sets out to achieve, and also serves as a useful tool when planning future business. We hope that the report will also act as a practical and inspiring guide for those who choose to use the Network in the year ahead.



The Rt Hon Lord Malloch-Brown

Lord Drayson

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Introduction and Overview

A strong science base and an innovative academic and commercial high-technology sector are essential for the all-round competitiveness of the UK. In a rapidly globalising world, we will not be able to compete with lower wage-cost economies on the technologies of today. We need to constantly develop the products, processes and services of tomorrow by using the latest science and technology. We need to be an "innovation nation".

The UK is well placed to rise to this challenge. We start from a position of strength, with world-class universities and research institutes, second only to the US in the number of cited scientific papers. We also have a highly innovative commercial base. But we will depend increasingly on international partnerships and collaborations to sustain these strengths as more and more countries acquire the capacity for leading edge research and development (R&D).

Our Network

The UK's S&I Network plays a vital role in achieving our aims. It comprises around 90 FTE staff in 39 cities in 24 countries, located in UK embassies, high commissions and consulates. Our staff work in all the major scientific nations, and also in several key rapidly growing economies. Those staff are a mixture of UK expatriates and locally engaged experts from the countries in which we work. Collectively, they bring together scientific, diplomatic, policy-making and administrative skills to achieve their four objectives:

- Scientific collaboration – facilitating scientific collaboration between UK universities and research laboratories and the world's best public- and private-sector counterparts abroad, and working to increase access to foreign funding for UK researchers.

- Innovation – strengthening the UK's innovation capacity through attracting R&D-intensive international investment, helping UK companies to access and benchmark overseas technologies, and facilitating R&D partnerships and technology transfer.

- Influence – using science and innovation to influence foreign governments and other overseas players across the range of the UK's international policy priorities (eg climate change, energy security, poverty, infectious diseases and counter-terrorism).

- Policy-making – helping UK and overseas policy-makers develop best practice in science and innovation policy, and developing international frameworks in breakthrough technologies such as stem cell research.

The S&I Network was established by the FCO in 2000 in response to the growing importance of science, technology and innovation for our nation's future. From the outset it was a network, supporting a wide range of customers across Government and beyond. In 2007–08, the FCO and DIUS strongly endorsed the work of the Network and its cross-Government role, and agreed that they would jointly fund it. They also agreed that DIUS would host a joint FCO/DIUS team to manage the Network.

Major stakeholders

The Science & Innovation Network works extensively with partners overseas and in the UK. As an integral part of UK embassies, high commissions and consulates, the Network members work with other FCO staff, including energy and environment, economic, political, and press and public affairs colleagues. Our other key delivery partners overseas are UKTI, the British Council, the Department for International Development and, since the establishment of their new offices, Regional Development Agencies and the Research Councils. In the UK, we work with all members of the Global Science and Innovation Forum, in particular with DIUS, to deliver overseas science policy priorities.

Examples of work we have undertaken in 2007–08 include:

- DIUS – supporting overseas visits by the Secretary of State, Science Minister and Chief Scientific Adviser; and delivering the UK–Brazil Year of Science and Innovation.

- FCO – promoting low-carbon technologies and the urgency of adopting them to address climate change; and negotiating with the US Department for Homeland Security to open the US security technologies market to UK companies and universities.

- Department of Health – negotiating the UK–China Partners in Health initiative.

- UK Research Councils – negotiating with the Chinese and US governments and providing extensive logistical support to enable the Research Councils to open their first two overseas offices in Beijing and Washington.

- Universities – assisting Cardiff University and University College London to reach an agreement with China's leading centre for biomaterials research (at Sichuan University) to collaborate on drug delivery systems and the use of biomaterials in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

- Companies – an Information Communication Technology (ICT) Mobile and Wireless mission to Taiwan organised by Taipei's S&I team led to UK company Astraware closing a product licensing deal with Chunghwa Telecom.

How we work

The S&I Network is flexible in how it operates, but there are a number of key activities that it undertakes regularly:

- Pursuing UK policy goals – we respond to direct requests from UK policy-makers to influence key decision-makers overseas. We also help the UK to develop its own science and innovation policies by providing advice on how similar policies overseas work, and by assessing how such systems might or might not be appropriate in a UK context.

