

OECD SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY OUTLOOK 2004

COUNTRY RESPONSE TO POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE

MEXICO

1. General framework and trends in Science, Technology, and Innovation policies

1.1 General view of the main directions, objectives and elements of Mexico's national policies on science, technology and innovation. Such view must highlight the following topics:

The 2001-2006 Special Program of Science and Technology holds the fundamental elements that define the general guidelines for the development of science, technology and innovation in Mexico. The program establishes the three governing strategic objectives and several strategies, as follows:

Strategic objectives	Strategies
1. Having a state policy on science and technology	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Structure the National System of Science and Technology.2. Update Conacyt's Organic Law so that it can carry out the prerogatives assigned to it by the Ley de Ciencia y Tecnología (Science and Technology Bill)3. Further strategic knowledge areas for the development of the country.4. Decentralize scientific and technological activities.5. Enhance scientific and technological knowledge of Mexican citizens.

<p>2. Increasing scientific and technological capacity</p>	<p>6. Increase the national budget for scientific and technological activities.</p> <p>7. Increase the number of middle and upper technicians and of scientific and technological personnel with postgraduate degrees.</p> <p>8. Promote scientific and technological research.</p> <p>8a. Promote the development and strengthening of basic research.</p> <p>8b. Promote the development and strengthening of applied and technological research.</p> <p>9. Widen the nation's scientific and technological infrastructure, including the one for basic, middle and higher learning.</p> <p>10. Strengthen international cooperation on science and technology.</p>
<p>3. Improve competitiveness and innovation of companies.</p>	<p>11. Increase the amounts invested by the private sector on research and development.</p> <p>12. Promote technology management in companies.</p> <p>13. Promote incorporating top-level scientists and technicians into companies.</p> <p>14. Strengthen infrastructure oriented to support competitiveness and innovation of companies.</p>

In order to achieve the above, it is imperative that the National System of Science and Technology - conformed by various institutions and entities from the public, private, social and external sectors, in addition to the respective commissions of Congress's Upper and Lower Houses and the State and municipal governments – operates efficiently. It is therefore necessary to establish the necessary links between the various components of the system itself.

The mission of the National System of Science and Technology is to promote scientific and technological development of the nation through its support for quality scientific research, to stimulate academy-business linkage and technological innovation in enterprises, and to further formation of top-level human resources.

In relation with the strategic objectives, it is possible to highlight several changes made in Mexico's System of Science and Technology. On April 30 2002, the Mexican Congress unanimously passed the Ley de Ciencia y Tecnología (LCyT) [Science and Technology Bill], now in force. The LCyT defines new mechanisms to support development of scientific and technological activities in the nation.

The Law regulates the supports the Federal Government must provide to further, strengthen and develop general scientific and technological research in the country. Thus, the object of the LCyT is to:

1. Regulate the various supports the Federal Government shall provide to further, strengthen and develop general scientific and technological research in the country.
2. Determine the instruments through which the Federal Government shall provide supports for scientific and technological research.
3. Establish the mechanisms to coordinate actions between the various agencies and entities of the Federal Government and other institutions involved in defining policies and programs, or directly

performing activities related with scientific and technological development.

4. Establish where and how activities with the various State governments are to be coordinated, also, set up links and participate with scientific and academic communities of higher learning institutions, and with the public, social and private sectors, to generate and formulate policies for the promotion, diffusion, development and application of science and technology and for forming science and technology professionals;
5. Link scientific and technologic research with education;
6. Support the capacity and strengthen scientific and technological research groups set up by public higher learning institutions, which shall pursuit their goals in accordance to their internal principles, plans, programs and norms mandated by their specific ordinances;
7. Determine the bases so that government agencies carrying out scientific and technological research can be recognized as public research centers, and
8. Regulate the resources self-generated by scientific research public centers and those provided by third parties to create funds for technological research and development.

