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Research and technology development is carried out in medium and long-term cycles and therefore requires planning certainty. Particular emphasis has to be attached to building up competence, excellence and an international focus on the European research area.

By establishing the Council for Research and Technology Development as an independent advisory body and providing additional special funding for RTD, the government has significantly improved the climate for innovation in Austria.

Council recommendations have so far focussed on key areas. This has opened up new opportunities for Austrian business and research to position themselves in emerging fields of technology. Over half of the EUR 508 million in special funds that have been made available were allocated to the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (over EUR 225 million). We used this money for programmes dealing with information and communication technologies, transport technologies, aviation and space technology and sustainability. Austria provides an excellent basis for all these areas, both in terms of its research sector and highly successful companies. We are therefore positioning ourselves on international growth markets and strengthening Austria as a research and business location in the long-term.

We are living in a knowledge-based society and only those who understand and respect this fact will be able to survive in international competition. Policymakers therefore have a duty to strengthen the bridges between science and business. In this respect, we fully concur with the Council for Research and Technology Development. Successful co-operation between research, development and industrial application to achieve top scientific and economic performance can only be achieved through the minds of the innovators.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for its work so far and look forward to continued successful co-operation in the future.

ING. MATHIAS REICHHOLD
Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology
The governmental agreement 2000-2003 attached special importance to scientific research and technological development. The Council for Research and Technology Development was established by an amendment to the Research Promotion Act in 2000 to advise the government in all matters relating to research, technology and innovation.

On the basis of Council recommendations such as those concerning "Biotechnology Location Austria," "Women in Research and Technology" and "The Future of the Universities Starts Now," my department started a large number of programmes to promote research and research structures. Around EUR 186 million was made available to the BMBWK (Federal Ministry for Science, Education and Culture) for this purpose.

Apart from its many recommendations, the Council has also laid out a long-term strategy for research, technology and innovation in the papers "Vision 2005 - Among the Best Through Innovation" and "2.5% + plus - Prosperity through Research and Innovation." This strategy will make an important contribution to safeguarding and strengthening Austria's position as a centre of scientific competence. I would like to thank the Council for its past recommendations - and in particular for its approval of BMBWK key areas, namely young researchers, infrastructure improvements, co-operation between science and business, and internationalisation.

I look forward to continued co-operation with the Council for Research and Technology Development, that in future will focus particularly on universities and biotechnology research, and thank the Council for its goal-oriented work in the first year of its existence.

ELISABETH GEHRER
Minister for Education, Science and Culture
This report will provide you with an insight into our activities over the last 22 months. At the same time, we would also like to address you as partners for future projects within the scope of the Austrian Innovation Campaign.

This Annual Report will be released at a time when it makes sense to take stock. The first installment of government funding for the Innovation Campaign has already been allocated for programmes and projects and we will now start work on optimising the bottom-up and top-down organic organisational structures of research and innovation.

The Council for Research and Technology Development was established by the government as a new independent advisory body on 1 August 2000 and had its constituent assembly on 6 September 2000. By entrusting the Council with the task of allocating some EUR 508 million (ATS 7 billion) for new innovative measures in the fields of research and technology development, the government displayed a clear commitment to Austria as a centre of innovation.

The scientific and business communities are equally represented on the Council. Outside experts are called in when necessary.

To handle its operational work the Council has set up a secretariat that currently has a staff of three women and two men.

On 23 May 2001 the Council presented its strategy "2.5% + plus - Prosperity through Research and Innovation" at the government's Reform Dialogue. This paper proposes ways to increase the Austrian research quota as a percentage of gross domestic product. Recent statements by EU Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin (target 2010: EU average of 3%) have underlined the Council's objectives. Integrating Austria into European networks is a key element of an effective national research and technology policy. For that reason, the Council's work, be it in defining key research areas, drawing up guidelines or carrying out evaluations, takes account of both European and global developments.

The Council's recommendations are based on the goal of positioning Austria in the top third of OECD states in terms of research and development! This is a realistic goal if one knows the resources that this country possesses. But it is also an ambitious goal if one thinks of the structural reforms that need to be carried out and the increased spending by industrial nations all over the world.

For there can be no doubt that research and development form the basis for prosperity and social security and consequently for future social development. For that reason, the Council mostly targeted funding at innovative projects using emerging technologies and at areas where a careful analysis of the institutions had shown justifiable financial shortfalls.
At 13 meetings the Council discussed initiatives, programmes and projects (as well as their organisational structures) and then made recommendations that were based on a catalogue of criteria that is being continuously refined. In a careful decision-making process, the very many excellent initiatives were subjected to a stringent analysis that included the greatest possible number of individual opinions. Decisions were based on the research strategy mentioned earlier and an evaluation procedure that was methodically and continuously refined.

A preliminary analysis of how funds were distributed shows that of the EUR 508 million granted in recommendations, 37% or EUR 188 million will be used in a way that can directly improve the competitiveness of Austrian industry. 22% was allocated to R&D projects with strong market potential. In response to Council recommendations, tax relief on research was increased and the education tax allowance raised from 9 to 20%. 28% of the special funds was devoted to the non-university sector. The goal here is to provide better support for this important group of R&D institutions in their role as sources of competence between business and science, especially for small and medium-sized companies. The Council believes there can be no efficient development without a strong basic research sector. For that reason, 35% or EUR 177 million was earmarked for the university sector.

Outstanding research achievements are the product of a climate of trust. Trust in the willingness of university personnel to unfold their own potential for achievement and trust in the public purse that it will continue to provide a reliable flow of funds. After all, the ambitious project of university reform that meets with broad approval across the political spectrum has to be brought to a successful conclusion.

The Council still faces a wide range of challenges in its work. Structural reform and internationalisation are the most important fields of our current work. They require a clear overview and intuition in a rapidly changing environment. The eastern enlargement of the European Union and the Framework Programmes, economic growth and unemployment, national demands and global necessities require independent, competent and compensative advice.

