

To Develop a Prosperous, Healthy and Safe Nation

21 Promising Designated Technologies

The Korean government has designated 21 promising technologies tailored to develop Korea into a more prosperous, healthy and safe nation.

Among the selected technologies are realistic digital convergence, ultra-high-function computing, bio (somatological) defense, customized medical science/new medicines, whole earth observation system and utilization of national resources and forecasting and responding to climate changes (see the diagram).

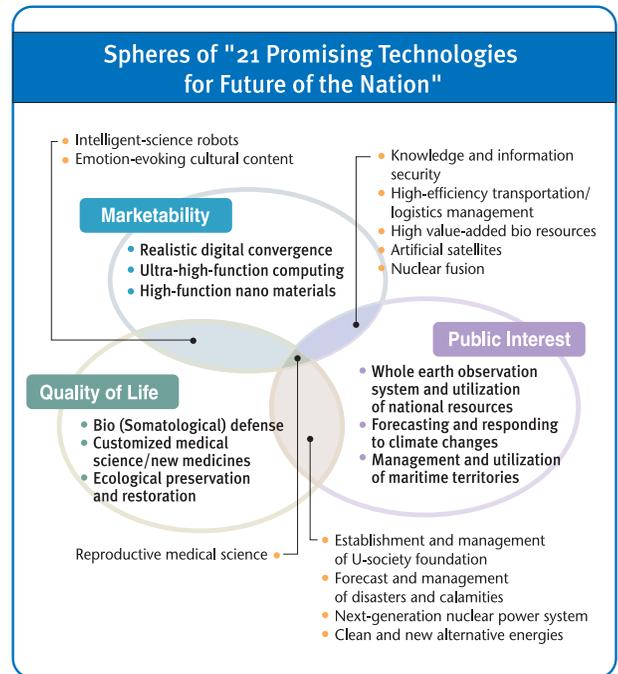
The project designation, finalized by the National Science & Technology Commission chaired by President Roh Moo-hyun on September 8, will leverage the national R&D program, especially in terms of resource distribution.

"These projects will also be the engines for Korea to become a top 10 world economic power and to achieve a per capita GDP of US\$35,000 by 2015," say officials at the Ministry of Science and Technology.

There were three criteria, ministry officials explain, in selecting the future-oriented technologies - economic vitality for a prosperous Korea; quality of life for a healthy Korea; and a high level of public interest for a safer Korea. The reproductive medical science sector meets all three criteria.

The technology roadmap for these projects will be developed by the end of this year and a comprehensive action plan for program implementation will be ready by August 2006.

In conjunction with the design of core technology projects, the committee recommended an increase in the national R&D budget for 2006. It asked for 78.5 billion won, an increase of 33.9% over this year, for future growth engine projects and increases in



rural development and basic research budgets. It also requested a 14.3% increase in the budget for 2006 to 26.49 billion won for R&D targeting the small and medium enterprise sector.

In addition to financial resources, the committee also called for more attention to be paid to manpower development in key R&D fields.

Targeting 1 Percentage Point Increase in Potential GDP...

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and soft, to support business activities. For example, the public sector will lead the formation of national knowledge networks consisting of enterprises, academia, research institutes and government agencies as well as the creation of innovation clusters that focus capital and resources for the mutual benefit of small and medium enterprises and foster synergy effects in terms of business alliances.

There is also an international aspect to the government's mission. It will provide information and analyses on business environments in existing and promising prospective markets, address trade issues through bilateral and multilateral channels, promote the adoption of Korean technology and practices as international standards and conduct sales diplomacy between nations to increase trade and investment activity.