Additionally, on that same date, Congress also approved Conacyt's Organic Law and modified the way Conacyt operates, allowing more efficiency in fulfilling the objectives set forth in the LCyT. Both bills were published in the Federal Official Gazette on June 5 2002. Within this legal framework, the following actions were implemented:

- The Conacyt becomes a non-sector agency reporting directly to the President instead of its previous condition, administratively subordinated to the Ministry of Education.
- Installation of the General Council on Scientific Research and Technological Development, a policy and coordinating organ, chaired by the President and composed by several state Ministries, the Conacyt, and scientific and technological personalities belonging to the civilian population of our country.
- Installation and operation of the Interministerial Committee to Integrate the Science and Technology Federal Budget.
- Budget Function 38 was established for Conacyt and its 28 Public Research Centers.
- Installation of the Scientific and Technological Consulting Forum as an autonomous and permanent consulting organ for the President, the General Council and Conacyt's Governing Board.
- Installation of the National Conference on Science and Technology with the participation of all of our country's thirty-two States.
- Creation of the Sectorial funds, with the participation of Ministries and other Organisms of the Federal Government, and of the Mixed Funds, in which the means are provided by State and Municipal Governments.
- Promotion of private investment in technological research and development (IDE), through tax incentives for companies accepting the challenge of participating in these activities (a tax credit

equal to 30% of the annual IDE expense of the company).

The government sector bears most of the responsibility to improve the System, for it concentrates most of the resources, human and financial, dedicated to scientific and technological activities. However, it seeks to increase the participation of the private sector, the main participant in these activities in OECD member countries.

This way, the government provides an adequate institutional framework for the development of innovation in Mexico. There are many government institutions supporting and protecting innovation in the productive sector; the government created or modified them through time in order to fulfill in the best possible way the objectives assigned to them.

The most important public organism promoting and supporting science and technology activities is the National Council on Science and Technology (Conacyt), reporting directly to the President and responsible for coordinating, orienting, systematizing and promoting Scientific and Technological activities.

Some of Conacyt's activities are the following:

- It promotes setting up mixed and sectorial funds for scientific and technological research;
- It seeks to establish links with international organisms furthering collaboration between national and foreign institutions;
- It is responsible for administering the postgraduate scholarship system;
- It coordinates the Conacyt System of Research Centers—a set of 27 research centers whose main function is to conduct scientific research and technological development;
- It administers the National Researchers System (SNI) that seeks, among its objectives, to strengthen and stimulate research efficiency and quality in any branch or specialty, providing support to researchers in higher learning institutions or public sector research centers, as well as to the scientists working for private institutions.

Conacyt has devised programs providing support for links between higher learning institutions (IES), public research centers (CPI) and the private sector in order to take advantage of the synergies resulting from uniting the producers of knowledge and human resources and those who can profit from this knowledge and personnel to develop new products and/or processes.

Among the new Conacyt programs to further technological innovation by the entrepreneurial sector is the establishment of AVANCE, (a word in Spanish that means advance). However, in addition to the suggestive meaning of the word, it is also an acronym for a Program that seeks to produce High Value-Added Businesses linking Knowledge with Visionary Entrepreneurs. The program provides supports for researchers, entrepreneurs, companies and research institutions wishing to transform their discoveries and scientific and technological developments into successful businesses.

The AVANCE program supports various types of projects but prefers those in the following fields:

- Information Technologies
- Electronics and Telecommunications
- Health (medicines, systems for diagnosis, materials and equipment)

- Agricultural, fishing and food development
- Advanced materials
- Sustainable development and environment
- Energy
- Design and manufacturing
- Housing and construction
- Attention to poverty and social needs

The Federal Government has other initiatives to improve the performance of the productive sector, especially in small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Specifically, the Ministry of Economics created the office of the undersecretary for small- and medium-sized enterprises to promote the creation of SMEs and identify the growth potential for this type of company, both economically and in creating well-paid jobs.