We thank all those who have supported us in word and deed, in particular the government ministers and regional policy makers, the members of the parliamentary parties, and not least of all, our staff in the Secretariat for their unceasing support.

DIPL.ING. DR. KNUT CONSEMÜLLER

UNIV.PROF. DR. GÜNTER BONN
KNUT CONSEMMÜLLER, Dipl.Ing. Dr. (Chairman)
Born in Dortmund in 1941. Studied ferrous metallurgy at Aachen and economics at Cologne. 1969 Doctorate from the Institute of Ferrous Metallurgy at the Technical University Aachen. From then until 1989 employed at HOESCH-STAHL AG, from 1980 member of the Executive Board. 1989 appointed head of Strategic Planning at VOEST-ALPINE-STAHL AG. 1991 joined the Executive Board of the BÖHLER-UDDEHOLM Group with responsibility for research & development. From 1976 to 1984 Knut Consemüller was a member of the German Technology Advisory Council. Appointed to the Council for Research and Technology Development by the Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology.

GÜNTHER BONN, Univ.Prof. Dr. (Vice Chairman)
Born in Innsbruck in 1954. Studied chemistry at the Leopold Franzens University. In 1991 appointed to the chair for analytical chemistry at the University of Linz. Returned to Innsbruck in 1994 where he was appointed professor of analytical chemistry and radiochemistry in 1995. Bonn, who has registered several patents in the field of DNA analysis, is a member of the Polytechnic College Council and the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the Promotion of Scientific Research (FWF). Appointed to the Council for Research and Technology Development by the Minister for Education, Science and Culture.

DERVILLA DONNELLY, Prof. Dr.
Born in Dublin in 1930. Studied chemistry at the University of Ireland. 1955-1965 post-doc student at the University of California in Los Angeles. After returning to Ireland lecturer in organic chemistry at University College in Dublin. In the mid 1980’s professorship for photochemistry. Dervilla Donnelly was vice president of the Executive Council of the European Science Foundation and the European Science and Technology Association ESTA. She is chairwoman of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, the Interim Review Group for Institutions in the Technological Sector and the Commission on Assisted Human Reproductions. Appointed to the Council for Research and Technology Development by the Minister for Education, Science and Culture.

ALBERT HOCHLEITNER, Dipl.Ing.
Born in Vienna in 1940. Currently Managing Director of SIEMENS AG Austria. Albert Hochleitner studied at what was then the Technical Polytechnic College for Physics. In 1965 joined the Wiener Schwachstromwerke where he was responsible for software development. 1971 Procura at the newly founded SIEMENS AG Austria, later sole managing director of the group company UHER AG in which capacity he expanded the electric motor business in Germany and Canada. Appointment to the Managing Board of the Group in 1992, 1994 appointed Chairman of the Board. Albert Hochleitner is also Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Research Centre Seibersdorf Ges.m.b.H. (ARCS) and is an expert for business-related aspects of research and technology policies. Appointed to the Council for Research and Technology Development by the Minister for Education, Science and Culture.
HERMANN KOPETZ, Univ.Prof. Dr.
Born in Vienna in 1943. Graduated with a doctorate from the University of Vienna under the auspices of the Austrian president. First work experience at VOEST-ALPINE STAHL AG. Taught at the Technical Polytechnic Berlin and the University of California in Irvine and Santa Barbara. He returned to the Technical University in Vienna in 1982 where he has held the chair for Technical Informatics ever since. Hermann Kopetz is a full member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW). In the early 1980’s the specialist for real time systems founded the innovative start-up TTEch. Appointed to the Council for Research and Technology Development by the Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology.

INGEBORG HOCHMAIR-DESOYER, Univ.Doz. Dr.
Born in Vienna in 1953. Studied communications engineering in Vienna and Karlsruhe. Assistant at the Institute for General Electrical Engineering and Electronics at the Technical University of Vienna. In 1986 transfer to the Institute of Applied Physics of the University of Innsbruck. Numerous prizes testify to her technical and economic competence (Holzer Prize /1979, Leonardo da Vinci Prize /1980, Sandoz Prize /1984, Exner Medal /1996). In 1995 Dr. Hochmair-Desoyer, who is currently the managing partner of MED-EL Ges.m.b.H., was selected as V.C. Business Woman of the Year. Appointed to the Council for Research and Technology Development by the Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology.

GOTTFRIED BREM, Univ.Prof. Dr.
Born in Bavaria in 1953. Studied agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine. In 1992 appointed professor of cattle breeding and genetics at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna. Brem played a key role in the development of the Inter-university Research Institute for Agricultural Biotechnology in Tulln (IFA), where he is head of the biotechnology department in the animal production department. He is also managing director of a number of companies in the field of agricultural biotechnology and advises the government in its current reform plans. Appointed to the Council for Research and Technology Development by the Minister for Education, Science and Culture.

REINHARD PETSCHACHER, Dipl.Ing.
Born in Spittal an der Drau in 1947. Studied communications engineering at the Technical University Vienna. Reinhard Petschacher was a pioneer in the field of semi-conductor technologies. In 1974 he started working on optical systems for DAIMLER-BENZ in Ulm and in 1980 at the SIEMENS micro-electronic development centre in Villach. After a brief period in the United States, he took on responsibility for telecommunications components at the plants in Villach and Munich. Reinhard Petschacher is Managing Director of INFINEO TECHNOLOGIES AG. Appointed to the Council for Research and Technology by the Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING
The annual meeting of the chairpersons and general secretaries of the European Councils of Science, Research and Technology provides an opportunity for an informal exchange of ideas and opinions. A firm item on the agenda is always the exchange of news regarding organisation, responsibilities and consulting activities. The Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development was represented for the first time at the meeting in Athens held on 21 and 22 June 2001. The main focus of the multi-lateral discussions was the attractiveness of scientific careers. This year the Council meeting took place in Helsinki on 13 and 14 June. The main topic of discussion at this year’s meeting was the internationalisation of national research and development systems.
The governmental agreement 2000-2003 attached special importance to scientific research and technological development.