- Supporting visits – we organise VIP visits from the UK to the countries that we operate in, including from Ministers, Parliamentary Select Committees, the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, and senior officials from Government Departments, the Research Councils, the Royal Society, leading UK universities, UK companies and others. We also help to organise visits from their equivalents to the UK.

- Organising events – we organise workshops, conferences, meetings and other events. These vary in size, ranging from just a few people to more than a hundred. Such events help us to pursue all our objectives, from identifying potential new areas for scientific collaboration and catalysing its early stages, to promoting UK policy goals to an overseas audience. As well as our own events, we work with many partners overseas in adding value to (and delivering our objectives through) their events.

- Reporting – we report regularly on scientific and innovation issues within the countries we are in, with both regular newsletters and one-off reports on new and emerging issues. We also report back directly to a large range of customers who are seeking information on science or innovation policy or data from the countries in which we operate.

Funding

In 2007–08, the FCO funded the S&I Network. The cost, including all staff salaries, allowances, travel, training, accommodation and overheads, was approximately £8.5m. In addition, the S&I Network was able to use £1.6m from the FCO's Global Opportunities Fund (now the Strategic Programme Fund) allocated to support science collaboration. Further FCO/DIUS bilateral funds were accessed in support of Network activities.

Performance Metrics and Ministerial Visits

The S&I Network introduced specific performance metrics in 2007–08. These relate to the events that the Network organised, at which participants were asked to rate our performance in 7 areas on a scale from 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest rating. The average marks from S&I Network events are shown in the following table.

No.	Performance metric	Average score 1 = low 4 = high	Comment
1	**Access to expertise, resources and facilities** Has your ability to access international expertise, resources and/or facilities been increased as a result of participation in this event?	3.2	The S&I Network scores highly because of its connections both overseas and in the UK, and through its ability to provide succinct and accurate advice/ information to interested partners. Our aim is to become a first port of call for scientists and innovators.
2	**Collaboration** Do you intend to initiate or expand an international collaboration, leading to one or more joint research projects wholly or partly as a result of this event?	3.3	We believe that the ability to identify viable collaborations and initiate contacts/alliances are vital roles. Through our knowledge and contacts we can carry out a wide range of activities promoting/ developing relations and sometimes developing opportunities where none were expected.

No.	Performance metric	Average score 1 = low 4 = high	Comment
3	**Non-UK funding obtained for collaboration** Do you intend to seek new funding from non-UK sources for joint research projects?	2.5	Through our advisory and activity work the S&I Network is well placed to help develop collaborations and identify sources of funding.
4	**UK funding obtained for collaboration** Do you intend to seek new funding from UK sources for joint research projects?	2.7	The UK has varied and complex sources of funding (including from Research Councils, UK agencies, universities, awards and business) and the S&I Network fulfils an invaluable role in identifying what might be possible and how to apply for funding.
5	**Likelihood of non-UK-based companies to engage with the UK** Are you more likely to engage with the UK as a result of this event or other information or assistance provided by the S&I Network?	3.1	We believe that this score is very encouraging, and that the S&I Network's activity sets in place a strong base on which UK organisations can work with their overseas counterparts.

No.	Performance metric	Average score 1 = low 4 = high	Comment
6	**Foreign Direct Investment** Are you more likely to invest in UK organisations as a result of this event or other information or assistance provided by the S&I Network?	2.2	We believe that this is an encouraging score, not least because the S&I Network's main effort is in developing contacts/relations, and investment decisions are really only made after collaborations have been developed and in place for some time.
7	**Communication of UK priorities** Has your understanding of UK science and innovation priorities increased as a result of this event?	3.3	This score demonstrates our success in raising awareness of what the UK does and can do, and in identifying opportunities that others may not know about. We consistently play a role in promoting the UK as source of expertise and experience.

