

Blueprint : for the next round of Foresight / Office of Science and Technology.

Contributors

Great Britain. Office of Science and Technology.

Publication/Creation

[London] : Office of Science and Technology, [1998], ©1998.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/kmgbq68z>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under an Open Government license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



Office of Science and Technology

Blueprint

For the next round of *Foresight*

FORESIGHT STEERING GROUP

Sir Robert May FRS
Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government and Head
of the Office of Science and Technology (Chair)

Professor Ronald Amann
Chief Executive, Economic and Social Science Research Council

Professor Sue Birley
Imperial College Management School

Mr Brian Blunden OBE
President, Association of Independent Research and Technology Organisations

Sir John Cadogan CBE FRS / Dr John Taylor FRS FEng from January 1999
Director-General of the Research Councils, Office of Science and Technology

Mr John Chisholm FEng
Chief Executive, Defence Evaluation and Research Agency

Mr Alastair Clark
Executive Director, Bank of England

Ms Diane Coyle
Economics Editor, The Independent

Mr Stuart Etherington
Chief Executive, National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Mr Alastair Macdonald CB
Director General, Industry, Department of Trade and Industry

Professor Ben Martin
Director, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex

Sir Roy McNulty
Chairman, Short Brothers

Mr John Monks
General Secretary, Trades Union Congress

Professor John Sizer CBE
Chief Executive, Scottish Higher Education Funding Council

Mr Adair Turner
Director General, Confederation of British Industry

Mr Peter Wanless
Director, Strategy and Communications, Department for Education and Employment

Ms Diana Warwick
Chief Executive, Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals



22501157495

WELLCOME TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE	
06 JAN 1999	
ACC. No.	14247
CLASS:	LW off



“The Government’s vision is to put the future on Britain’s side.
We want to see a revolution in the UK’s competitiveness
and our quality of life. Foresight is central to that objective.”

Rt Hon Peter Mandelson, MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
December 1998

WELLCOME LIBRARY
General Collection
M
1991

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines plans for the next round of the UK Foresight programme starting in April 1999. It shows how you can benefit from Foresight and join with others in helping to improve quality of life and build sustained UK competitiveness in the knowledge-based world of the future.

The document sets out

- the objectives of the next round
- the approach to be adopted
- the structure of the exercise
- the basis on which individuals and organisations can contribute to the programme
- the outputs which panels and other organisations will produce and how they will be used
- a broad timetable running through to November 2000.

The plans take account of the responses to the consultation document on the next round published in March 1998. Many responses came from membership organisations which either had no previous involvement with Foresight or wanted to become more closely involved in the programme. We are grateful to all respondents for their advice and for the many offers of help which have been made.

More information about the focus of activity in the next round will be published in Spring 1999 once new panels and other arrangements are in place. In the meantime information about current Foresight activities and events can be obtained from the Foresight website at www.foresight.gov.uk or from the Foresight Directorate, Office of Science and Technology, Albany House, 94-98 Petty France, London SW1H 9ST (Fax no: 0171 271 2015).

OBJECTIVES

Foresight develops visions of the future to guide the people who make today's decisions in business, academia and government. It is about anticipating the future; identifying potential needs, threats and opportunities; and encouraging people and organisations in the UK to act now to meet future challenges and take advantage of future opportunities.

The focus is squarely on wealth creation and quality of life.

The focus is squarely on wealth creation and quality of life as two sides of the same coin.

Foresight is about creating the environment for action. People with a wide range of expertise and experience work in partnership through Foresight panels and other organisations to:

- **identify significant market opportunities and threats**, looking beyond normal commercial timescales and outside normal sectoral boundaries;
- **identify emerging capabilities** of, and demand for, science, engineering and technology;
- **highlight areas of policy, regulation, education and training** where government action would deliver widespread benefits; and
- **identify areas for action** by the business, scientific, voluntary and public sectors to increase national wealth and quality of life.

Launched in 1994, Foresight is already:

- used by companies, large and small, to shape their business strategies and build sustained competitive advantage;
- breaking down barriers to collaboration across business sectors and academic disciplines, and between business and the science base;
- focusing business and the academic community on key issues for quality of life and business success in the 21st century;
- informing policy and spending decisions across government.