Our goal is to enhance the scientific competence of Austria as a business location in order to increase the country's long-term innovative and competitive strength. Our country's high social and cultural standards can be protected and expanded through the rapid integration of scientific knowledge into business processes. Austria is striving to play a new and more active role in research and technology within the European community of states.

The activities of the newly established Council for Research and Technology Development cover the entire national innovation system, and both national and regional bodies may ask it to make recommendations. To help it carry out its main duty of providing sound, independent and balanced advice the Council has assumed a single identity and laid down guidelines for its activities:

Creating Public Awareness.
This means communicating the positive impact of research and technological development on everyday life while at the same time creating greater awareness among members of the scientific community for those problems and issues that concern people.

Achieving Public Consensus.
A social consensus can only be achieved through public awareness. Successful research and technology policies must enjoy broad acceptance if they are to have a sustainable impact.

Refocusing Co-operation.
Basic research that meets high international standards is vital. As key pillars of basic research, universities represent a sustainable basis for non-university research and business. Co-operation between the three sectors needs to be fostered in accordance with a successful research and technology policy.

A Rounded Approach.
The Council is committed to a systematic approach, both among the individual disciplines as well as between the institutions. Modern incentive systems should create the conditions required for self-renewing structures.

"THOUGHT ALONE MOVES NOTHING, ONLY PRACTICAL THOUGHT THAT IS DIRECT"
Emphasising Results.
Raising the R&D quota to 2.5% of GDP will trigger an increase in R&D output and researcher potential. However, this goal can only be achieved if industry significantly increases its R&D expenditure. The relevant promotion instruments must be strengthened and rounded off by new elements that have been agreed between business and science.

Strengthen International Activities.
Research and technology development are ideal areas for an international division of labour. Austria must play an active role in shaping international programmes.

Promoting Outstanding Achievement.
Internationalisation means greater competition. First class research improves competitiveness. Achievements in research and teaching must meet specific evaluation criteria so that key research areas can be defined and funding targeted to where it is needed most. In this way, more can be done to building upon existing strengths and promising potential can be brought closer to top international standards.

People are at the Heart of Everything we do.
The Council regards "human capital" as the most important prerequisite for the health of a nation’s economy. Education and further training, creative curiosity and problem-oriented thinking are the driving forces behind innovative developments. Availability of qualified and motivated employees is vitally important. Public interest in the natural sciences and technical subjects has to be awakened; people have to be able to understand the issues behind the latest scientific advances. Use of the new media and technologies must become a matter of routine.

Based on these guidelines, the Council drew up the research strategy for Austria "2.5% + plus = prosperity through research and development." The title alone makes it clear that raising the research quota to 2.5% of gross domestic product is and remains a central objective.

Recent estimates put the figure at 1.95% – indicating continuous growth since 2000, although at the same time, this figure falls slightly below the desired growth curve. Not a dramatic trend, but a signal to pay more attention to the issue of financing certainty.

This Annual Report follows the strategic lines described below which are continuously refined in an open process.
A sustained increase in the R&D quota can only be achieved through a steady increase in expenditure by both the private and public sectors.

Cutting edge research in industry and product innovations in small and medium-sized enterprises require planning certainty. Financing for skilled personnel and infrastructure must be guaranteed.

Public budgets are based on the one-year principle so that complementary financing is required. An endowment model would be one possible solution, as would earmarking the dividends paid out by the Austrian National Bank (ÖNB) for research and development.

National and local government are urged to co-ordinate their research and development activities to create scope for structural measures. It will be up to national government to take on the job of co-ordination.

Tax measures should create indirect incentives for research and development.

The Council introduced immediate measures in January 2001 to bridge financing gaps. The Forschungsförderungsfonds für die gewerbliche Wirtschaft (FFF), for example, was able to support the development of information and communication technologies with an additional EUR 21.8 million (ATS 300 million). The university-oriented Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF) was awarded an additional EUR 18.1 million (ATS 250 million) to promote internationally competitive basic research. EUR 36.3 million (ATS 500 million) were also released quickly for urgent measures to promote young researchers (grants etc.) to safeguard
infrastructure and for projects within the framework of international research co-operations. EUR 10.1 million (ATS 140 million) were invested in programmes and projects at the interfaces between universities, non-university institutes and business.

Finally, following a Council recommendation, the government announced at its economic policy summit on 5 December 2001 that tax relief for research would be increased (see also page 25) and that the education tax allowance would be increased from 9% to 20%.
Public funds should be concentrated on measures that induce corporate spending. This is crucial for achieving the 2.5% target and therefore affects all other strategy elements.

More should be done to promote spin-offs and spillovers from universities and polytechnic colleges – innovative start-ups should be stimulated as a matter of general policy and should receive both immediate and medium-term support.

High-risk and mission-focused projects (in the areas of health or power for example) can produce large dividends if strategic planning is guaranteed over the longer term.

Co-operation between business and universities will achieve a new quality once the university reform has been implemented.

To support the efforts of the universities to sharpen their profiles in terms of content and organisation, and bearing in mind the draft University Act, the Council recommended the release of EUR 56.4 million (ATS 777 million) for university research infrastructure and key research areas on 15 March 2002. Parallel to this, the Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF) was granted an additional EUR 18.1 million (ATS 250 million) for 2002.
Participation in European research and technology programmes should be stimulated and bundled – the returns that can be obtained will have an impact on the quota and thus meet the goal of additionality.