Ministerial and Chief Scientific Adviser visits

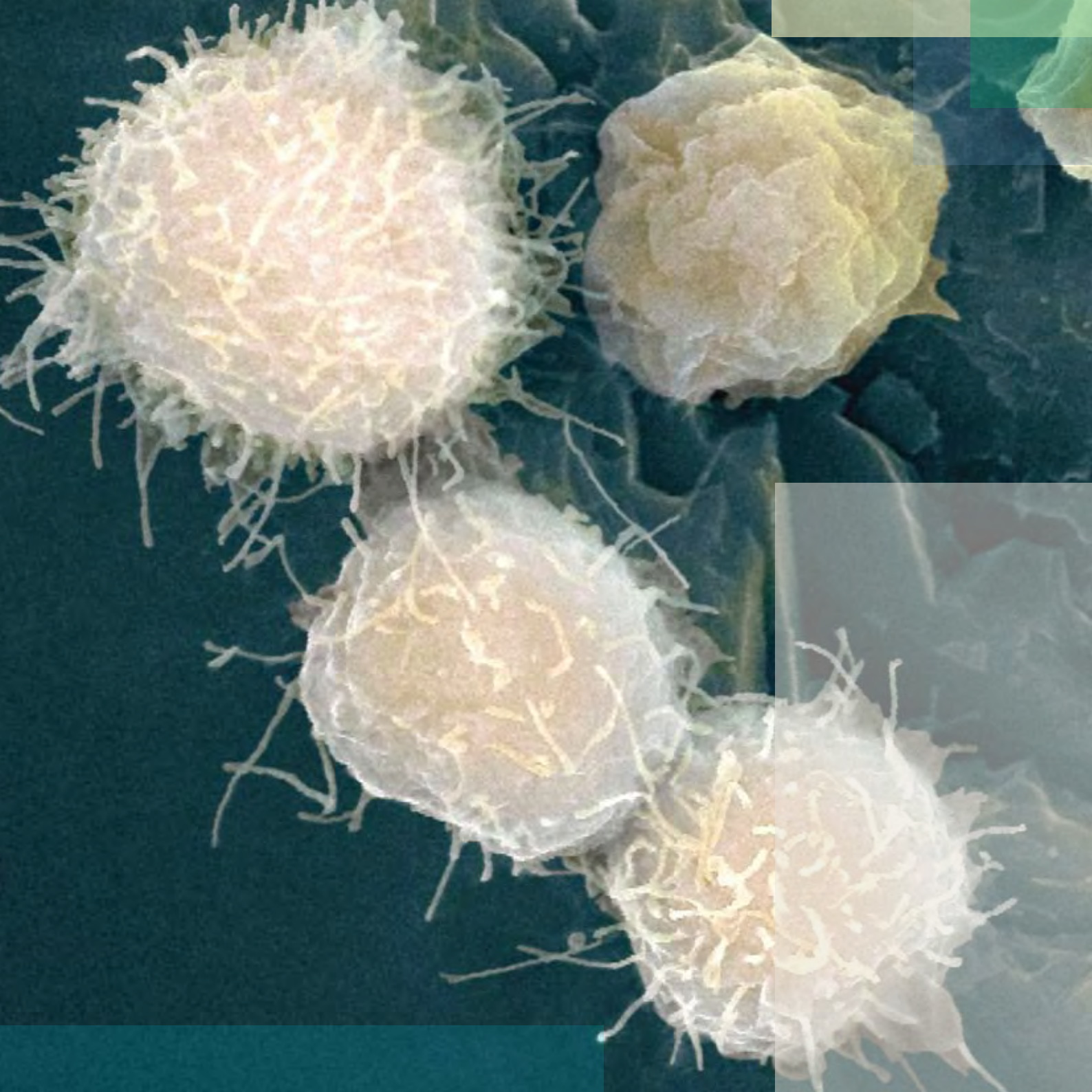
The S&I Network has supported visits from VIPs of many different organisations, including Parliamentary Committees, Royal Commissions, Government Departments, Research Councils, Learned Societies, universities and companies. The most senior and significant visits directly supported by the Network are listed in the table below.

