

Internationale Forschungs-, Technologie- und Innovationspolitik

Info-Service

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Berichterstattung zu strategischen Entwicklungen auf den Politikfeldern des BMBF in führenden Industrieländern

Großbritannien

Schrittweise Einführung der Vollkostenfinanzierung bis 2010

Derzeit finanzieren die Research Councils nur etwa 55% der Vollkosten von Forschungsprojekten. Bis 2010 wird die Vollkostenfinanzierung auf 100% ausgebaut werden. Dies ist im Investitionsplan der britischen Regierung für Wissenschaft und Innovation – "Science and Innovation Investment Framework: 2004-2014" – dargestellt. Um die Vollkostenfinanzierung zu gewährleisten, erhalten die britischen Research Councils zusätzliche Mittel: 120 Mio. Pfund im laufenden Jahr und vom Haushaltsjahr 2007/08 an bis zu 200 Mio. Pfund jährlich. Wie ebenfalls im Investitionsplan für Wissenschaft und Innovation angekündigt, sollen die Mittelzuwächse für die britische Hochschulforschung die Vollkosten von Projekten sicherstellen, die von Drittmittelgebern wie privaten Stiftungen und der EU gefördert werden.

<http://www.britischebotschaft.de>

EU / Europa

Europäische Forscher in den USA wünschen mehr Kontakt mit Europa

Nach einer Erhebung der Europäischen Kommission bei Forschern aus EU-Ländern, die in den USA tätig sind, erklärten über 90% der 2000 Personen, dass sie engere Kontakte mit Europa begrüßen

würden. Die Europäische Kommission hat sich daher bereit erklärt, ein Networking- und Informationsinstrument unter der Bezeichnung ERA-Link zu entwickeln, das bis zum Ende des Jahres funktionsfähig sein soll. ERA-Link wird in den USA arbeitenden europäischen Wissenschaftlern Zugang zu Informationen über Karrierechancen und Möglichkeiten der Forschungsfinanzierung in Europa sowie über Angebote für die Zusammenarbeit mit EU-Laboratorien, Studentenaustausch und Gastprofessuren geben. Es wird ihnen auch die Aufnahme von Kontakten zu anderen in den USA tätigen europäischen Forschern und die Veranstaltung regelmäßiger Treffen zwischen ihnen ermöglichen.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/press/2005/pr1802en.cfm>
<http://eurunion.org/legislat/STE/STEHome.htm>

Erasmus Mundus: Weitere 69 Hochschulen beteiligen sich an dem Programm

Die Europäische Kommission hat weitere 17 Erasmus-Mundus-Masterstudiengänge ausgewählt, womit 69 europäische Hochschulen neu an dem Programm teilnehmen. Die ausgewählten Masterstudiengänge werden zu Beginn des nächsten akademischen Jahres (2005-2006) zusätzlich zu den bereits im Herbst des letzten Jahres gestarteten 19 Studiengängen anlaufen. Das Programm Erasmus Mundus soll die europäische Zusammenarbeit und die internationale Vernetzung im Hochschulbereich fördern. Im akademischen Jahr 2005-

2006 wird sich die Zahl der Erasmus-Stipendiaten auf etwa 900 Studierende und 100 Wissenschaftler erhöhen.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/154&format=HTML&aged=0&language=DE&guiLanguage=en>

Microsoft Launches European Research Project

The Microsoft Corp. is about to increase its research presence in Europe. On 2 February, company Chair Bill Gates told a meeting of government leaders in Prague that Microsoft plans to fund several research centers, graduate scholarships, and scientific meetings across Europe, focusing on the interface between computer science and biology, agriculture, and engineering.

The initiative's first site will be the Center for Computational and Systems Biology in Trento, Italy. The center will receive up to €15 million over the next 5 years, 60% from national and local governments and 40% from Microsoft. Intellectual property will remain with the university, although Microsoft will have an option to exclusively license products that result from the funded research.

http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1758909,00.asp?rsDis=Microsoft_Launches_EuroScience_Initiative-Page001-144963

USA

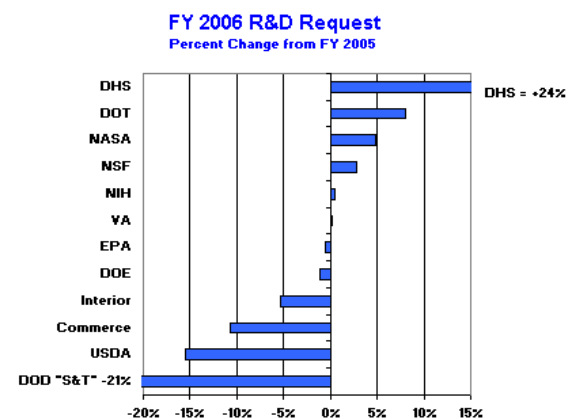
R&D in the FY 2006 Budget: Cuts for Most Areas, Gains for Space and Homeland Security

The proposed federal R&D portfolio in FY 2006 is \$132.3 billion, 0.6 percent or \$733 million above this year's funding level. In real terms, the total federal R&D portfolio would decline for the first time since 1996. Increases for homeland security R&D in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS; up \$282 million) and space exploration R&D in National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA; up \$537 million) would be greater than the overall \$733 million increase, leaving all other

R&D programs (including defense) with less money next year.

The nondefense R&D investment would increase 0.7 percent to \$57.1 billion. While NASA would continue to receive additional resources for the International Space Station and moon-and-Mars missions, most other nondefense R&D agencies would see their funding decline or fall well short of inflation.