Parallel to this, national research and technology programmes should be structured so that the participating companies are given incentives to continue with investments beyond the assisted period. To provide a short-term stimulus, the Council earmarked a further EUR 32.7 million (ATS 450 million) for the Forschungsförderungsfonds für die gewerbliche Wirtschaft (FFF) in November 2001. At the same time, a comprehensive international evaluation of the Fund was agreed.

The competence centre programmes (K plus, K ind, K net) for which the Council made funding recommendations, the research institutes for molecular and cellular bio-informatics (IMBA) and nuclear medicine (CeMM-GmbH) that were also set up in a public-private-partnership (PPP) within the framework of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, also possess a high level of addi-

The Länder already invest EUR 267 million (ATS 3.67 billion) in research and development, whereby the research quotas of the individual provinces vary greatly. The reorientation of co-operation between provincial and national government that has already started could produce valuable synergy potential for constructive and additive regional location policies (see also page 27).
Research and technology policies that meet the needs of the times demand that existing strengths are reinforced and that new and promising potentials are identified and promoted.

The Council maintains a regular discourse with experts from a wide range of fields in order to identify strengths and promising new areas and then to weight them against the background of international developments. The first analyses produced a selection of promising technological areas and strengths that can be added to and expanded on the basis of the latest scientific findings. This created a basis for subsequent evaluation. An important condition is that the cycle from basic research to applied research to technology development is shortened. This fact must be taken into account when generating new programmes and adapting existing ones.

3-1 Life Sciences

Biotechnology and medical technology are fields in which Austria is particularly strong. The genome research programme GEN-AU, for which the Council recommended funding on 27 June 2001 and which meanwhile has started, is a milestone. EUR 31.74 million (ATS 436.8 million) will flow into joint projects between universities and businesses, and the results will open up revolutionary opportunities in both medicine, environmental processing technology and food production. International networking and promotion of young scientists are integral parts of the programme. First class research is a key precondition for the successful development of an internationally attractive biotech location. For this reason, a Council working group is studying individual initiatives and new programmes in the fields of biotechnology and biomedicine. The Council recommended the provision of EUR 25.12 million (ATS 345.6 million) for new key projects. The programme Life Science Austria (LISA), that promotes business start-ups was awarded EUR 2.9 million (ATS 40 million). The recommendations are part of an overall biotechnology concept that will be elaborated in greater detail by the working group this year.

3-2 Information and Communications Technologies

Multi-media technology, digital content, microelectronics and telecommunications are fields in which Austria is particularly strong. The ICT sector plays a key role as an accelerator for technological development. For that reason, the Council proposes a campaign to bring Austria from ninth to fifth place in the European league tables. The passive adoption of existing technologies is not enough – new system applications need to be developed and marketed. Competence diversity and non-commitment must be ruled out!

The incentive programme FIT-IT works in this direction. The start phase was funded with EU 10.17 million (ATS 140 million), EUR 8.36 million (ATS 115 million) were recommended for the business oriented programme e-Business. (see also page 23)
3-3 Nano-Sciences and Technologies
Nano-sciences and technologies have emerged as one of the most important international fields of research. The countless highly funded research programmes in Europe, the USA and Asia are proof that scientists regard them as promising future technologies with enormous potential in many areas of life.

The Council set up the Austrian NANO-Initiative and on 15 February 2002 recommended start-up financing of EUR 5.09 million (ATS 70 million). This initiative was designed as a long-term programme and comprises a network of all players as well as measures to promote research, education and further training.

As of this year, Austrian scientists can also use the research infrastructure at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) in Grenoble. EUR 1.72 million (ATS 23.67 million) has been made available from incentive funds.

3-4 Mobility and Transport
Particular Austrian strengths include intermodality, transport logistics, vehicle technologies and tunnel construction. Increasing traffic flows within Europe, high external costs and continuously rising demands on the quality of mobility and transport services call for a contribution from the research and technology policy sectors.

The incentive programme “Intelligent Transport Systems and Services” that was granted EUR 29.06 million (ATS 400 million) by the Council on 20 November 2001 will produce new organisational concepts and technological solutions to organise traffic so that it is more efficient, safer, environmentally compatible and user-friendly. It is structured in several programme lines and is scheduled to run until 2005.

The special programme aeronautics was established with the aim of preserving Austria’s opportunities in the strategically important aviation technology sector that will play a major role in the 6th EU Research Framework Programme. The Council has earmarked EUR 8.72 million (ATS 120 million) for the programme.

Implementation of the National Space Plan with funds totalling EUR 7.27 million (ATS 100 million) complements Austria’s involvement in the European Space Agency (ESA).

3-5 Environment and Energy
Particular Austrian strengths include renewable energy, environmentally friendly building and housing. On 17 September 2001 the Council advocated continuation of the incentive programme “Technologies for Sustainable Development” until 2003 and funding of EUR 13.08 million (ATS 180 million). The programme aims to increase resource efficiency by a factor of four to ten, develop and implement system integral solutions and to make greater use of renewable resources. As such, it offers significant added value for society. (see also page 28)
Innovation and technological progress are increasingly becoming some of the most important factors in competition. But competition and co-operation are not mutually exclusive concepts. Austria possesses good infrastructure, both in terms of its institutions and its support programmes. Strategic alliances and networking make it easier to recognise market opportunities.

The "time to market" cycles of research and development results are becoming dramatically shorter. For that reason, the interfaces between universities, non-university research institutions and business have to be optimally defined. Parallel to this, the interfaces between the promotion agencies also need to be developed. Clear structures and simplified processes make life easier for the customer and thus accelerate the pace of innovation.

The non-university sector offers opportunities for particularly dynamic development. Stimulating growth potential in this sector is crucial for reaching the 2.5% target. Macroeconomic model calculations covering all areas of the sector (public and private research, co-operative competence centres, technology transfer institutions, polytechnic colleges and clusters) show that volume can be increased to 220% of the figure for 2000 by 2005. The incentive funds recommended by the Council have already produced a growth spurt of around 14% between 2000 and 2001!