Date	Dept	Name	Role	Country visited	Key purpose
May 2007	**BERR**	The Rt Hon Malcolm Wicks, MP	Minister of State for Energy	Sweden	To learn best practice from one of Europe's leading innovative countries.
May 2007	**DIUS**	Sir David King	Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA)	Italy	To receive an honorary degree from University of Turin, and deliver a lecture on climate change and global warming.
July 2007	**DIUS**	Sir David King	GCSA	USA	To lecture on climate change and science for development, discussions on climate change and pandemics.
September 2007	**DIUS**	Sir David King	GCSA	South Africa	To follow up G8+5 Heiligendamm discussions on climate change and Africa, specifically on the contribution of science and innovation to these important agendas.

Date	Dept	Name	Role	Country visited	Key purpose
October 2007	**DIUS**	The Rt Hon John Denham, MP	Secretary of State	China	To open the Research Council UK's (RCUK) first office outside Europe in Beijing, and to meet top Chinese officials from across government (eg Ministry of Science and Technology, China Academy of Sciences and the Development and Reform Commission of the State Council).
October 2007	**DEFRA**	Joan Ruddock, MP	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	France	To meet European carbon capture and storage experts to discuss implementing the EU/China Near Zero Emissions Coal (NZEC) demonstration.
October 2007	**GO-Science**	Sir David King	GCSA	Japan	To discuss climate change and other science and innovation policies, build on bilateral relations and prepare for the G8 conference.

Date	Dept	Name	Role	Country visited	Key purpose
November 2007	**DIUS**	Sir David King	GCSA	India	To receive the Nehru Medal from the Indian National Science Academy for international cooperation in science and technology and contribution to public understanding of science.
January 2008	**BERR**	The Rt Hon Malcolm Wicks, MP	Minister of State for Energy	France	To attend a debate, organised jointly with the International Energy Agency, on the role of governments and industry in developing the technologies needed for a sustainable energy future.

Date	Dept	Name	Role	Country visited	Key purpose
January 2008		The Rt Hon Gordon Brown, MP	Prime Minister	China	The Prime Minister and Premier Wen set out visions for developing UK/China research relations at the PM Business Summit. The Prime Minister set targets to double the number of joint scientific papers over next five years and outlined plans for 100 more scientific collaborations between Chinese and British companies.
January 2008		HRH The Duke of York	UK's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment	USA	To visit the new Stem Cell Institute at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine.
January 2008		The Rt Hon Gordon Brown, MP	Prime Minister	India	To discuss bilateral relations.
March 2008	**DIUS**	Prof John Beddington	GCSA	Brazil	Celebrate the closure of Year of Science and sign the UK–Brazil Partnership in Science.



Major Outcomes

This section highlights a selection of the many outcomes achieved by the S&I Network in 2007–08. More details and further examples of our work are available from the team in DIUS. Contact details can be found at the end of the report.

Europe

Czech Republic: EU Framework Programme 7 (FP7) funding successes. UK company PERA won €900k of EU FP7 funding for the Promoveo project, as a result of contacts facilitated by the S&I team in Prague with Tomas Bata University in Zlin. Further support from the team enabled PERA to submit 16 joint proposals with Czech companies, five of which have received additional EU FP7 funding worth more than €6m in total.

Europe Central: House of Commons Innovation, Universities and Skills Select Committee. Fourteen S&I Network posts (including eight in Europe) submitted evidence for the Committee's report on "Biosecurity in UK research laboratories" (published on 25 June 2008, Volume II: "Oral and Written Evidence"). The S&I Germany team also arranged a visit by committee members.

Italy: Biobanks Mission. As a result of the fruitful contacts established during this visit in the field of biobanks regulation and management, the Italian Biosecurity and Biotechnology Committee (advisory body to the Italian Government) is now taking the British model as a source of inspiration for the forthcoming Italian legislation covering this area.

France: A Franco-British seminar on the future of cancer treatment and imaging using new physics-based techniques took place in March 2008, and was proposed and organised by the S&I France team. Over 60 scientists, clinicians and industry representatives met to review the exciting new work currently being undertaken in France and the UK on advanced tumour imaging techniques and the latest R&D of particle-based therapies and the implications for future patient care. New French facilities under development will see an expansion of UK cancer patient referrals. The event has already generated some positive outcomes: French and UK researchers are finalising plans for reciprocal visits and will be exploring opportunities for post-docorate exchanges; one of the participating UK specialists has subsequently referred a UK cancer patient to a treatment facility in Paris; a detailed paper on the event has been submitted for publishing to the *British Journal of Radiology*; and the British Institute of Radiology is planning a follow-up conference for spring 2009.

