



4.2 Developing Germany's strength in innovation on the international stage

As a location for high-tech activities, innovation in Germany is essential to securing its competitiveness, future viability and its society's prosperity. The demand for knowledge, expertise and products from Germany is strong. Innovation is driven, not just by new technological developments, but also by new needs and challenges of a society. Digitalisation and globalisation provide important stimuli and strongly influence innovation processes. Innovations today increasingly emerge at the boundary between research and industry, at institutions of higher education and research institutes. In this context, it is very important to integrate the knowledge triangle.

The Federal Government's new High-Tech Strategy presents a comprehensive approach to innovation that satisfies these diverse requirements. The High-Tech Forum is currently working on suggestions for advancing the internationalisation of the High-Tech Strategy.

The Federal Government sees a need for interlinking German partners more closely with international stakeholders. Access to international innovation circles such as Silicon Valley must be made easier through new partnerships. The Federal Government also sees a need for action to boost international cooperation amongst research-intensive SMEs, where access to and use of international sources

of knowledge is becoming more and more important.

The Federal Government attaches great importance to the management and intelligent use of intellectual property. This applies equally to the setting of norms and standards in the international setting, which simplify access to existing markets and help to create new ones.

The Federal Government will also work to improve the general conditions to promote innovation. These must provide enough freedom and flexibility to guarantee the free flow of knowledge and innovation across borders and sectors. Through its dialogue with all stakeholders