In the first quarter of 2001 the Council made available EUR 79.21 million (ATS 1.09 billion) for the rapid continuation of two competence centre programmes (the Infrastructure Ministry's K plus programme and the Ministry of Economic Affair's K ind/K net programme). The two programmes both strengthen co-operation between science and business through joint participation in temporary RTD-centres. While K plus primarily focuses on the strategic orientation of research and international integration, K ind/K net promotes the development of centres and networks under the auspices of business.

EUR 4.86 million (ATS 67 million) was spent on expanding the university-based Christian Doppler laboratories that pursue basic research with an industrial relevance.
The Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) presented a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary research programme for 2001–2005. EUR 18.20 million (ATS 250.5 million) has been made available from incentive funds and will also cover the cost of setting up new institutes.

A concept presented to the Council for attracting the Institute for Medical Genome Research (IMG) to Austria received a positive welcome. The IMG would help strengthen Austria's reputation as a biotech centre and have strong international appeal.

Finally, in April 2002 the Council approved the allocation of EUR 10.9 million (ATS 150 million) for the incentive programme FH plus with the aim of ensuring dynamic development in the non-university research sector. FH plus’ goal is to enable polytechnic colleges to expand their RTD-capacities and to intensify R&D co-operation with regional businesses in order to improve the supply of qualified development partners in the regions, thus providing customised services for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Council has been working together with a panel of experts to draw up a national research and innovation plan which has been presented to the public on 13 December 2002. This plan contains proposals for the implementation of the strategy "2.5% + plus" and in particular for a structural reform of the national innovation system.
Research and technology are increasingly facing new challenges in terms of their legitimacy in the eyes of the public and, in the final analysis, it is the public that decides about state funding and the acceptance of research projects. The public has to be convinced that innovation, technological development and education form the basis for a society with a future.

But the population increasingly suffers from a lack of knowledge about research issues and has little faith in experts. According to the Eurobarometer study “Europeans, Science and Technology” carried out in 2001, well over half those surveyed (61.4%) felt that they were "not well informed" by the media. 53.3% did not believe journalists were competent to educate them about research. The distance between the public and experts often leads to a rejection of research projects which, in many cases, is impossible to predict.

The central question is therefore: "How can a public understanding of science and technology be created and maintained?"

This is not just a matter of communicating science by providing information; it also requires a dialogue with the public in the production of knowledge itself.

Together with media and communication experts, the Council has therefore developed a concept for raising awareness. This will address a broad public on the one hand, but also try to improve the professional quality of the public relations work carried out by research and development institutions on the other.

Based on this concept, the Council made a recommendation on 20 November 2001 to provide EUR 5.81 million (ATS 80 million) for a "Research-Development-Innovation" awareness building programme. Overall co-ordination of the programme is carried out by a steering committee made up of representatives of the four social partners, the three ministries responsible for research and technology policy and the Council. At the eight meetings held so far, the steering committee has laid down priorities for goal-oriented individual measures (special events, exhibitions, school projects, media co-operation, competition etc.).
This Council initiative had its kick-off-event in September 2002. It tackles the problems described above and comprises also an advertising campaign lasting several months that attempts to make research and technology more comprehensible, thus increasing public awareness of the benefits of research and technology development.

In August 2002 Members of the Council and contributing experts participated in discussions about this socially and politically relevant issue at the Technology and Media Forum of the European Forum Alpbach under the motto "Communication and Networks."
International comparisons show that the corporate sector in Austria lags behind in terms of expenditure on research and development.

The percentage of high-tech patents among total patents illustrates Austria's backwardness (A – 9.81%, EU – 26.97%). Neither is there much of a tradition of co-operative innovation projects among small and medium-sized enterprises (A – 12.90%, EU – 18.67%). At the same time, research and development expenses are rising all over the world, network supported research is becoming the rule and the knowledge-based service sector is expanding. It is here that reforms will have to set in.

Entrepreneurs must be addressed actively, competently and seriously. The basic conditions for using research infrastructure must be so attractive and of such high quality that Austrian businesses are motivated to overcome their inhibitions and multi-national companies to carry out more research in Austria.

Land and municipalities need to invest more in transfer institutions, the state should assist with specific follow-up programmes and financial service providers should develop intelligent solutions.

The mobility of researchers between academic institutions and business should be stimulated. On 9 April 2002 the Council made funding recommendations for two regionally based follow-up programmes:

REG plus promotes regional innovation projects intended to stimulate and implement key areas of technology-oriented development (EUR 2.91 million /ATS 40 million). The purpose of the technology transfer programme of the Ministry of Economic Affairs is to help increase the innovative strength of medium-sized companies. Secondary goals include improving access to outside expertise, internal company innovation management and the establishment of inter-regional co-operation models (EUR 4.00 million /ATS 55 million).

The 20 co-operative research institutes run by business are important technology communicators and offer industry specific services. This necessitates expanding research and development know-how potential. EUR 2.91 million (ATS 40 million) for a growth promotion programme serve this purpose.
"2.5% + plus" – Prosperity through research and innovation

RTD Financing

Source: OECD

Japan
Ireland (1997)
Sweden
Belgium (1997)
Korea
Switzerland (1996)
United Kingdom (1998)
United States
Finland
OECD
Canada
Germany
EU (1998)
Denmark (1997)
France (1998)
Netherlands (1998)
Austria
Spain
Iceland
Norway (1997)
Czech Republic
Australia (1998)
Slovak Republic
Italy
New Zealand (1997)
Hungary
Greece (1997)
Turkey (1997)
Poland
Mexico
Portugal

Government
Other (other national sources, abroad)
Business enterprises
The national innovation system will have to be adapted at a faster pace if Austria is to successfully position itself in the new economy. The Council is placing its hopes in human resources and information technology.