Thus, the Ministry of Economics operates the Compite [Compete] and the Sistema de Información sobre Servicios Tecnológicos (SISTEC) [Technological Services Information System] programs, on which Conacyt also participates actively. By design, both programs include the direct participation of the productive sector in administering them. The programs have been effective in preparing SMEs as suppliers for large corporations and in offering the final consumer better quality services and products.

Compite Program (Comité Nacional de Productividad e Innovación Tecnológica) [National Committee on Productivity and Technological Innovation). The Compite Program is designed to improve the competitive position of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises maximizing the use of their resources. It is a methodology for fast intervention, mixing theory and practice to solve production problems, and applicable in all branches of industrial manufacturing.

SISTEC is an instrument contributing to build technological awareness of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and an objective of the Ministry of Economics. SISTEC provides businesspersons with information on the services provided by Applied Research and Technological Development Centers and Institutes. This fosters the creation of links between technological research and private enterprise, contributing to modernization and improved competitiveness.

The SISTEC is an open access information system that only provides information on technological centers and consultants throughout the country. The cost for the services provided by the centers or individual consultants varies depending on the policies of each one of them.

The participating institutions are:

- National Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT)
- Mexican Foundation for Innovation and Transfer of Technology in Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (FUNTEC)
- Industrial Information and Documentation Fund (INFOTEC)
- National Financing Co.
- Mexico City Government
- Technology Transfer Unit (UTT)
- The Ministry of Economics, through the offices of the Undersecretary for Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises, of the Undersecretary for Norms and Services for Industry and International Commerce, of the Undersecretary for Domestic Commerce, and of the Undersecretary for

International Commercial Negotiations.

Mexican Institute of Industrial Property. Its main function is to guarantee the application of the pertinent laws providing protection for intellectual property rights derived from the creation of knowledge.

2. Research in the public sector and public research organizations

One of the most important commitments of this administration is to increase research and development spending from 0.4% of GDP for this year up to 1% for 2006. In order to achieve this goal, it is imperative for the public sector to maintain the spending increments earmarked for this activity during the next few years, in addition to more private spending. Thus, public research centers may receive more money, subject always to getting results and to satisfying the needs of Mexico's citizens and private sector.

Among the objectives of the 2001-2006 Special Program of Science and Technology is coordinating the scientific and technological activities undertaken by the various agencies and entities of the federal government. To accomplish this, the government established the science and technology sectorial funds so that research activity of the public sector is oriented primarily toward the satisfaction of specific social requirements (demand for knowledge). Furthering the diffusion of the results obtained from public investment on science and technology is paramount in this task.

The sectorial funds refer only to the state Ministries of the Federal Government and to their research centers, although the research projects may involve higher learning institutions and/or private and corporate research centers. Establishing science and technology sectorial funds requires making technological diagnosis and forecasts by knowledge areas.

In recent years, 14 sectorial funds began operating on several topics of applied research and technological development (health, communications, environment, housing, agriculture, economic development, among others) and in the general advancement of knowledge (basic research).

In addition to the sectorial funds, certain areas deemed strategic must receive preferential treatment due to their importance for the public and private sectors. Many scientific and technological activities, primarily those performed by the government, are oriented to satisfy the needs of these areas. These knowledge areas, which receive attention by the various public research centers and higher learning institutions with research capabilities, represent knowledge available for the solution of sectorial problems.

The criteria used in the identification of science and technology priority areas were the following:

- High scientific and technologic rate of change.
- Existence of top-level researchers in the nation.
- Impact on the well-being of the population.
- Impact of scientific and technological change in the social and productive sectors.
- Importance of the economic activity base of the sectors making use of the innovations.
- Degree of technological dependence from abroad.
- Potential for new advances or developments in the mid future.
- Opportunities for creating technology-based firms.
- Impact on improving competitiveness in companies.

From the application of the above-mentioned criteria, the following are considered strategic knowledge areas:

- Information and communications.
- Biotechnology.
- Materials.
- Design and manufacturing processes.
- Infrastructure and urban and rural development, including their social and economic aspects.

