

National Physical Laboratory welcomes the Government Science Capability Review

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) welcomes the Government Office for Science's Government Science Capability Review "[Realising our ambition through science](#)" and its recommendations.

The capability review is a comprehensive assessment of the role of science within the government, cumulating in 15 recommendations designed to enhance the application of scientific solutions in policy making across Whitehall.

Notably, the review outlines the value of public science and engineering facilities, such as NPL, stating that public laboratories "*present a significant resource for government*". The report stresses the importance that public laboratories are exploited to their full potential.

NPL was pleased to see the value of the contribution of the wider research and innovation landscape recognised and welcomes the acknowledgement of the crucial role it plays in supporting government initiatives and policy. It was acknowledged that policy makers must work with public science resources to realise policy solutions. We look forward to continuing to work closely with government departments to drive scientific solutions, and to broaden these collaborations.

The Government Science Capability Review found it to be essential that government works in collaboration with the wider scientific community in order to achieve the ambition of 2.4% of GDP invested into research and development (R&D). Particularly, the report highlighted the challenge of encouraging industry investment into R&D and credited public facilities such as NPL as the catalysts for enabling this.

NPL welcomes this acknowledgement as it works closely with businesses to support their innovation in initiatives such as [Analysis 4 Innovators](#) (A4I). The UK's public laboratories are uniquely placed to bridge the gap between the public and private sectors and boost private investment in R&D by collaborating with business. Laboratories such as NPL are also able to support the development of science capabilities which have low technology readiness into commercialisation by acting as the link between academia and private industry. Innovation often requires measurement science and accuracy to succeed. By working with specialists, research experiments can become more effective, creating tangible results that improve R&D outcomes in the UK and in-turn attract greater private investment.

NPL is supporting the Government Office for Science with taking their recommendations forward and is excited by the ambition to better embed science in policy making across all of government. We believe there is a vital role for science to play at every stage of the policy process, and as the UK's National Metrology Institute, we are committed to representing the measurement community when supporting these implementations.

Contact:

Danni Croucher
Policy Officer
National Physical Laboratory
danni.croucher@npl.co.uk