A good education remains the basis for individual success and economic competitiveness. Austria has an excellent education system, which however, needs to have a stronger focus on the future.

Flexibility and mobility are challenges that require structural reforms. The university reform will help remedy qualitative and quantitative deficits in the tertiary education sector. Certain aspects of the interface between the tertiary and secondary stages need to be redefined. Technical subjects and the natural sciences require new didactic concepts.

The Council has therefore made EUR 1.29 million (ATS 17.8 million) available for the programme Innovation in Mathematics, Science and Technology (IMST). The idea behind this programme is to awaken and foster the interest of young people in natural sciences at an early age. An additional EUR 16.58 million (ATS 228.2 million) was invested in selected grant programmes and prizes awarded by the Ministry of Education, the Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF), the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) and other leading non-university institutions.

In view of the global trend toward a knowledge-based economy, the Council made a recommendation on 16 May 2001 to abolish existing legal barriers to the international mobility of researchers. In spring 2002 the Council reaffirmed its attitude during the amendment of legislation governing the employment of foreigners.

Cutting-edge competitive research depends on uncompromising internationalisation!

Cross-border and intersectoral mobility of researchers needs to be strengthened to expand the supply of human resources.
It is counterproductive that, despite the increasing shortage of highly qualified people in the economy and research, women are still underrepresented in both the relevant educational areas and professional practice. To counteract this, the Council has started an initiative designed to motivate and provide targeted support for Austrian women. The programme "FFORTE - Frauen in Forschung und Technologie" (Women in Research and Technology) was presented on 15 February 2002 and has been funded with EUR 3.63 million (ATS 50 million). The planned programme includes measures that range from supporting girls in their choice of careers and improving opportunities for female scientists and engineers. Mentoring and coaching, grants and measures to improve qualifications as well as the establishment of an "AN institute" are important lines of action for FFORTE.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) concern all sectors of the population in different ways and therefore require the generation of development scenarios along the different lines of access. The Austrian government has already launched several initiatives (e-Austria, e-Business, e-Government, etc.). To bundle the individual measures, the Council has recommended setting up a central ICT co-ordination office to define the main strategy, milestones and control mechanisms. Austria has several strengths in information and communication technologies (e.g. image processing, microelectronics). In order to maintain the dynamism recognisable in this field, the Council has recommended the implementation of a number of first programmes. The "e-Business" action programme was created to promote the use of the new opportunities provided by electronic business transactions in small and medium-sized companies - EUR 8.35 million (ATS 115 million) was provided from incentive funds. In contrast, the incentive programme FIT-IT stimulates radical innovation by means of co-operative pre-market research. (see also page 14)

At the same time, a panel of experts appointed by the Council is working on an ICT concept that, taking the current position as its starting point, will deal with education and further training, research and technology development as well as technology transfer.
Innovative business start-ups are a barometer of dynamic economic development. Promoting technology-oriented start-ups is therefore a key element of progressive research and technology policy.

International comparisons show that Austria still has a lower than average quota in this sector, although the number of business start-ups has significantly increased in recent years - from 22,000 in 1999 to 30,000 in 2002! This deficit in terms of technology-oriented start-ups has a massive impact both on the employment situation and on the structural change that is needed in the economy.

94% of employment growth in Austria between 1994 and 1997 was attributable to start-ups. Even if this quota is largely due to a relatively small circle of companies with higher than average growth, a significant degree of added value can still be inferred from it. Moreover, technologically-oriented start-ups in industry related service areas also contribute to lasting structural changes within the companies.

The Council for Research and Technology Development wants to stimulate a doubling of high-tech start-ups by 2005.

A group of experts appointed by the Council has examined the Austrian promotion system and compared it with those in other countries. In general it seems that the large number of schemes, which in some cases also overlap, tend to create uncertainty among potential recipients instead of encouraging them in their intentions to found a new company. Different evaluation procedures and complicated financing and consultation procedures compound the difficulties of setting up a business.

There is also consensus within the European Union about the need for state intervention to stimulate the founding of new businesses. In March 2002 the European Council in Lisbon made it clear that financial grants needed to focus more strongly on supporting newly established companies.

On 15 February 2002 the Austrian Council recommended a package of measures to strengthen start-up dynamics in the technology sector:

- All activities should be optimally co-ordinated under a single "roof." A central mediatory and consulting office equipped with all the latest communication technologies should act as a first-stop-shop and guide candidates through the support landscape. Consulting and other services for new entrepreneurs in the start-up phase should be expanded with the participation of all relevant support institutions.
- A **platform of national and regional players** should be established to improve communication flows and increase customer focus.
- **Target-group-specific measures in this area** should be implemented as part of the **programme to create public awareness** (see also page 18).
- The Innovation Agency’s **seed-financing programme** should be refocused on new priorities and continued. Incentive funds totalling EUR 10.90 million (ATS 150 million) have been earmarked. Mezzanine loans will provide financing and participation incentives for technology companies in the early stage phase, while follow-up consulting will provide additional support over several years. EUR 2.18 million (ATS 30 million) have been made available at short notice for the **Tecma, Tecnet and I² programmes** that are also handled by the Innovation Agency. These programmes are currently under review.
- A **double equity fund** focusing on technology start-ups should be created.
- A working group of the two research promotion funds FFF and FWF should be set up to co-ordinate the key programmes **“Start-up-Förderung”** run by the FFF (special funding from incentive funds: EUR 3.63 million /ATS 50 million) and **“Impulsprojekte” (Incentive Projects)** run by the FWF more effectively. This should make it possible for companies to carry out longer-term application-oriented research projects both before and after their establishment.
- EUR 8.35 million (ATS 115 million) have been made available from incentive funds to start the **incubator programme A plus B (Academia plus Business).** The object is to increase the number of innovative and technology-oriented start-ups both from the university and the non-university sector.
- Optimisation of existing FFF **(VC-Forum)** and Innovation Agency instruments **(i2-Börse)** should make it easier for potential entrepreneurs and investors (venture capitalists, business angels) to establish contact.
- The broadening of **tax relief for research** (see also page 11) to cover all research expenditure in accordance with the OECD’s Frascati Manual. Furthermore, a **research bonus** will be offered as an alternative for this extended area of application. The new bonus model approach will significantly increase the possibilities for businesses to take advantage of the scheme in the early phase.
- Start of the Council initiative **“Intellectual Property Rights - Patents”** in 2002. The panel of experts has presented suggestions this year (see also page 30). As a first step, the Council made a recommendation on 9 April 2002 to grant EUR 1.09 million (ATS 15 million) in additional funds to the **Tecma programme.** Tecma promotes the creation of networks, defines the interfaces at universities as a preliminary stage of technology and licensing offices, and expands financing for patents.
Research and development takes place wherever standards apply and barriers are overcome. Both bilateral and multi-lateral research and development co-operation requires cross-border strategies based on regional specialisation.