Concerning the restructuring of the public research centers, they will primarily have to focus their activities to satisfy the demand of the various sectors of our country. They shall orient their efforts to attain several benchmarks in the formation of human resources, attend social needs, satisfy the demand of the public and private sectors and, in some cases, satisfy the inquiries made by their governing bodies.

In the case of the Conacyt System of Research Centers, they required restructuring in order to follow a business plan that requires planning their activities and projects as market-oriented functions. This forces them to identify demand for scientific and technological services within the scope of their activities.

In order to facilitate the above activities, present legislation provides public research centers more latitude in the use of the funds they generate by themselves. Thus, these centers are capable of responding rapidly to changes occurring in the satisfaction of the scientific and technological needs of the nation.

In relation to the internationalization process of the scientific and technological communities, México's insertion is, perhaps, incipient. However, international collaboration on science and technology proved to be an efficient mechanism to strengthen postgraduate fellowship programs directly benefiting Mexican students. Signing cooperation agreements with the most sought after higher learning institutions resulted in —among other benefits— a reduction in the average cost of such fellowships. Thus, it is important to strengthen efforts to subscribe agreements with educational institutions, both domestic and foreign, in an attempt to expand the number of destinations for scholarship students.

In addition, our country is a member of various multilateral organizations promoting the development of joint science and technology activities in their many forms: research and development, formation of human resources, etc. This participation permits Mexican students and researchers to have access to the infrastructure and knowledge generated in other countries, as well as welcoming foreign personnel with the highest qualifications in their chosen areas of specialization.

The recent signing of a science and technology cooperation agreement between Mexico and the European Union guarantees that Mexican scientists will participate in the 6th Frame Program of Communitarian Research.

3. Public support for R&D and innovation in the private sector

Since 1998, companies can earn a tax credit for their research and development. This mechanism is a part of the government's strategy to support R&D in the productive sector. Up to the year 2000, the incentive consisted on a 20% tax credit of the eligible incremental expenditures and investments in research and development of technology (IDT) that the company would incur during a certain fiscal year. However, starting in the year 2001, a new, more favorable scheme is in effect. Companies now get a tax credit equal to 30% of their annual IDT expense, regardless of size or industrial sector.

In addition, there are other forms of direct government support for companies involved in IDT and innovation activities. That is the case for many of the Conacyt administered programs providing support

for technological modernization, linkage and the development of technology. These supports include low interest rate loans and “lost fund loans”, where payment of the loan is not required, provided certain previously established conditions are met.

Such is the case for the AVANCE program mentioned earlier. The program supports scientists and technologists in taking research-generated knowledge through the necessary steps to achieve commercial production.

In addition, other government agencies administer programs supporting entrepreneurial innovation, such as Cetro-Crece and Compite, described in section 1. As a complement, there are government agencies supporting companies in their efforts to export their products, such as the Banco de Comercio Exterior [Foreign Trade Bank].

4. Enhancing collaboration and establishing networks among research organizations

Among the most important changes in Conacyt’s duties, due to its new Organic Law, is the establishment and operation of the National Net of Research Groups and Centers. It defines through proper guidelines, the strategies, joint programs, actions, human and financial resources, infrastructure optimization, generation of interchanges and definition of institutional quality criteria and standards that shall determine whether interested parties join and remain in the system.

Thus, Conacyt seeks to identify groups of researchers or research centers in various areas and to establish links among them regardless of geographic or institutional location. The Conacyt also promotes participation of private sector companies, placing them in contact with the Public Research Centers and higher learning institutions, through the National Registry of Science and Technology Institutions and Companies (RENIECYT). The registry is a compilation of the supply and demand for scientific and technological services, placing special emphasis in research and development activities.

The Conacyt network offers another mechanism to obtain information on new technologies, the Technological Information and Services (INFOTEC) Center. Its goal is the establishment of means to communicate and transfer existing domestic and foreign scientific and technological knowledge.

