

## bioProcessUK response to the Scottish Executive Consultation on Science and Innovation Strategy for Scotland

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**bioProcessUK** is a DTI funded Knowledge Transfer Network, dedicated to the advancement of the UK bioprocessing industry. Managed by the BioIndustry Association ([www.bioindustry.org](http://www.bioindustry.org)), bioProcessUK has a dedicated Scotland office. bioProcessUK aims to deliver the following recommendations:

- Build a network of bioprocessing Centres of Excellence across the UK
- Foster bioprocessing community development
- Attract significant inward investment in bioprocessing assets

bioProcessUK welcomes the opportunity to input into the **Strategy for Science and Innovation for Scotland**. Our comments on the Strategy are as follows:

- the broad definition of "Science" is very welcome, but could potentially be confusing as it includes fields not normally called science (e.g. engineering, technology)
- the inclusion of innovation in the strategy is very welcome
- the main goal of the strategy should be to increase economic growth in Scotland
- to achieve this, the emphasis of the strategy needs to be on increasing business innovation in Scotland
- therefore the strategy needs to be more focused if it is to be effective, perhaps by selecting science that underpins industries with the potential for growth through innovation and the appliance of science
- for example, stem cell technology is one such area where Scotland has a core competence and this should be exploited to the full
- business innovation will only grow when Scotland focuses on high growth industries and sectors such as Life Sciences, where the potential for exploitation of science exists because of unmet needs for health care
- Scottish Enterprise already recognises this by selecting key industries for its focus
- the Scottish Science Strategy therefore must utilise the vision set out in the Scottish Life Science Strategy : a 20:20 vision as a top priority
- the main barrier to the growth of business innovation in Scotland is the limited capacity of current Scottish businesses to exploit scientific inventions
- the strategy should therefore concentrate on encouraging Scottish industry to exploit new science based markets, building on its main strengths of a well educated science work force, relatively low operating costs and strong academic and medical research

bioProcessUK would be happy to engage further with the Scottish Executive and the Chief Scientific Adviser on any aspect of this consultation response.

Kind Regards,

Dr Malcolm Rhodes  
Technical Director  
bioprocessUK