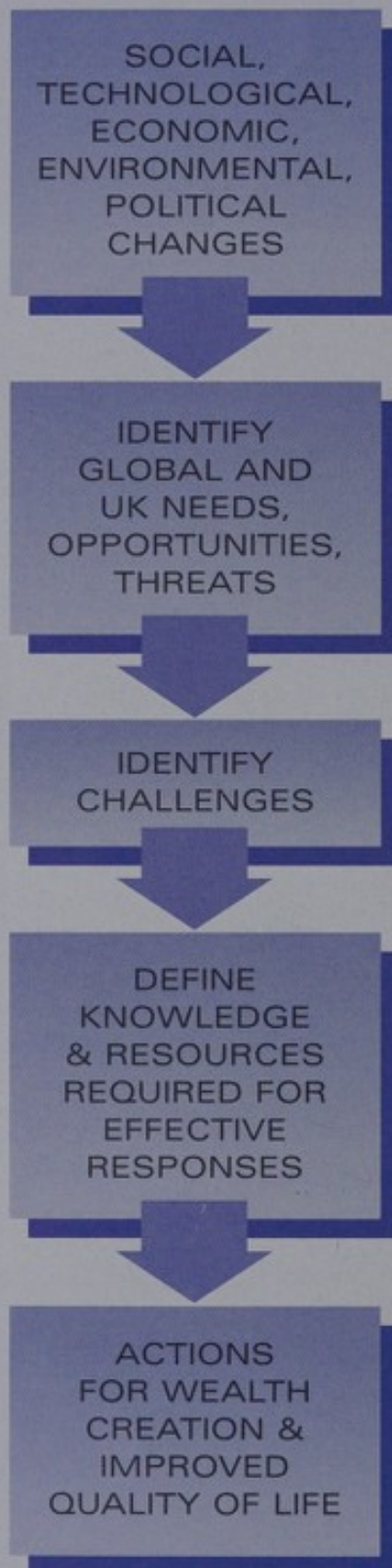
The next round is about learning from experience and building on what has been achieved so far.

The next round is about pursuing these objectives more effectively by learning from experience and building on what has been achieved so far. The aim is to:

- produce outputs which are clear, focused and provide a firm basis for action;
- add value by addressing issues which have not been addressed elsewhere or making connections which have not been made previously; and
- foster the expansion and further development of collaborative networks

in order to raise the prospects for wealth creation and quality of life within the context of sustainable development.

The principles of Foresight can be used by most organisations to develop strategic visions and act on them.



What could the future look like?

- Find existing data and futures studies from the knowledge pool and other sources.
- Develop scenarios for your field: how might the future unfold?
- Decide what will distinguish winners from losers.

What does this mean for me?

- Identify the strategic threats and opportunities in your field.
- Put your ideas to the test: get reactions through the knowledge pool.

What should I do next?

- Play an active part in the Foresight programme: attend workshops, use the knowledge pool, promote your own ideas.
- Use Foresight networks to add to your expertise and resources.
- Build a strategy in partnership: identify others in the networks who share your goals.

How can I benefit?

- Identify fresh opportunities reaching beyond normal sectoral boundaries;
- Exploit emerging needs and capabilities in science, engineering and technology;
- Highlight areas for action by other parties including government;
- Work with professional institutions, trade associations and other bodies where they can help.

See page 13 for information on how you can take part in Foresight.

THE APPROACH

The approach to the next round is based on the following basic principles, all of which were strongly endorsed in responses to the consultation.

■ **Broadening the focus of Foresight panels**

Pages 5-9 set out the panels for the next round and the way in which they were selected.

■ **Broader participation**

Foresight should be a national activity, drawing in views from different age-groups, all regions and the widest possible range of organisations.

Foresight should be a national activity.

Involving Young People

It is particularly important to draw in the views of young people - in schools and in business - who will be responsible for putting Foresight visions into practice. The Office of Science and Technology (OST) will work with existing networks to achieve this. The Association for Schools Science Engineering and Technology, for example, plans to involve 14-18 year olds through a network of meetings and internet activities focused initially on 'The School of the Future.'

■ **Inclusiveness**

It will be possible for anyone to contribute their knowledge or expertise and to comment on emerging findings from panels.

■ **High quality**

The primary mechanism for ensuring high quality will be open debate on ideas and draft reports produced by panels. Comments received will, in general, be visible to all participants. This process will add value to panel outputs by exposing the analysis to scrutiny before publication in final form.

