

THE PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

AN ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

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PARLIAMENTARY BREAKFAST BRIEFING

**ON TUESDAY, 7TH JULY 2009 AT 08.30 AM
IN DINING ROOM A, HOUSE OF COMMONS***

NANOTECHNOLOGY – SHOULD WE BE WORRIED?

Addresses by

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Director Nanoktn

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Nanotechnology is the study of the control of matter on an atomic and molecular scale. Generally nanotechnology deals with structures of the size 100 nanometers or smaller, and involves developing materials or devices within that size. Nanotechnology is very diverse, ranging from novel extensions of conventional device physics, to completely new approaches based upon molecular self-assembly, to developing new materials with dimensions on the nanoscale, even to speculation on whether we can directly control matter on the atomic scale.

There has been much debate on the future of implications of nanotechnology. Nanotechnology has the potential to create many new materials and devices with wide-ranging applications, such as in medicine, electronics, and energy production. On the other hand, nanotechnology raises many of the same issues as with any introduction of new technology, including concerns about the toxicity and environmental impact of nanomaterials, and their potential effects on global economics, as well as speculation about various doomsday scenarios. These concerns have led to a debate among advocacy groups and governments on whether special regulation of nanotechnology is warranted.

Come and have breakfast and hear and debate the latest views with experts from the Knowledge Transfer Network and Nanoscience Research.

IAN TAYLOR MBE MP

Chairman

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THIS BREAKFAST BRIEFING PLEASE INFORM
THE SECRETARIAT (by fax or e-mail) NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY 30TH JUNE**

*Dining Room A is on the ground floor in the House of Commons and can be accessed through the Cromwell Green Entrance to the Palace of Westminster