

# UK Research and Innovation

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## Recognising the importance of technicians in research and innovation

**Technician Commitment Signatory Event**  
**24<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

UK Research and Innovation

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# UK Research and Innovation

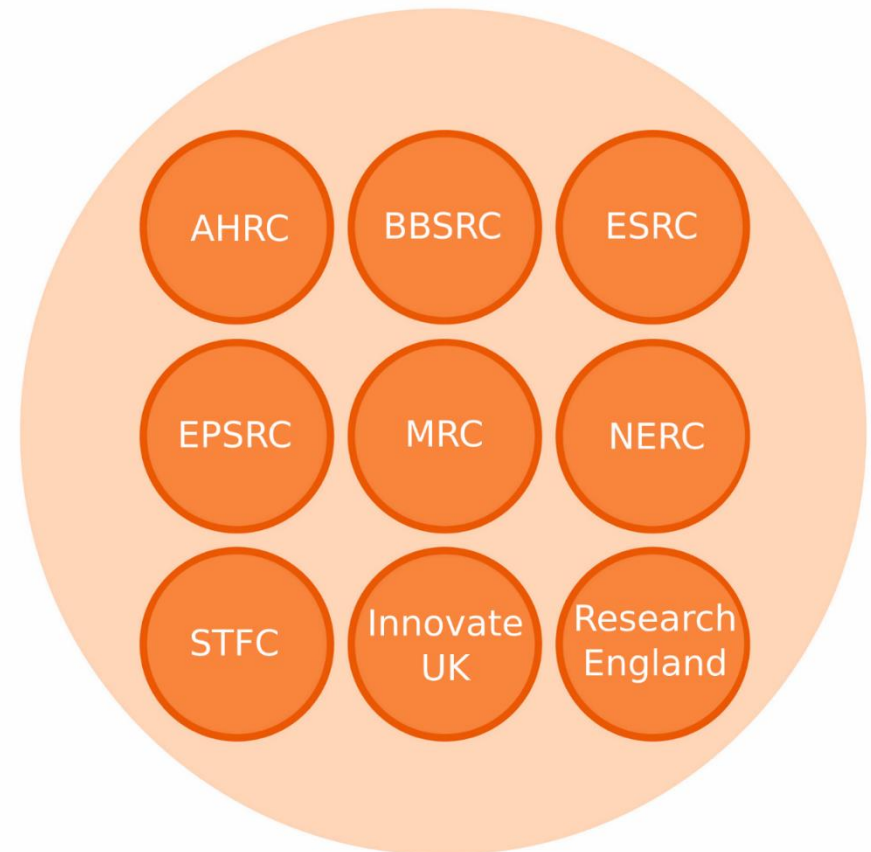
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UK Research and Innovation will work with all the research and innovation communities to:

1. push the frontiers of human knowledge and understanding
2. deliver economic impact
3. create social and cultural impact

Work with Government to meet Industrial Strategy target of 2.4% GDP investment in R&D by 2027

UK Research and Innovation



# Talent and Skills

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*(To increase R&D spending to 2.4% GDP by 2027)*

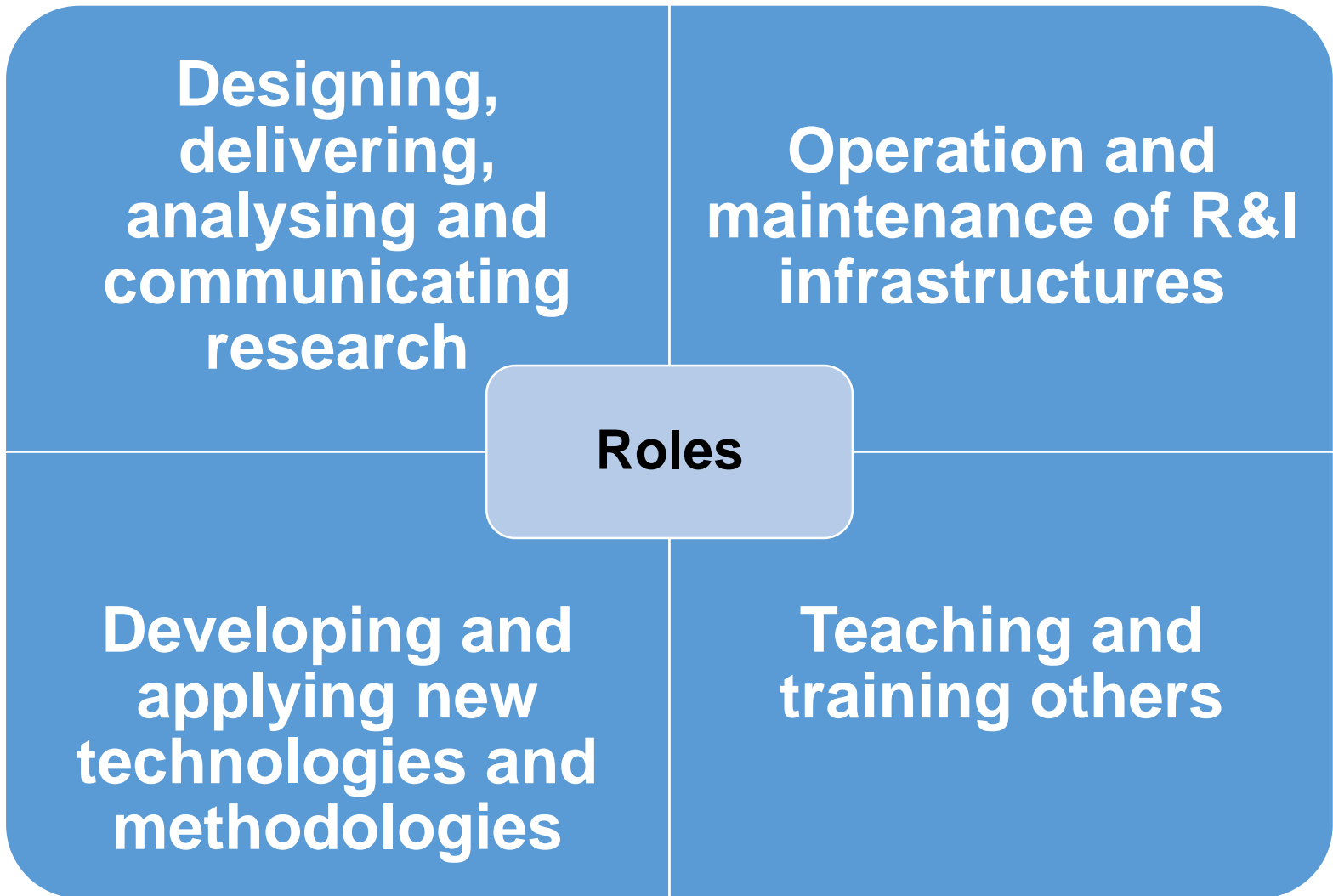
“...that means we need to find at least another **260,000 researchers to work in R&D** across universities, across business and across industry.”

