

MPs get Manifesto Message from UK Scientists and Engineers

14th February 2001

At a unique gathering of MPs, scientists and engineers in Portcullis House, Westminster on Wednesday 14 February 2001, the importance of ensuring that the UK continues to be strong in science and engineering will be highlighted by the launch of a *Charter for Science and Engineering*.

The event reflects the increasing collaboration between the many prestigious bodies representing science and engineering in the UK. This is the first time that so many bodies, spanning all of science and engineering, have formally worked together. This event highlights the importance of the continued dialogue between those who practice science and engineering, legislators and the public at large and provides a key opportunity for the political parties at Westminster to outline their plans for science and engineering in their manifestos.

The *Charter for Science and Engineering* highlights 10 articles that need to be addressed by the next Government. At the event, four leading scientists and engineers will outline critical issues that must be addressed if the UK is to maintain its world-leading role in science and engineering. Representatives from all the major political parties will address the audience of more than 100 of the UK's leading scientists and engineers on how they plan to ensure that the continued prosperity of the UK will be maintained through a strong science and engineering base.

Prior to formally launching the Charter, Professor Steve Ley, President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, said: "The importance of a strong science and engineering base is critical to the future prosperity of the UK and to the health of its people. Only by working together with open discussion on these issues can the UK develop a consensus for our future needs."

Sir William Stewart, President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science added: "Science is the key to the Nation's health, well being and national prosperity and should be at the heart of all party manifestos. The *Charter for Science and Engineering* provides a sound basis on which to develop science policy across all government departments."

ENDS

Notes for Editors

For more Information, contact:

Tracey Wells

Royal Society of Chemistry
London

Tel: 020 7440 3317

Fax: 020 7437 8883

e-mail: WellsT@rsc.org

<http://www.rsc.org>

1. The speakers highlighting key aspects of the *Charter for Science and Engineering* are:

- **Professor Lynn Gladden, Professor of Chemical Engineering Science and Director of the Magnetic Resonance Research Centre, Cambridge University** - how science and technology combine to solve diverse problems in healthcare, food science and materials science.
- **Sir Richard Sykes FRS, Rector of Imperial College, London and Chairman of GlaxoSmithKline plc** - the importance of investment in science and engineering training for the future health/wealth of the UK.

- **Sir Paul Nurse, Director General, Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Chairman of the Royal Society Science in Society Committee** - the importance of long term investment in scientific research to facilitate the discovery of new treatment opportunities
 - **Professor Roland Clift OBE FEng, Professor of Environmental Technology, University of Surrey** - the continuing need for widespread involvement in tackling environmental issues
2. Any journalists wishing to attend this event should contact Tracey Wells in advance to ensure access on the day. A media briefing will be held at 11.45 a.m. Photographs will be available soon after the event – digitally if required. Advance copies of the Charter will be available on Tuesday 13 February from Tracey Wells.
3. The following participating organisations with a combined UK membership of around 750,000 have all agreed to support the event:
- **Royal Society of Chemistry** – the Learned Society for chemistry and the Professional Body for chemists in the UK. The RSC is a registered charity and has a membership of 46,000. www.rsc.org
 - **Institute of Biology** – is the independent, charitable body, founded in 1950, chartered by Royal Charter to further UK biology. It represents some 15,000 biologists and provides a 'Forum' for 75 learned biological societies. www.iob.org
 - **Institute of Physics** – an international learned society and professional body for the advancement and dissemination of physics. The Institute is a registered charity and has over 30,000 members. www.iop.org
 - **Save British Science** – a pressure group with the aim of improving the scientific health of the UK. SBS publicise issues of science policy whenever possible, to ensure that they can never be neglected. www.savebritishscience.org.uk

- **Royal Society** – the independent scientific academy of the UK dedicated to promoting excellence in science. Founded in 1660, the Royal Society plays a crucial role as champion of top quality science and technology. www.royalsoc.ac.uk
- **Royal Academy of Engineering** – comprises the United Kingdom's most eminent engineers of all disciplines. Founded in 1976 on the initiative of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the Academy pursues excellence in engineering for the benefit of the public. The Academy is a registered charity and receives public funding. www.raeng.org.uk
- **Engineering Council** – The Engineering Council is the lead body for the engineering profession. In partnership with the professional engineering institutions, it is responsible for regulating and promoting the profession, maintaining a World-class engineering workforce in the UK. www.engc.org.uk
- **Science Council** – The membership of the constituent bodies of the Science Council totals some 100,000 scientists. The Council aims to bring together the activities of its member organisations in areas where a collective response is desirable.