Austria’s economic structure is characterised by diversity, decentralisation and individuality. Appropriate research and technology policies are necessary to ensure that such a system can be sustained in the future. Regional competence should be strengthened by focusing on specific topics and then bundled in networks. On the one hand, this will make it possible to anchor first class contenders in international co-operations, on the other, it increases the chances of establishing international research hubs in Austria.

Some EUR 782.87 million (ATS 10.77 billion) will flow into or back into Austria from international sources this year - the equivalent of 18.6% of total expenditure on research and development.

To encourage Austrian participation in the 6th Framework Programme the Council recommended EUR 5.08 million for the initiation and additional financing of EU projects.

The EU Council and European Parliament approved the 6th Research Framework Programme on 3 June 2002. The programme will run until 2006 and is endowed with EUR 17.5 billion (ATS 240.80 billion), an increase of 17% over the 5th Research Framework Programme, confirming the Union’s pro-active attitude.

The prime goal of the 6th Framework Programme (FP6) is to give shape to the European research area. It therefore follows that the projects that are sponsored should produce lasting structural changes on the European RTD landscape.

The seven priority areas of FP6 strongly overlap with areas in which Austria is strong: (see also page 14)

1 – Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health;
2 – Information society technologies;
3 – Nanotechnologies and nanosciences, knowledge-based multi-functional materials, new production processes and devices;
4 – Aeronautics and space;
5 – Food quality and safety;
6 – Sustainable development, global change and eco-systems;
7 – Citizens and governance in the knowledge-based society.
In this connection, the Council has always insisted that life has to be breathed into the European principle of subsidiarity in the form of regional activities. Regional priorities in education and further training, and a focus on locational strengths require a new agreement between national and Länder governments. To this end, EUR 3.36 million (ATS 50 million) was set aside on 27 June 2001 for a new national-Länder co-operation model targeted at key areas.

Two additional packages of supporting measures can be continued thanks to a Council recommendation. EUR 5.01 million (ATS 69 million) was awarded to planned co-operations with those countries that will shortly join the European Union. Economically relevant co-operations with central and east European states will be stimulated with EUR 1.16 million (ATS 16 million).

The exchange of knowledge with regional and international players is a fixed part of the Council’s work. Two Council meetings have been held in the provinces for example (Villach and Innsbruck) and representatives of local authorities and research institutions participated as guests. In addition, regular meetings are held with representatives of national and international organisations such as the EU Commission.

Participation in the plenary sessions of the European Research and Technology Councils rounds off the spectrum. (see also page 7)
More than anything else, Austria’s prosperity is based on its citizens’ willingness to work and productivity.

Well-developed infrastructure in both the production and service sectors make economic progress possible. Moreover, a climate of social security creates the scope for the free development of the individual and consequently for scientific work. The results of this work are therefore also based on social conditions that promise added value for society as a whole.

Problem solving competence has to be built up especially in those areas where the economic benefit of research and technology development goes hand in hand with additional benefit to society – for example in the fulfilment of state responsibilities in the health or environmental sectors or in the transport and energy sectors. Current strategic co-operations with central and east European partners also possess a strong social dimension.

The Council calls this a “double dividend” and recommends that it should be taken into account when developing and implementing incentive programmes by including appropriate social and economic evaluation criteria.

The continuation of the incentive programme “Technologies for Sustainable Development” (see also page 15) is just one such example. The awareness creation programme developed by the Council on the subject of “Research – Development – Innovation” (see also page 18) or the programme initiated by the Council “FFORTE – Women in Research and Technology” (see also page 23) trigger direct added value for society.

The social and cultural sciences and the humanities play an important role in this context (see page 29). They are called upon to contribute their competence in the spirit of a “double dividend” and to develop their strategic orientation in co-operation with the Council.

On 15 February 2002 the Council took an important step toward preparing the Sixth Framework Programme and made a recommendation for EUR 2 million (ATS 27.5 million) for the key research area “Development of Democracy in the European Integration Process.”
Regardless of where individual sciences might stand, there can be no doubt that all branches of science have to reflect upon their ethical and cultural responsibilities. Social and humanitarian responsibility is the higher value that must also apply to the technology sector and the natural sciences, and which must be reflected in research and technological development.

Social and cultural scientists and humanities scholars are called upon to draw attention to the possible misuse of research results and to actively follow technological developments. For that reason, the bridges between the disciplines must be repeatedly crossed anew or built again.

The Council has always emphasised the importance of social and cultural sciences and the humanities for the development of our society and has implemented a first package of measures in co-operation with the relevant players. On 23 November 2002 the Council organised a workshop on "Strategies for Non-university Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities" at which strategic areas for research work, structural developments, and also questions of financing, were discussed. Parallel to this, the Council invited the deans of the social and cultural sciences and humanities faculties to a discussion. They explained the models that had been drawn up within the scope of the university reform. Finally, in February 2002, the Ministry of Education presented a strategy paper. Following this, the Council recommended carrying out the key research programme "Democracy Development in the European Integration Process." In principle, the Council holds the view that public funding for non-university social and cultural science and humanities institutions should develop proportionally to expenditure for university institutes.

