



Association of Independent Research  
and Technology Organisations Limited

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## Press Release

### **Independent sector assesses its impact on the economy: report from Oxford Economics published**

Independent Research and Technology Sector make a major contribution to  
innovation in the UK.

Oxford Economics, the highly respected independent specialists in economic impact assessment, has carried out a survey of the UK's independent Research and Technology Sector and the impact that its work in innovation and the exploitation of research and technological change has on the UK economy. The Report was commissioned and is being published today by AIRTO (The Association of Independent Research and Technology Organisations).

The Report concludes that the work of the sector is vital in helping to raise the productivity of UK companies and in connecting businesses, government and academia to the resources needed for the successful uptake of new technology. The sector contributes £3bn to UK GDP, supports over 60,000 jobs and makes a catalytic contribution to UK GDP that runs to many tens of billions of pounds.

There are a significant number of organisations that operate in the independent Research and Technology Sector, which has a clearly beneficial effect on UK innovation and industry. However, their role is often poorly understood in the context of the UK's innovation infrastructure, unlike many of their overseas counterparts who are linked to national innovation strategy.

Richard Brook, President of AIRTO, says "We have a highly skilled and highly productive workforce in our sector of the economy with unique and special skills. It is unfortunate that these resources are not as widely known and recognised as they are in most other developed countries with strong foundations in science and technology. This report should help place our activities in context for the government, which still in many places sees only universities as the target for its support".

In spite of these concerns, the Oxford Report shows that the independent sector contains vibrant and successful organisations. Greater industrial leverage would be achieved through better co-ordination with government strategy and any weakening of the sector would be extremely detrimental to the UK's innovation performance.

Notes to the editor:

Copies of the Report are available on the AIRTO website at [airto@campden.co.uk](mailto:airto@campden.co.uk) or on request from Jane Ewart, AIRTO Ltd, C/O CCFRA, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6LD. Email: [airto@campden.co.uk](mailto:airto@campden.co.uk)  
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AIRTO is the Association of Independent Research and Technology Organisations. Members include organisations that bridge the divide between research and commercial exploitation of technological advances, such as QinetiQ, NPL, TWI, PERA and many of the Research Associations. Recent new members come from the community of university enterprise offices, innovation centres, industry research groups and early stage venture capital specialists.

Oxford Economics was founded in 1981 to provide independent forecasting and analysis tailored to the needs of business economists and planners. It is now one of the world's leading providers of economic analysis, advice and models, with over 300 clients including international organizations (such as the IMF and World Bank); government departments in the US and Europe (including HM Treasury and BERR in the UK); central banks around the world; as well as a large number of bluechip companies in the US, Europe and the UK across the whole industrial spectrum. Oxford Economics employs 50 staff at its offices in Oxford, London, Belfast and Wayne PA, as well as having close ties with leading academics in Oxford and other universities.