

Move strengthens BNSC

It is wrong to suggest that the relocation of the British National Space Centre (BNSC) to Swindon [see RF 23/4/08, p6 via link below] will result in a downsizing or diminution of its role.

The move provides a positive response to the 2007 House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee report that called for a stronger partnership rather than an agency. Indeed co-locating the policy group with the majority of the space funding in Swindon will serve to strengthen the ability of the BNSC to speak with authority on space issues.

The core BNSC staff will remain employees of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and as Director General of BNSC I will maintain close links with London at both official and ministerial level. Within DIUS, the transfer of resources to the Technology Strategy Board is the final step in moving space programme spending to a DIUS delivery partner, following similar moves to the Science and Technology Facilities Council and the Natural Environment Research Council in 2003.

David Williams, Director General, British National Space Centre