Germany: UK/German/multilateral collaboration in nanomaterials for environmental and energy applications. Close cooperation between the S&I Germany team, the knowledge transfer networks for nanotechnologies and materials, plus key German partners, attracted over 20 UK participants for a four-day Germany mission, which combined a DIUS-funded networking workshop at the Berlin Embassy on 10 March, with a Global Opportunity Fund-(GOF-) funded visit to Dresden's International Nanotechnology Fair and to the Fraunhofer Institute. The workshop drew more than 30 participants from Germany, Switzerland, Poland and Liechtenstein, representing key brand names of users, manufacturers and researchers of nanomaterials. Feedback was extremely positive. Outcomes so far include:

- ten proposals for EU FP7, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and other sources of funding being developed;

- the signing of an MoU on cooperation between Begbroke Nano, Oxford Materials, the Fraunhofer Institute IZM Micro Materials Centre in Berlin and the Institute of High Pressure Physics in Warsaw;

- a research stay by a postdoctoral scientist from the Fraunhofer IZM at Begbroke Nano; and

- plans for an inward nanotechnology mission on 27 October 2008 in conjunction with UK Nanoforum.

This mission rounded off a three-year programme of GOF-funded UK–German nanotechnology activity, which also facilitated a collaborative research agreement between Oxford Materials and the Fraunhofer Society's Institute of Materials and Beam Technology, whereby the two partners will collaborate on EU FP7 projects, develop joint scientific programmes and host each other's student researchers in their laboratories.

Germany: British- and German-led international science policy conferences. With a £25k GOF grant, the S&I Germany team leveraged £166k from UK and German sources for four international science policy conferences that targeted future leaders from diverse backgrounds and nations. The conferences addressed genetics (August 2006), climate change (September 2007), demographic change (October 2007) and competitiveness/innovation (December 2007). The climate change conference was held in Oxford, with participants from the UK, Germany, Brazil, China, India, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa and the USA, including government officials, scientists, think-tanks, members of the media, and representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme, the UK Climate Group, industry, non-governmental organisations and Parliament. It provided a major opportunity to raise understanding of the UK's policy and activities towards tackling climate change.

Netherlands: Regenerative medicine in the UK/Netherlands. The British Embassy in The Hague has been involved in two workshops on tissue engineering and regenerative medicine and symposia since 2006. In 2007, these involvements led to the formation of multiple bilateral consortia between University College London (UCL), the Royal Veterinary College, Erasmus University Rotterdam, University Utrecht and the Dutch programme for tissue engineering, which have started joint initiatives and projects. These bilateral consortia have formed the basis on which to build multilateral consortia such as one with Sweden (University Upsala), which have together put in a proposal for EU FP7 funding.

Poland: Cambridge technology transfer best practice to Poland. With GOF funding obtained by the S&I Warsaw team, a Cambridge fellow at the Polish Academy of Science has introduced UK best practice to Polish technical universities. The first (2007) edition of the Cambridge Python project brought UK entrepreneurial advice to Polish researchers with innovative business ideas, and also facilitated contact with venture capitalists, resulting in seven spin-off companies. The second edition of Cambridge Python was launched in February 2008 with a lecture on entrepreneurship by the Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning at Cambridge Judge Business School.

Sweden: eScience collaboration. The University of Glasgow has established two EU FP7 projects with contacts made at the eScience event in Stockholm that was organised by the S&I team in February 2007, funded by FCO public diplomacy funding. One is with Uppsala University in the area of brain trauma; the other focuses on the area of genetics of congenital anomalies and involves the Karolinska Institute. The combined funding for these projects is approximately €5m (as part of wider European consortia).

