



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

# Making science history : the regionalisation of science policy?

Marvin, S and Perry, B

<b>Title</b>	Making science history : the regionalisation of science policy?
<b>Authors</b>	Marvin, S and Perry, B
<b>Type</b>	Conference or Workshop Item
<b>URL</b>	This version is available at: <a href="http://usir.salford.ac.uk/id/eprint/17386/">http://usir.salford.ac.uk/id/eprint/17386/</a>
<b>Published Date</b>	2003

USIR is a digital collection of the research output of the University of Salford. Where copyright permits, full text material held in the repository is made freely available online and can be read, downloaded and copied for non-commercial private study or research purposes. Please check the manuscript for any further copyright restrictions.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: [usir@salford.ac.uk](mailto:usir@salford.ac.uk).

# **‘Making Science History’: The Regionalisation of Science Policy?**

**The SURF Centre, University of Salford**  
**Simon Marvin and Beth Perry**

*Science and the UK regions*

*12<sup>th</sup> May 2003*

The SURF Centre, University of Salford, 113-115 Portland  
Street, Manchester, M1 6DW, England.

## *2. Context for Research*

- North West case study – key regional challenge to national science priorities.
- Regionalisation - devolution and economic policy - created context for new demands.
- Has national science policy been regionalised? How significant are developments at the regional level?

### 3. *The Daresbury Controversy*

- ***The Issue:*** 1999, decision to build new DIAMOND synchrotron radiation source (SRS): *where should it go?*
- ***The Choices:*** Daresbury Laboratory, Cheshire, NW England ...OR... Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (Oxfordshire – ‘golden triangle’ of London, Oxford and Cambridge, SE)
- ***The Response:*** Regional campaign in NW to keep Diamond @ Daresbury, cross-institutional, scientific and political support

## *4. The Main Arguments*

- ***National View:*** scientific criteria only; co-location important; national interest; politics should not enter into scientific decision-making:
- ***Regional View:*** scientific and regional criteria; regional innovation system; North-South divide in scientific funding revealed; scientific decision-making is unaccountable to regional interests.
  - NW – around 11% national GDP and population but only 5% Government and HEI R&D spend.

## 5. *The Decision*

- ***The Decision:*** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2000 to locate Diamond at RAL, in the South East
- ***Compensation?:*** Smith Review (£26m) for collaborative science projects in the NW. Byers Review, to ensure the future of science in the region and DL.
- ***Questions:*** Does this signify a change in national science policy with respect to the regional dimension? How significant have developments regionally been?

## ***6. National Perspective: A New Role for the Regions? 2000-***

- ***Strategic Oversight:*** RCUK established, departmental science strategies required. Regional dimension? YES, but minimal - regions as consultees.
- ***Knowledge-Based Economy:*** White papers place increasing focus on innovation, dissemination, exploitation and university-industry links – strong regional dimension. YES, explicit.
- ***International Excellence:*** increasing institutional selectivity and spatial concentration. NO explicit regional dimension but significant regional impacts...
- ***Increasing visibility of regional issues but not regionalisation...***

## *7. Regional Developments since 2000*

- ***Before 2000:*** No (explicit) regional science strategy, science not considered major issue, weak relations between universities, industry and RDAs.
- ***2001-2002 Science Council and Strategy:*** industry-led, meets quarterly, advise NWDA and produce and oversee strategy, ongoing negotiations between CLRC, DL and NWDA as to future of lab.
- ***Ongoing:*** Extension of science issue in English regions, attempt to construct regional science policy.



## *8. Conclusions?*

- Regions see Science - Science policy sees Regions - new relations, improved understanding of scientific and regional need
- Nationally – relatively little formal change in science policy – but new care in dealing with “regional issues”
- Regional agenda developing in England:
  - Build capacity across HEI, Corporate and RDA agendas...
  - Making vertical linkages to national science policy
  - Relevance of comparative experiences...
- Remaining tensions... concentration and distribution of funding; excellence and regional needs.