INFOTEC’s mission is to contribute to enhance productivity, especially in small- and medium-sized enterprises, facilitating access to information, consulting and training services through comprehensive support. It focuses on the analysis of strategic planning alternatives and coordination of constant and precise information for any industrial or service sector. It helps industry identify and define technical problems and analyze business opportunities. It is committed to provide a gateway into the realm of productivity, competitiveness, modernization and technological innovation.

With the objective of establishing specific regional and local programs and supports to further scientific and technological development and decentralization, Conacyt works with State and municipal governments to establish and operate mixed funds to support scientific and technological research. These funds are set up with joint contributions of the productive, academic and governmental sectors, in a proportion determined for each individual case. Mixed funds have the goal of advancing scientific and technological activities and strengthening regional and local research and development capabilities.

Mixed funds have been operating since 2001, a year that witnessed the establishment of 18 mixed funds with as many State governments. Up to date, 26 mixed funds and 1 municipal fund have been set up. We expect that practically all of the States will have mixed funds during the course of the year.

The following are some objectives of mixed funds:

- Encourage research and development of technology that will help solve social and economic problems affecting the development of each region.
- Induce the participation of the productive sector in strengthening research activities and the formation of human resources in order to improve competitiveness levels.
- Promote and foster regional, interinstitutional, intersectorial, and multidisciplinary collaboration making possible a comprehensive approach for the solution of regional problems through research.
- Promote the development and consolidation of the region's scientific and technological capabilities.
- Contribute to the decentralization process of science and technology.
- Form human resources in the various regions of the nation so that students participating in research projects, and working on their undergraduate or graduate thesis, may find topics and applications that have regional impact.

In addition, 23 out of the 32 States in Mexico have State Councils on Science and Technology. The State councils are a permanent forum to discuss and propose programs and actions furthering local scientific and technological, to interchange information about the science and technology systems of the various States, and to further cooperation between institutions and researchers in different geographical areas on subjects of common interest.

In an effort to promote commercialization of technologies produced by universities and/or public laboratories and with the objective of making the transfer of technology more flexible, the public institutions adopting the figure of Public Research Center obtain greater freedom. As such, they will be more independent in the management of self-generated resources and the technologies they develop. Additionally, public higher learning institutions are working to allow researchers to share in the economic benefits produced by innovations developed in these institutions. Also, they are signing cooperation agreements under more favorable conditions, where public institutions and private enterprises share intellectual property rights, or even where enterprises requesting the support of the higher learning institutions wholly own these property rights.

5. Human resources

In order to promote awareness of science and technology in Mexico, several activities teach people, especially the young, the importance of science and technology in today's world. Among these actions, the following stand out:

- National Science and Technology Week. This event promotes science and technology among children and young people of all school levels, parents, teachers, researchers, academics and businesspeople. It displays science and technology as fundamental keystones for the economic, cultural and social development of our country. Educational institutions, scientific associations, state Ministries, companies, research centers, science museums and State governments share in this purpose. An estimated 11 million people attended the event throughout the nation.
- "Science in your School" Program. "Science in your School" is an academic program conceived, coordinated and implemented in 2002 by a group of Mexican scientists, members of the Mexican Academy of Science. Their objective is to improve the attitude that basic and middle education teachers have towards mathematics and science and to bring them up to date on new findings in these disciplines.

- The program tries to bring scientists and teachers into closer contact and to raise the teaching level of science and mathematics in primary and secondary schools. It employs the latest didactical principles, findings and techniques in order to provide students with a clear picture of mathematical and scientific concepts.
- “Atlas of Science” Program. The Mexican Academy of Science started to develop a database in 2002, available on the Internet site of the Academia Mexicana de Ciencias (<http://www.amc.unam.mx>), which tries to register the country’s scientific activity locating researchers, infrastructure, areas of study, and scientific professions and students, among other data constantly brought up to date. It expects to have national coverage in five years.