The National Science Foundation (NSF), after a cut in its budget in 2005, would see a modest increase of 2.7 percent to \$4.2 billion for its R&D portfolio, but most of the increase would go to R&D facilities. As a result, the average NSF research grant would shrink for the second year in a row. NSF's education funding would fall steeply.



<http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd/prel06p.htm>

Multi-agency Initiatives in FY 2006 Request

The *Climate Change Science Program (CCSP)* FY 2006 request is down 1 percent from FY05 appropriations. CCSP integrates federal research on climate and global change, as sponsored by 13 federal agencies. Within CCSP, the Climate Change Research Initiative budget would decrease by 17 percent, dropping to \$183 million.

Fiscal year 2006 spending for the *Hydrogen Fuel Initiative (HFI)* totals \$260 million in two agencies, the Department of Energy and the Department of Transporta-

tion. The figure reflects a 16 percent increase over 2005 appropriations of \$225 million. HFI seeks to scientifically support industry efforts to develop practical and cost-effective technologies for producing, distributing and using hydrogen to power automobiles.

The request for the *National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI)* FY06 budget is \$1.05 billion, a 2 percent decrease from estimated FY 2005 spending. The 10 NNI participating agencies are focusing on R&D that creates materials, devices and systems that exploit the fundamentally distinct properties of matter as it is manipulated at the atomic and molecular levels.

The FY06 budget provides \$2 billion (7 percent decrease) for the *Networking and Information Technology Research and Development program (NITRD)*, which focuses and coordinates the research efforts of seven agencies in the area of advanced computing systems, networks, software and information management technologies.

<http://www.ssti.org/Digest/2005/021405a.htm>

Senator Introduces Legislation on Tsunami Preparedness

On 24 January 2005 Senator Daniel Inouye introduced S. 50, the Tsunami Preparedness Act of 2005 which would authorize \$35 million per fiscal year from 2006 to 2012 and incorporates many of the recommendations offered by witnesses during a 26 January House Science Committee hearing. These recommendations include the development and deployment of 32 additional buoys to supplement the six currently in the Pacific Ocean, along with a total of 40 tide gauges.

<http://commerce.senate.gov/hearings/witnesslist.cfm?id=1361>
http://www.agu.org/sci_soc/policy/sci_pol.html

US to extend security clearance for foreign scientists

The US government is to extend the period of security clearance for visa-holding scientists and students visiting the country from overseas, according to a joint statement by the US Department of State and Department of Homeland Security.

Tighter visa restrictions and lengthy background security checks since 11 September 2001, have meant that even foreign students who had studied in the United States for years have had to remain in their home countries, missing conferences or part of their academic year. This has deterred other students from visiting the United States.

Security clearances for students will now be valid for four years, those for scientists working in the United States on scholar and work visas will last two years, and those for researchers attending conferences will be valid for 12 months.

Nature 672, 433 (2005)
<http://www.scidev.net/News/index.cfm?fuseaction=readNews&itemid=1934>

Washington state draws on tobacco cash for research

The newly elected governor of Washington state has proposed a \$350-million Life Sciences Discovery Fund to boost biomedical research. The move follows a trend of several US states hoping to ride the biotech wave. Washington governor Christine Gregoire last week introduced measures in the state legislature to fund research to the tune of \$35 million per year for a decade, beginning in 2008. The money is being made available from Washington's allotment of a national tobacco lawsuit settlement. Gregoire hopes that federal and private grants will take the total funding to more than \$1 billion.

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/news-view.asp?pressRelease=13&newsType=1>

Japan

Japan warms to joint climate study with UK

Britain and Japan initiated a five-year collaboration to study climate change using Japan's Earth Simulator, one of the world's most powerful supercomputers. Japan has been criticized in the past for not releasing computer time for international use.

<http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v433/n7024/index.html>

China

China's hunt for climate clues reaches a peak

One of the last unconquered corners of the world was reached last month by a team of a dozen Chinese scientists and explorers. The group travelled by tractor from the Chinese Antarctic base to the peak on the ice cap known as Dome A. At more than 4,000 metres above sea level, Dome A is the highest point on the continent's ice sheet. Astronomers believe that Dome A has huge potential as a site for submillimetre, millimetre and infrared astronomy because of its dry conditions and clear skies. Plans to install a station at the site are under consideration in Australia and other countries.

<http://www.thepoles.com/story/ChineseScientistsFirsttoReachHighestPointontheAntarcticPlateauJan242005.shtml>

Saudi Arabien

Saudi Millionaire Plans an NSF for Arab Scientists

At a technology investment forum last month in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel announced that a holding company he heads will make a \$1 million annual donation to the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) to launch and support a new peer-reviewed research competition. The new fund, to be managed by ASTF, would select 20 pro-

posals a year based on merit, backing each at \$50,000. Arab countries spend on average 7% of gross domestic product on defense but less than 0.2% on research and development.

http://www.astf.net/english/News_Events/News/news/astf_nd_dec04_e.htm

Taiwan

University Spending Plan Triggers Heated Debate

Taiwan has adopted a \$1.6 billion plan to strengthen its research universities. On 20 January legislators voted to allocate \$315 million a year for 5 years to refurbish university facilities and boost faculty salaries. The Ministry of Education has published statistics showing that Taiwan is not keeping pace with its neighbors in supporting its leading universities.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol307/issue5710/?etoc>

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