Switzerland: Swiss-British composite materials inward mission. This joint S&I Network/ UKTI activity in October 2007 has sparked negotiations on three separate business deals between large UK and Swiss companies, and discussions on other possible bilateral agreements on research collaboration. Industry demand has also prompted the decision to run a second mission in early 2009.

Americas

Brazil: New UK–Brazil collaborations in science. The S&I team in Brazil organised over 40 activities through the UK–Brazil Year of Science and Innovation, including missions, events and seminars that were held in different parts of Brazil and the UK. More than 1,600 scientists, academics and industry representatives participated directly in the activities promoted by the Year of Science and Innovation, resulting in extensive media coverage. Eight international agreements between Brazilian and British research institutes, universities and financing agencies were established, and several partnerships are still under negotiation. The success of the Year of Science and Innovation was consolidated with Professor John Beddington's first official overseas visit as GCSA and the signing of a new agreement with the Brazilian Government. The UK–Brazil Partnership in Science and Innovation was officially announced in March 2008.

Brazil: UK–Brazil joint satellite. Starting from the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Science and Technology Facilities Council Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (STFC-RAL) and the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE) in April 2007, different activities and missions were organised in the field of space science under the umbrella of the UK–Brazil Year of Science and Innovation. This collaboration resulted in the joint space mission between Brazil and the UK, with the British contributing STFC-RAL's medium-resolution camera to the Brazilian-made satellite Amazonia-1. The technology used in this camera is new to Brazilian satellites and will enable the generation of high-definition images, which will be useful in monitoring the environment and managing natural resources. The Brazilian space agency has adopted the policy of freely distributing satellite images through the internet. The satellite

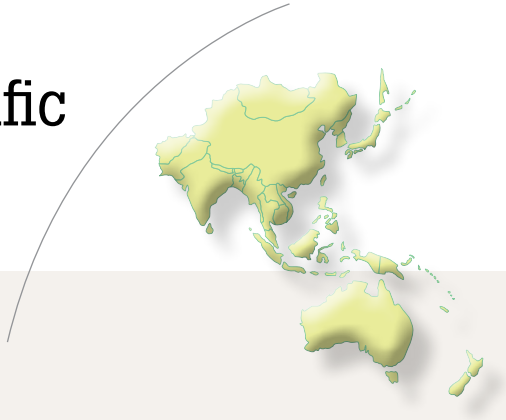
is aligned with the UK's position in promoting South–South collaboration, and the images will also be used to monitor deforestation and land management in other countries. The S&I team managed to leverage £1.14m from the Department for International Development's Congo Basin Forest Fund to fund the camera and promote the joint mission on a government-to-government basis.

Canada: UK–Canada collaboration in marine energy. During a workshop held in October 2007 – organised by the Canada S&I team, in conjunction with the Canadian High Commission and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) – a number of collaborative opportunities in marine energy research and technology were identified and agreed to. Academic links between the UK SuperGen consortium and the University of Victoria were established, and the University of Dalhousie approved a Canadian $25k grant application to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to form a UK–Canada Marine Energy Network. The Canadian National Research Council's testing facilities will join forces with the European Marine Energy Centre testing facility in the UK to better understand harsh environment impact on marine equipment and infrastructure. Additionally, NRCan is in talks with the University of Edinburgh regarding the formal adoption of the UK Marine Renewable Roadmap.

USA: New stem cell collaborations. The US S&I network has been instrumental in establishing numerous collaborations on stem cell research. The Boston S&I and UKTI teams, with support from DIUS funding, helped to initiate six US–UK research collaborations involving nine academic and five commercial partners. On the West Coast, the Head of the UK's Medical Research Council chaired a major meeting of international stem cell funding agencies, supported by the San Francisco S&I team. Bilateral discussions led to a groundbreaking proposal by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine to establish a $3bn trust fund for research with the UK.

USA: New collaborations forged. The Houston S&I team organised a visit to Texas for Imperial College London, which has resulted in an R&D genomics collaboration with a leading US biotech company, new university collaborations on drug discovery with the Institute for Molecular Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center, and has led to further opportunities for follow-up by UKTI. The Atlanta S&I team also organised a visit by the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute to UCL, leading to an MoU on research collaboration between the two organisations.