The scientific and technologic community in Mexico is a small but highly qualified group. However, there is a shortage of qualified personnel performing science and technology activities, especially in technological research and development, in the productive sector in particular. The government has taken several steps in order to meet and reverse this shortage. These include modifying the curricula at public universities in order to fulfill the requirements of the labor market, and creating completely new educational centers like the Technological Universities, whose objectives are intimately linked to the needs of the productive sector.

However, forming human resources with higher educational levels is essential. In particular, Conacyt promotes the formation of excellence postgraduate students, placing special interest in masters and doctorate degrees. Conacyt is making efforts to get private enterprise involved in the program, with the objective of helping students find jobs immediately after concluding their postgraduate studies.

Today’s Special Program of Science and Technology (PECyT) establishes a goal to increase the number of researchers in the productive sector, but these researchers require a curricula for their postgraduate programs that differs from the one required by researchers in the basic and oriented science areas. Thus, the number of short-term postgraduate programs that make use of laboratories or facilities that are more oriented to technological research is on the rise.

It is clear that to achieve the goal of the science and technology programs requires the active participation of the private enterprise sector. To accomplish this, Special Concurrent Funds will be used, breaking down activities by economic branch in accordance with Conacyt’s sectorial program with the Ministry of Economics that involves a large number of productive activities.

In addition, an objective not only of the PECyT, but also of the National Development Plan, is attaining gender equality in as short a time as humanly possible. As far as the PECyT is concerned, gender equality is guaranteed throughout the system and it actively promotes gender equality in new generations of students and researchers.

There are programs that support making postgraduate level studies abroad through federal government grants. These programs are administered mainly by Conacyt, an institution that supports around 1 500 postgraduate students abroad, a figure representing over 15% of the some 10,000 fellows supported by Conacyt.

Conacyt has a program called “repatriation of researchers” to promote that Mexican researchers working abroad get economic support for their return the country. Although the program has limited success, it shall continue during this administration. The Special Program of Science and Technology establishes ambitious goals for growth in the country’s store of researchers, therefore improvements are called for in the repatriation program, even resorting to new supports and measures currently in development.

Attached to the questionnaire we present the statistics for students graduating in Mexico, at bachelor, specialty, masters and doctorate levels, by area of science.

6. Policies to promote innovation in the services sector

In relation to innovation in the service sector, establishing funds to support the development particularly of software related research has been promoted. In this sense, the Chamber of Deputies (the lower chamber) approved, at the end of 2003, an extension in Conacyt's budget, on condition that part of the increment was earmarked for software research.

On the other hand, among the strategic areas of knowledge one finds the activities concerned with information and communications, as well as with the establishment of infrastructure and urban development.

In addition, companies in the service sector also can get support via tax credits for research and development. There are an important number of firms in the service sector taking advantage of the tax credits for research and development projects.

7. Evaluation of policies

With the objective of performing an evaluation of the progress made in Mexico on matters pertaining to science and technology, the PECyT has a full chapter referring to this subject. It provides strategic indicators to determine the situation of the S&T System at any given moment, quantifying the results of each one of its strategic objectives. Following are such indicators and the goals for 2006:

2001-2006 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GOALS FOR 2006

OBJECTIVES		Unit	2006
1.	Put together a State Policy of Science and Technology.		
1.1	Adapt the Law to Foster Scientific and Technological Research	Doc.	100%
1.2	Establish the National System of Science-Technology-Enterprise	N.A	100%
1.3	Assemble the Special Cabinet of Science and Technology	N.A	100%
1.4	Modify CONACYT as head of the Science and Technology Sector	N.A	100%
1.5	Place the Science and Technology Budget under CONACYT and SHCP coordination	Doc.	100%
1.6	Establish the National System of Research Centers	N.A	100%
1.7	Establish the National System of Scientific and Technological Information	SIICYT	100%
1.8	Flexible Lawful Aspects for Public Research Centers	N.A	100%
2.	Increase Scientific and Technological Capacity		
2.1	Increase the Nation's Budget for Research and Development		