■ **Interaction**

Panels will work together wherever it makes sense to do so and will be encouraged to interact with organisations which can contribute to their work.

■ **Consistency**

Panels will start from a common base of information about the future (the knowledge pool, described on page 9) and their reports should relate to each other. The knowledge pool will be available to all participants.

■ **Global perspectives**

The focus will be on market opportunities and exploitation of knowledge on a global basis.

THE STRUCTURE

The Foresight programme is managed by the Office of Science and Technology (OST) and is guided by a Foresight Steering Group, appointed and chaired by the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor. The Steering Group is responsible for the quality and strategic direction of the programme. It is made up of senior people from business, science, education and the voluntary sector.

Foresight panels are at the heart of the programme.

A Ministerial Group, chaired by the Minister for Science, Lord Sainsbury of Turville, provides top level co-ordination of the programme across government.

Foresight panels are at the heart of the programme. Panels currently operate on a sectoral basis and are drawn from business, academe, the voluntary sector, government departments, research councils and other public bodies. They identify future trends, market drivers, barriers to progress, and challenges and opportunities for future wealth creation and improved quality of life. Panels make recommendations for action.

Responses to the consultation produced overwhelming support for the retention of panels as the focal point of Foresight activity. There was strong support also for reducing the number of sectoral panels, looking at broader themes and issues and creating a wider range of mechanisms for people to participate in Foresight. The development of both associate programmes and the knowledge pool will promote broader participation.

How were the panels for the next round identified?

In the light of the consultation OST has reviewed the current panel structure and suggestions for new panels against three criteria:

- **importance** to wealth creation and/or the quality of life in the future;
- the **added value** which Foresight can stimulate; and
- the level of **interest** in participation from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The panels for the next round are listed overleaf. The list includes two kinds of panel:

- thematic panels addressing broad social and/or economic issues which might drive wealth creation and affect quality of life in the future;
- sectoral panels focused on business sectors or broader areas of activity and carrying forward the work of existing panels as well as tackling new issues.

The two will work together to explore and develop areas of common interest. Thematic panels will produce visions of the future. Sectoral panels will be asked to develop these visions in a sectoral context and to consider responses to the challenges and opportunities identified.

Sectoral panels will have a five year life cycle. Thematic panels will usually operate over a shorter timespan but reconvene at regular intervals to refresh their visions. New thematic panels, on climate change for example, might be created as the programme moves forward.

Thematic panels will produce visions of the future. Sectoral panels will be asked to develop these visions in a sectoral context.

The next round will take forward the agenda of the existing 16 Foresight panels. The Government will also continue to encourage the development of Foresight on sectoral basis. For example, Foresight in the construction sector will be carried forward in association with the Construction Industry Board under arrangements which ensure that it is integrated fully into the work of relevant next round panels. Similar arrangements may be put in place for other sectors as time proceeds. In addition, because it started later than other panels, the current Marine panel will continue to operate until September.

How will panels be appointed?

Panels will be chaired by senior people from the business, academic or voluntary sectors who are appointed by the Chief Scientific Advisor. Nominations for chairmen, panel membership and task force participants will be invited from a wide range of organisations before appointments are made.

There are some important underpinning technologies, IT and biotechnology for example, that affect the work of many panels. Expertise in these areas will be embedded in appropriate panels.

THEMATIC PANELS

- Ageing population
- Crime prevention
- Manufacturing 2020

SECTORAL PANELS

- Built Environment & Transport
- Chemicals
- Defence, Aerospace & Systems
- Energy & Natural Environment
- Financial Services
- Food Chain & Crops for Industry
- Healthcare
- Information, Communications & Media
- Materials
- Retail & Consumer Services

UNDERPINNING THEMES

- Education, Skills & Training
- Sustainable Development

How will the panels work?

Panels will set their own agendas within the framework set out in this document. They will be expected to identify objectives against which their effectiveness can be evaluated. They will be supported by OST but need increasingly to work in collaboration with sectoral and other organisations.