Asia–Pacific



China: Renewable energy. Opportunities for the UK to collaborate with China on new and renewable energy science have expanded following a decision by the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to fund nine major collaboration projects with China to the value of £6.4m. The collaboration programme emerged following work by the S&I Network in China to link the EPSRC's interests into a government-to-government agreement on energy research, signed by the UK and China in 2005. The Research Council's Energy Programme has also launched a £4m UK–China research fund on cleaner fossil fuels.

China: Prime Minister announces new UK–China S&I collaboration scheme. China and the UK agreed in January to cooperate on a collaboration scheme that will result in substantial institutional links – or Science Bridges – between the two countries being developed over the next three years. The agreement was facilitated by the S&I Network in China and builds on three years of S&I collaboration activities in the country. It was announced by Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Premier Wen Jiabao at a summit in Beijing, clearing the way for a call for proposals to be issued early in April 2008.

India: S&I GOF in India leverages £1m. The S&I team in India used S&I GOF funds to forge two new collaborations. The University of Reading and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology are now working together on the impact of climate change and the Indian monsoon, and the University of Southampton and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi are collaborating on photonic crystals for fibre optics applications. The collaborations were subsequently awarded £500k each from the UK India Education and Research Initiative.

Japan: UK–Japan Low-Carbon Society 2050 project supports G8 priorities.
The third workshop in the series, led by Japan's Ministry of Environment and DEFRA, involved 20 countries and concluded by issuing a "call to action" at the Gleneagles Dialogue meeting in March. The project has significantly raised the intensity of debate and is credited with influencing Prime Minister Fukuda's comments at Davos.

Japan: New UK–Japan research collaborations. Twenty-eight leading UK and Japanese researchers participated in a series of activities organised by the S&I team in Japan, covering advanced materials, terahertz technology, intelligent transport systems and plant genomics. Initial evaluation shows that the programme led to numerous positive outcomes, including a UK visiting professorship in Japan, proposals for seven joint research papers, ten joint grant applications, and proposals for two MoUs to support the exchange of PhD students (Bristol/Tokyo and St Andrews/Kyoto) and two collaborative programmes.

South Korea: £1m deal for Sussex University from Korean Government. An agreement between the Korean Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and Sussex University was signed in June 2007, which will be worth up to £1m to the UK. The agreement relates to courses to be delivered by the Sussex Policy Research Unit for Korean science administrators and policy-makers. This new initiative builds on an existing MOST-Chevening scheme under which between 10–15 Korean officials and scientists attend Masters or PhD programmes at British universities, funded primarily by MOST. Re-negotiating the MOST-Chevening scheme MoU to include this increase in MOST funding from £1m to £2m was part of the UK–Korea bilateral Joint Committee discussions in November 2006. Since then, the Seoul S&I team has been involved in setting up and negotiating the agreement between MOST and Sussex University.

New Zealand: UK and New Zealand to collaborate on agricultural greenhouse gas reduction. A team of seven researchers from the Institute for Grassland and Environmental Research, the University of Wales and the Scottish Agricultural College visited New Zealand in November and agreed 11 areas of research collaboration with their New Zealand counterparts, ranging from near-commercial to longer-term research.

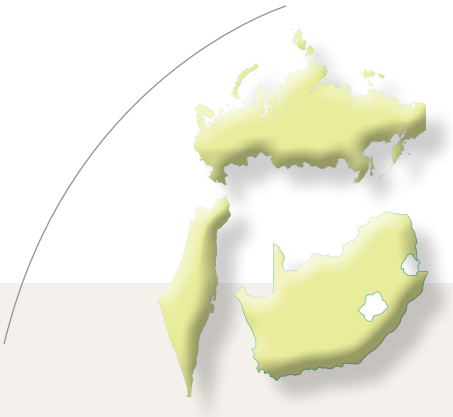
Singapore: EU funding to expand UK–Singapore Partners in Science programme. The S&I team in Singapore has secured over £170k from the EU as part of a four-year collaborative project to deliver closer cooperation between the EU and South-East Asia. This is to expand the successful UK–Singapore Partners in Science programme of scientific workshops, which will now include an EU and South-East Asia dimension. It will also be used to identify opportunities for EU research funding to support international collaborative projects under EU FP7. The S&I team has steered the scientific focus of the project for 2008–09 to cover the UK priorities of climate change and emerging infectious diseases. A project manager operating within the British High Commission will foster a long-term sustainable partnership between the two regions, organise scientific expert workshops and develop policy advice.

