

To determine whether or not a particular activity falls within or outside the **boundaries of R & D**, the following criteria are used:

- if the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on the product or process, then the work comes within the definition of [research and development \(R & D\)](#) ;
- if, on the other hand, the product, process or approach is substantially set and the primary objective is to develop markets, to do pre-production planning or to get a production or control system working smoothly, the work is no longer considered to be R & D.

Further information

- [Science, technology and innovation](#) (methodology)

Related concepts

- [Research and development \(R & D\)](#)

Statistical data

- [Research and development statistics at regional level](#)

Source

- [Main definitions and conventions for the measurement of Research and Experimental Development \(R&D\), A summary of the Frascati Manual 2002](#) (Publication, OECD, Paris, 2002)