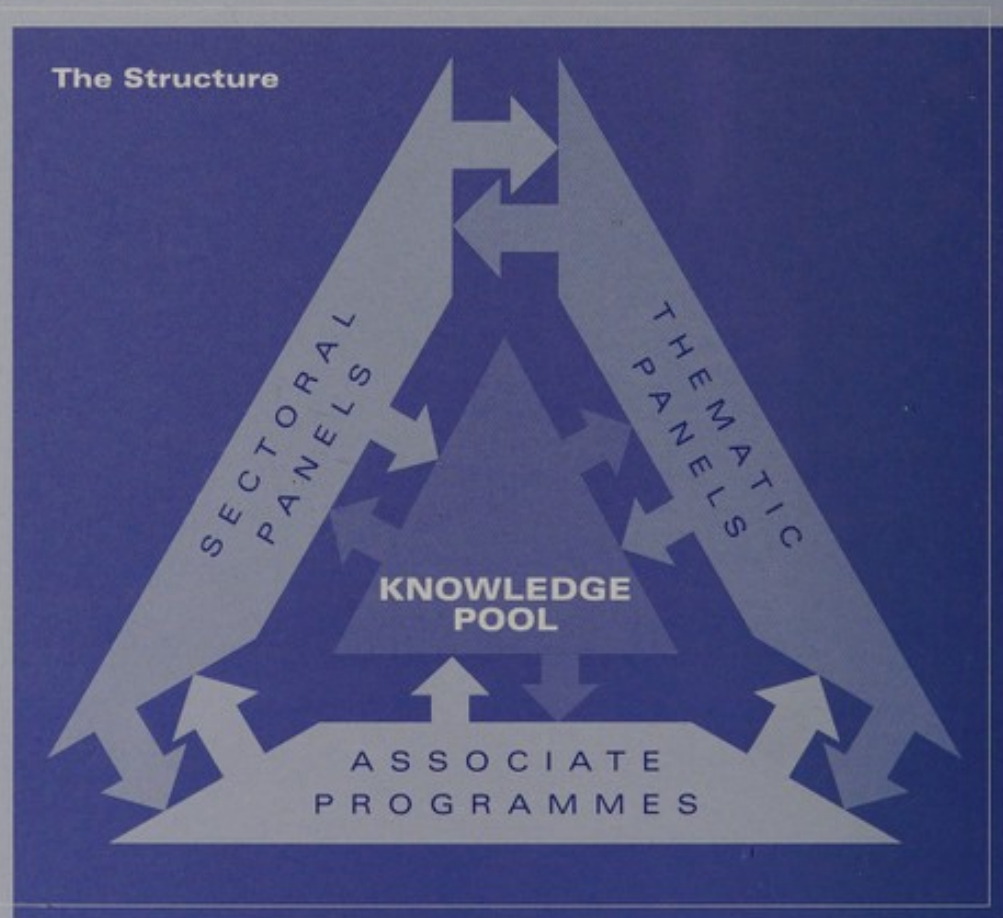
Recent experience suggests that panels will generally operate as relatively small strategic entities and carry forward their agendas by setting up task forces to address specific issues. Task forces may include people who are not members of panels. This is one way in which the breadth of participation can be broadened and the programme can become more inclusive.

In many cases task forces will address topics which span the interests of several panels - sectoral and/or thematic - and integrate the interests of other organisations, promoting a greater degree of interaction and knowledge transfer.

Task forces will also provide a means of carrying forward the activities of existing panels in the next round. For example, they will continue the valuable work of the ITEC panel on the analysis of future technologies.

Panels will draw together the work of task forces and relevant contributions to the knowledge pool. Both panels and task forces are likely to stimulate knowledge pool contributions both in response to their outputs and by acting on proposals from other organisations.

Task forces will also provide a means of carrying forward the activities of existing panels in the next round.



What are the underpinning themes?

Two underpinning themes will be embedded in the next round. This means that every panel will be asked to consider education, skills and training issues and the implications of its proposals for sustainable development.

The Department for Education and Employment and its counterparts in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will collaborate with OST and other government departments to support panel activities in education, skills and training. Panel findings with implications for policy makers in these areas will be fed back into the appropriate parts of government.

The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions will collaborate with OST and other organisations to provide access to expertise on sustainable development issues for panels as they take forward their work. Arrangements for informing policy makers of relevant Foresight findings will be similar to those put in place for education, skills and training.

What are associate programmes?

Associate programmes will be a key feature of the next round of Foresight. They will enable a larger number of participants to take part and a larger number of topics to be addressed. Panels and task forces may draw on the work of associate programmes as appropriate.