Singapore: New UK–Singapore science collaborations. The Singapore S&I team has stimulated at least 34 scientific collaborations and 47 proposals for collaboration being submitted (or being drafted for submission) to funding bodies since the launch of the UK–Singapore Partners in Science initiative in November 2004. These have resulted from scientific workshops held in Singapore coupled with Collaboration Development Awards (small travel grants) to enable researchers to visit the UK to follow-up contacts made at the workshops and cement collaborations, in areas such as aerospace engineering, infectious diseases and aquaculture. The Partners in Science initiative is funded by the Science and Innovation GOF programme.

Taiwan: Astraware licensing deal. After a UKTI-funded ICT Mobile and Wireless Mission to Taiwan (organised by Taipei's S&I team during the Taiwan–Britain Business Council event in April 2007), Astraware, a leading UK mobile entertainment software company, signed a product licensing deal with Chunghwa Telecom, Taiwan's largest telecom and wireless operator.

The UK does not recognise Taiwan, nor have diplomatic relations with it. British interests are handled by the British Trade and Cultural Office.

South Africa, Israel and Russia



South Africa: Black Science, Technology and Engineering Professionals (BSTEP) project. Building on an S&I GOF-funded project with BSTEP, to establish an office and carry out a baseline study to assess issues that affect black scientists in South Africa (eg unemployment and lack of career growth), the South African navy has offered to provide free training to unemployed science graduates that are registered on BSTEP's database. Additional funding has also been leveraged to run a two-month pilot training programme through the Japanese-sponsored African Institute for Capacity Development – South Africa, to provide career guidance for Tshwane University of Technology engineering students through theoretical and practical training. This should reduce the number of unemployed science and engineering graduates and will allow BSTEP to expand without further resources from the UK Government.

Israel: UK–Israel Stem Cell Forum. As a result of a seminar on stem cell research organised by the S&I team in Tel Aviv in conjunction with a local partner, the UK National Stem Cell Network and the Israel Stem Cell Society are planning to create a UK–Israel Stem Cell Forum. The DIUS-funded seminar was part of the British Embassy's work in Israel on stem cell research and regulation. Aimed at raising public awareness to the social and ethical issues involved in stem cell research and at influencing the Israeli regulatory system, the event was attended by approximately 200 people, including government officials, academics and the general public.

Russia: Sir David King initiates climate change discussion. On 25 September the GCSA, Sir David King, visited Moscow. The visit allowed Sir David to engage with senior Russian officials on UK climate change priorities. With evidence of a rising profile for climate change among concerned Russian ministries and agencies, albeit from a low base, new opportunities were identified for constructive engagement on complementary agendas like energy and forestry.

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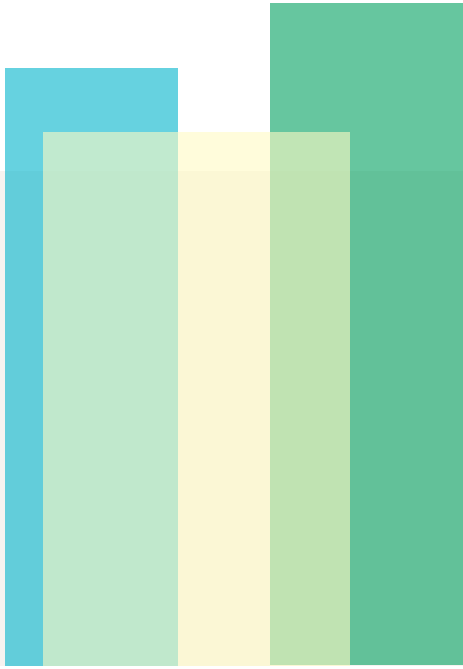

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