Chris Skidmore, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation – From Speech on Research Talent, at the LSE, 7 May 2019

<http://www.ukpol.co.uk/chris-skidmore-2019-speech-on-research-talent/>

# Research Technicians and Technology / Skills Specialists in the R&D Workforce

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# Challenges

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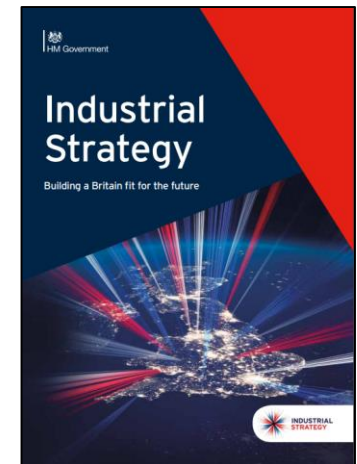
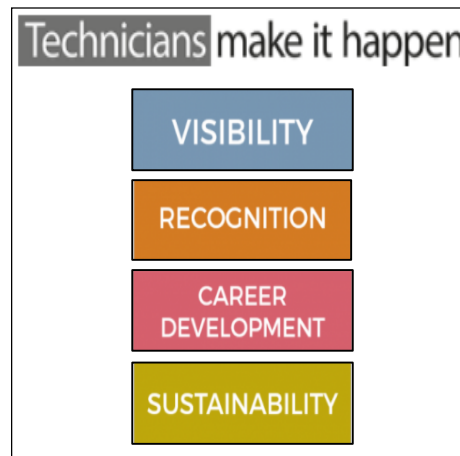
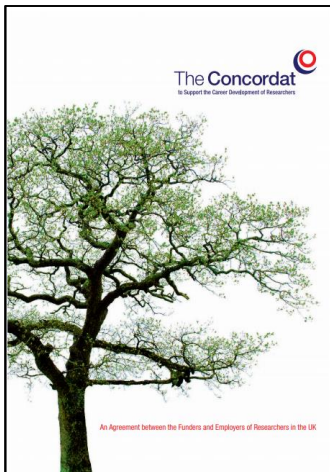
- Recruitment, retention and succession planning for technical expertise
  - Gatsby Charitable Foundation suggests that the UK needs 700,000 more technicians by 2020
  - 2.4% GDP target will increase demand further
  - Status of research technical specialists in the Standard Occupational Classifications system for recognition in the Tier 2 visa system
- Demand for analytical, data and knowledge management skills
  - Ranging from specialist support to general data literacy and skills

# Recognising Technical Talent

## RCUK Statement of expectations for technology / skills specialists

Technology / skills specialists<sup>1</sup> make critical intellectual contributions to research through the provision of core technical excellence, and in maintaining and developing new technologies and methodologies across all of the Research Councils' remits. Research Councils (RCs) support technology / skills specialists through grant funding because we recognise that the skills these people provide are essential to the delivery of cutting edge research. Our support is to:

- Attract and retain researchers with cutting edge skills and expertise for the future UK national capability
- Collaboratively drive forward innovative areas of research
- Support Research Councils' ability to maximise the return on investments



# What next?

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- UKRI Talent and Skills Strategy
- UKRI Infrastructure Roadmap
- Spending Review planning
- Council-level action planning
- Learning good practice from Technician Commitment signatories



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# Thank you!

Any questions?

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# The Numbers

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- UKRI has a **combined budget of around £7bn** per year
- **3,900** research and business grants issued every year
- **151** universities receiving research funding
- **38** institutes, laboratories, units, campuses and innovation catapults



# UKRI Support for Technicians

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## Employer

**Research Technical Professionals in research and innovation facilities**

**Non-research technical staff**

## Funder

**Research Technical Professionals on grants or QR**

**Partner / co-funder in other facilities**

## Policy maker

**Setting and influencing strategy and policy**