On 13 July 2002 the Council recommended mapping the entire social and cultural sciences and humanities research sector. A working group will subsequently draw up targeted measures designed to stimulate research co-operation between the social and cultural sciences, the humanities and the technical disciplines with the aim of increasing co-operation between university and non-university institutions and improving international networking.
The "exploitation" of intellectual achievements, be it in the artistic or scientific sector is part of a knowledge-based society and a prerequisite for national prosperity.

The cycles in which new knowledge is utilised are becoming shorter all the time. For that reason, provisions for intellectual property rights at public sector research institutes will also play an increasingly important role. The challenge is to optimise the transfer of knowledge and technology from the public to the private sector. Strengthening IPR and supporting measures such as the creation of suitable infrastructures can have a positive influence.

The Council has set itself the goal of putting forward specific measures to improve Austria's innovation performance, in particular with regard to the exploitation of the results of research and technology development.

On 18 June 2002 the Council held a workshop on "Exploitation of Research and Development: Intellectual property rights – Patents." Together with experts from science, business and administration, Council representatives engaged in a discussion about:

- Goal conflicts for inventors at public institutions caught up between publication and patenting;
- Licence revenues and intangible incentives to promote patenting volume;
- Economic relevance;
- Legal framework;
- The task for the public sector;
- Building up exploitation infrastructures at universities, in the regions or at central locations; the role and status of the inventor;
- Improving the scientific basis and targeted educational measures;
- IPR in the U.S.A, Germany and other countries in comparison with Austria.

Patent trends at selected U.S. universities show that patenting patterns are related on the one hand to a legislative framework that provides strong incentives and the development of new technologies on the other.

The Council will make a recommendation on this subject in 2003 on the basis of this discussion.
Austria still has no distinct culture of evaluation. While evaluations are already being carried out for a series of research and technology policy measures (both ex ante and ex post), there is still no systematic evaluation activity on the basis of binding standards. The initiative of the Council for Research and Technology Development therefore aims to stimulate improvements to this situation in the short term.

The Council has responded to this challenge in a number of ways. On the one hand, in co-operation with experts it has drawn up a catalogue of quality criteria to evaluate the individual programmes and initiatives on the basis of the strategy elements described earlier. On the other, the existence of a strict programme evaluation plan has been adopted as an important criterion for recommendations for the distribution of special funding. Furthermore, at the prompting of the Council, an international evaluation of the research promotion funds FFF and FWF has been started. Results are expected in 2003.

Finally, in close co-operation with the platform for research and technology evaluation “Plattform Evaluierung”, the Council started a project to draw up minimum standards for evaluations. Results will be available in 2003. The Council will recommend them to the government as a catalogue of criteria for binding use.

In an international comparison Austrian research and development statistics are not very up to date. They therefore need to be brought up to European standards. In future, both an R&D full survey and an innovation survey will be carried out in Austria. The results will be made available in alternating years at two-year intervals.

The Council supports this plan and calls for the provision of funding required for its rapid implementation. A successful research and technology offensive requires a corresponding comprehensive survey activity.
PROGRAMME WITH DIRECT THEMATIC ATTRIBUTION

(60.82% of EUR 508.7 million special funds)

- Other sciences and technologies (9.81%)
- Mobility Research, Transport Technologies, Space (11.06%)
- Biotechnologies (15.53%)
- Information & Communication Technologies (12.17%)
- Research & Technologies for Sustainable Development (5.12%)
- Nanosciences & -technologies (2.63%)
- Social & Cultural Sciences, Humanities (0.72%)
- Materials (3.78%)
- Technology transfer, innovation and others (12.01%)
- Market-oriented research and development (22.13%)
- Basic research (30.68%)
- Pre-competitive research (35.08%)
PROGRAMMES WITHOUT DIRECT THEMATIC ATTRIBUTION
(39.18% of EUR 508.7 million special funds)

- Research funds (17.86%)
- Thematically open programmes and measures (4.43%)
- Young researchers & human resources (3.1%)
- Start-up companies (4.5%)
- Intellectual property rights (0.5%)
- Others (2.58%)
- Measures in support of international RTD-cooperation (2.21%)
- Direct funding for RTD-institutions (3.58%)

Companies (37.03%)
Universities (34.71%)
Non-university research institutes (28.26%)

< IMPLEMENTATION SECTORS
The General Secretariat of the Council for Research and Technology Development provides organisational and content support for the work of the Council. In particular, it obtains and prepares the necessary material and also compiles additional information. The Secretariat carries out preparatory and follow-up work for Council decisions and organises communication both within the Council as well as externally.

The Secretariat was set up on 4 December 2000. “Operations” were gradually started after the head of the Secretariat had been appointed in January 2001 and other staff recruited.

Finally, at the end of May 2001 the full staff was able to move into the new offices at Tech-Gate-Vienna.

From left to right, seated in the front row:

**BRIGITTE TIEFENTHALER, Dipl.Ing.**
Born 1969, studied material sciences at the University of Leoben
Focus: Economically relevant research, information and communications technologies, nano-sciences, women in research and technology

**JUTTA SEYFRIED**
Secretariat
Born 1961, trained as an industrial clerk in Vienna

**SIMONE MESNER, Mag.**
Deputy head of the General Secretariat
Born 1964, studied history and political science in Vienna as well as international relations in Bologna
Focus: Pure research and pre-competition research, biotechnology, university affairs, international research co-operation

Standing in the second row:

**WERNER HÖSS, Ing.**
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Born 1960, studied operations technology and mechanical engineering in Vienna
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THE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO THANK