Associate programmes can make substantial contributions of knowledge and expertise, often through professional institutions and other membership organisations. They will work closely in partnership with the OST under agreed terms. They will usually produce reports addressing the potential of specific topics for future wealth creation or enhanced quality of life. These reports may be specific to the work of one panel, or may be of relevance to the work of many. Associates will make their emerging findings widely available for debate prior to final publication.

Organisations who wish to set up associate programmes are encouraged to contact OST.

THE KNOWLEDGE POOL

What is it?

The knowledge pool will support the work of panels and the development of new and expanded networks of Foresight participants. It will be a professionally managed library of strategic visions, views and information about the future which Foresight panels and organisations undertaking their own Foresight exercises can draw on and use to make connections across sectoral and thematic boundaries. Panels will also use it to invite comments on their ideas and encourage specific contributions to their work.

The knowledge pool will be developed throughout the next round. At the outset it will draw together existing material from Foresight panels, inputs from government departments and initial contributions from associate programmes and other organisations. As work proceeds, panels and other participants will add to it. Over time, it will develop into a national pool of knowledge about the future, accessible to all Foresight participants.

Every panel will be asked to consider education, skills and training issues; and the implications of its proposals for sustainable development.

Associate programmes will be a key feature of the next round of Foresight.

The knowledge pool will be a professionally managed library of strategic visions, views and information about the future.

Each entry will have attached to it the source of the contribution, and a record of the comments which it stimulates. By this means:

- users of the pool will be able to assess the pedigree of the information;
- contributors to the pool will be able continually to develop their ideas; and
- there will be a record of which documents have been considered by Foresight panels and other organisations during their analyses.

How do I contribute to the knowledge pool?

Many contributions will come through panels and associate programmes. Organisations and individuals who wish to propose direct contributions to the knowledge pool are encouraged to contact OST.

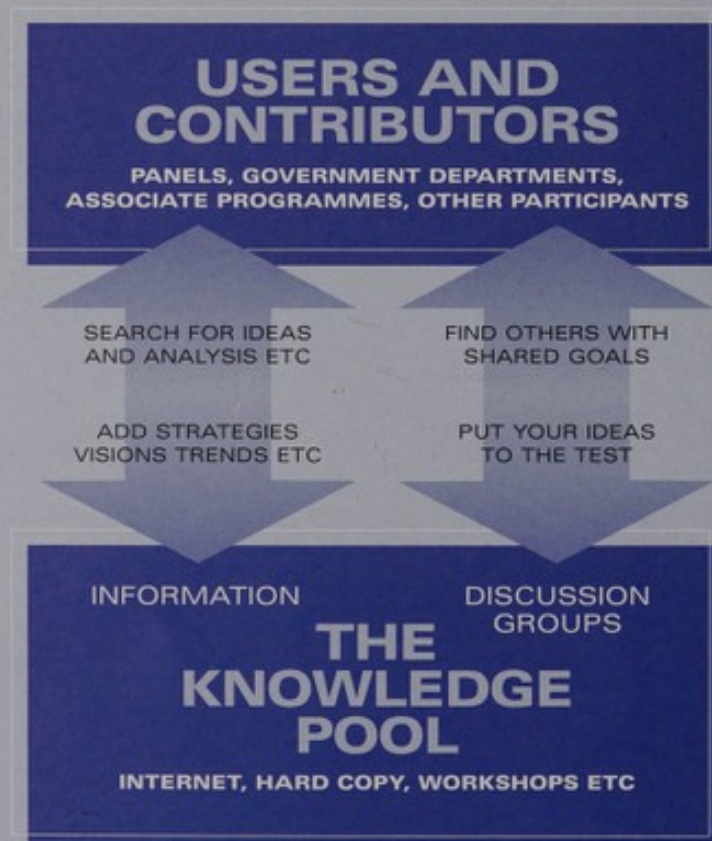
How do I use it to access information?

Contributors to the knowledge pool may hold workshops and other events to debate and publicise their views. For many participants, these events will be the primary method of accessing information from the knowledge pool. For example, the knowledge pool will be the forum in which panels, associates and other participants debate draft findings prior to publication.

Access will also be provided via the Internet.