OBJECTIVES		Unit	2006
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Investment on Science and Technology (IDE + Postgraduate Programs + Technological Services) 	% PIB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Investment on IDE 	% PIB	1.0	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Investment on Science and Technology (IDE + Postgraduate Programs + Technological Services) with respect to the total Budget of the Federal Government 	%	4.0	
2.2 Increase personnel with postgraduate degree			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of researchers and technologists 	Number	80 000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the SNI 	Number	25 000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New job openings for researchers in public research centers 	Number	12 500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New job openings for researchers in higher learning institutions 	Number	15 500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONACYT fellows per year 	Number	32 500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New CONACYT scholarships per year 	Number	22 400	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earned doctoral degrees per year 	Number	2 300	
2.3 Incorporate science and technology into state Ministries of the Federal Government			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sectorial Funds Resources for research oriented to national priorities 	Millions of 2001 Mex\$	25 000	
2.4 Further regional development through science and technology			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal resources in mixed funds set up with State Governments 	Millions of 2001 Mex\$	5 000	
2.5 Promote decentralization of scientific and technological activities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of resources spent in the country (outside Mexico City) 	%	70	
2.6 Enhance how Mexican citizens perceive Science and Technology			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of CONACYT's budget devoted to diffuse and spread information on science and technology 	%	1.5	
2.7 Furthering international cooperation on science and technology			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources from scientific and technological cooperation abroad per year 	Millions of USD	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of S&T cooperation agreements with foreign institutions 	Number	65	
3. Improving competitiveness and innovation of enterprises			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of private sector spending on IDE 	%	40	
3.2 Promote technological management of companies			

OBJECTIVES		Unit	2006
		• Companies that systematically perform IDE	Number
• Companies using the National Technology Prize* Technological Management Model	Number	500	
3.3 Promote the introduction of top-level scientific and technological personnel in private companies			
• Technologists with postgraduate specialization in the productive sector	Number	32 000	
3.4 Promote links between companies and higher education institutes and public research centers through research consortia and networks			
• Consortia	Number	20	
3.5 Establishment of supports			
• Creation of funds for financial support of the technological development of companies*	Number	4 000	
• Fiscal stimuli to annual company spending on technological research and development	Millions of 2001 Mex\$	3 000	
3.6 Promote the establishment of supports for technology-based companies			
• Creation of a venture capital fund for technological development*	Millions of 2001 Mex\$	1 000	
• New technology-based companies	Number	20	

On the other side, we are on the final stages of the Knowledge and Innovation Project administered by Conacyt and funded with a loan from the World Bank. Therefore, the Bank and Conacyt are conducting an impact analysis of the project that should be finished before the year ends.

COLLEGE GRADUATES, 1990-2002

Year	Agricultural Sciences	Natural and Exact Sciences	Health Sciences	Engineering and Technology	Administrative and Social Sciences	Education and Humanities	Total
1990	6 727	2 953	13 014	30 484	61 643	3 636	118 457
1991	etc.						

SPECIALTY DIPLOMA, 1990-2002

Year	Agricultural Sciences	Natural and Exact Sciences	Health Sciences	Engineering and Technology	Administrative and Social Sciences	Education and Humanities	Total
1990	25	47	3 538	198	616	101	4 525
1991	etc.						

MASTER'S DEGREES EARNED, 1990-2002

Year	Agricultural Sciences	Natural and Exact Sciences	Health Sciences	Engineering and Technology	Administrative and Social Sciences	Education and Humanities	Total
1990	294	487	234	962	2 172	942	5 091
1991	etc.						

DOCTORAL DEGREES EARNED, 1990-2002

Year	Agricultural Sciences	Natural and Exact Sciences	Health Sciences	Engineering and Technology	Administrative and Social Sciences	Education and Humanities	Total
1990	4	84	35	8	98	40	269
1991	etc.						