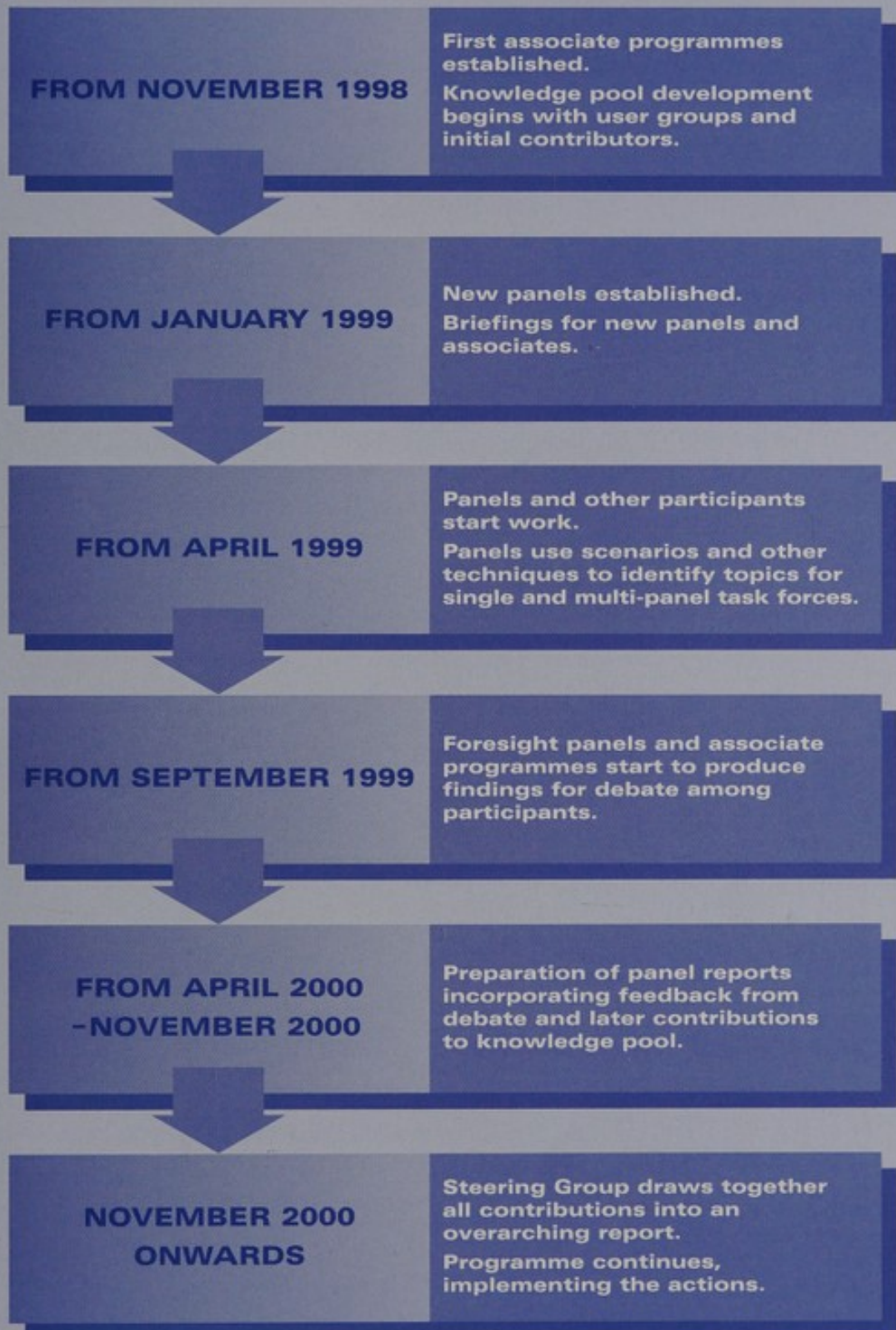
The address is: <http://www.foresight.gov.uk>

No specialist skills are required to use the knowledge pool over the Internet.



MILESTONES

The programme will move forward broadly along the following timetable. Not all parts of the programme will proceed at the same pace; nor should they. For example, some panels, task forces and associate programmes might produce findings at an early stage in the programme. Action on these findings could begin well before other work was completed.



ACTING ON THE RESULTS

Foresight brings together a wide variety of activities, each generating actions, priorities and networks. By the end of November 2000 the panels, associate programmes and other participants will have produced:

- data, analysis and opinion on future trends and scenarios, held in the knowledge pool;
- visions for the future and their implications;
- specific action plans aimed at increasing national prosperity and quality of life.

The Steering Group will then draw together these contributions into an overarching report.

The first of these outputs will emerge quite early in the process. Some of them will reflect work which is already underway in the current panels and other organisations. Drafts will be circulated widely for debate and comment prior to final publication. This debate will promote quality by exposing analysis and options to a broad range of scrutiny before they are finalised.

Beyond November 2000 the programme will move to a phase of promoting action on panel findings. Panels and other participants will work with business, academia, the voluntary sectors and government to turn these findings into action.

Foresight will be used to:

- inform policy and spending decisions across government, as previous Foresight activities have begun to do already;
- target government programmes and initiatives to promote scientific excellence, collaborative R&D, and knowledge transfer. For example:
 - collaborative research under the Government's LINK scheme will continue to focus on Foresight priorities;
 - Foresight has already informed the Government's position on the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Developments and Demonstration Activities;
 - outputs from the next round will be used to shape the Government's position on future European programmes, and other international collaborative agreements;
- build collaborative networks across sectoral and disciplinary boundaries and expand existing ones;
- increase awareness of Foresight among businesses, large and small, and other organisations which can benefit from it; and
- raise overall levels of engagement in Foresight as a programme central to the Government's stated aim of achieving sustained competitive advantage and improved quality of life in the knowledge-driven economy of the future.

Drafts will be circulated widely for debate and comment prior to final publication.



Office of Science and Technology

Albany House 94-98 Petty France London SW1H 9ST United Kingdom
Telephone 0171 215 5000 Direct Line 0171 271 2047 Fax 0171 271 2015/2053
e-mail: martin.ridge@osct.dti.gov.uk
www.foresight.gov.uk

To all Foresight contacts

15 December 1998

Dear Colleague,

FORESIGHT: NEXT ROUND

I attach a copy of the blueprint document for the next round of Foresight, which was published today by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. This document is the result of the widespread national consultation carried out earlier this year. We are grateful to you and everyone else who contributed.

We are now preparing for the next round to begin in April next year. We would particularly welcome suggestions for people who could participate, either through Panel membership or in the work of Panel task forces.

As Panels will be small strategic groups, it is envisaged that the main opportunities for participation will lie in task forces and wider debate on draft Panel reports. Panels will be publishing their agendas in the Spring. Meanwhile, suggestions for Panel members should reach us by **29th January**, and for task force participants by **31st March**.

Proposals to run Associate Programmes to complement those already agreed with organisations such as the Association for Schools Science, Engineering and Technology, the Institute of Physics, and the Tomorrow Project would also be welcome, as would contributions to the development of the knowledge pool. These components of the next round are described on page 9 of the blueprint.

Contact details are given on page 13 of the document. For additional information on Foresight and the activities of Panels to date, please visit our web site at **www.foresight.gov.uk**

Yours sincerely,

Dr Martin I Ridge
Assistant Director, Foresight

RECEIVED THE INFORMATION ON
08 JAN 1960
1345
CLASS

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The OST would welcome:

- offers of expertise on which panels can draw as they fulfil their work programme. This could be in the form of expertise on a specific subject or in communicating with a particular community who would benefit from Foresight findings or who have an input to make in developing those findings;
- proposals to run associate programmes. An effective associate programme will require a commitment of resource and a willingness to publicise the emerging results for wide discussion. Organisations interested in running an associate programme should contact Foresight at the OST on fax: 0171 271 2015 or e-mail: martin.ridge@osct.dti.gov.uk
- contributions to the knowledge pool. To discuss your proposed contribution, please contact the Foresight Knowledge Pool Service Desk Manager, fax 0171 271 2015, or e-mail: martin.ridge@osct.dti.gov.uk

The OST has prepared guidance on running Foresight exercises which could help you to prepare a contribution:

- "Foresight for Trade Associations and Other Member-based Organisations" aims to provide practical help for running sectoral Foresight exercises;
- the Foresight guide "A Guide to Future Markets - Future Business" aims to help those who wish to run focused workshops, particularly for companies, but others can also benefit.

Copies of these guides are available from OST by faxing a request to 0171 271 2015.

dti

Department of Trade and Industry



Printed in the UK on recycled paper with a minimum HMSO score of 25.

December 1998. Department of Trade and Industry.

© Crown Copyright. <http://www.foresight.gov.uk/>

DTI/Pub 3733/65k/12/98/NP. URN 98/1032