

## **USSR STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SCST): STRUCTURE, ISSUES, INTERDEPARTMENT COORDINATION GROUP**

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In this article the author considers the creation of interaction system between science, technology and production and the structure of state bodies for managing science and technology in the USSR in 1950-1970.

Nowadays innovation is the main and essential factor for economic development. It is necessary to address to history while searching actively for the methods of formation and development of the state management system of innovative activities. The aim of this article is studying the structure of state bodies for managing science and technology. This article also explains how the results of scientific work were applied to production in 1950-1970.

These years were remarkable for the international competitiveness between capitalistic and socialistic countries, the cold war, and the expansion of scientific and technical revolution (STR). The USSR made some efforts to create the adequate and effective system of interaction between science, technology and production. It was assumed that 'technological progress which determines the growth of labour productivity is essential for the successful development of national economy and the increased standard of life'. Scientific and technical politics of this period is remarkable for the tendency to conform to the global development of science and technology and to use the results of research and development activity in the economy. Since 1950 the USSR made efforts to manage scientific and technical progress effectively with the help of special state bodies aimed at dealing with science development and the introduction of new technologies. It was the USSR State committee for science and technology (at first State committee of council of ministers for science and technology (1965-1978) and later the USSR State committee for science and technology (1978-1991)) that became a long-term and conspicuous managing body for science and technology. This committee was formed during the economic reform in 1965. SCST was aimed

at uniting scientific research efforts and it had ample powers.

SCST consisted of the committee chairman appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the vice-chairman, the members of the committee appointed by the Council of Ministers of the USSR and other members of the committee - scientists and production managers who did not belong to the committee.

The functions of SCST were fixed by special Statute assigned by the decree of Council of Ministers of the USSR of 1.10.1966, order № 743 of 8.10.1966. The Statute stated that SCST was to be a federal body which provided unified state politics in the scientific and technical progress and the usage of scientific and technical achievements in the national economy. SCST was to determine the main orientations in the development of science and technology, organize the elaboration of inter-sector scientific and technical problems, provide the fast introduction of scientific achievements into production, control this introduction, organize scientific and technical information and establish scientific contacts with other countries while exchanging experience. These scientific achievements were supposed to be effective with low cost.

In accordance with these functions SCST was to plan works for solving the main scientific and technical problems and their financing, establish the connections between universities, academies and industries of national economy, update material and technical basis of scientific and technical institutions (providing special equipment, appliances, gadgets, materials), prepare scientific workers, arrange events aimed at improving the organization of scientific research, increasing their effectiveness, increasing the number of scientific institutions.

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As it is seen from above SCST was responsible for a wide range of important activities in the sphere of science and technology and for the introduction of scientific achievements into production. SCST had the rights to plan, finance and control performance of tasks in science and technology. SCST decrees were obligatory for fulfilling for ministries and state authorities. It is noted that the committee did not use its rights fully in particular the right to control ministries and state authorities. It was not surprising though because the committee had a great amount of work. Moreover, there were no rules explaining how to use this right (the right to control ministries and state authorities), and many SCST members had no idea how put this right into practice.

The inner structure of SCST was determined by the special decree of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. During the functioning of the committee its structure had been changed several times, subordinating elements had also been changed. At the moment of SCST foundation its structure was introduced by sectoral departments (departments of chemistry, mineral resources, metallurgy, machinery-producing industry, instrument-making industry including radio electronics and computer engineering, wood and building industry, light and food industry, transport industry); secondary departments (finance and capital investment department, scientific and technical planning department, scientific equipment department); department coordinating international scientific contacts (with socialistic countries and international economic, scientific and technical organizations). Research council and scientific-organizational section were responsible for organizing research work and for its problems. Moreover, the committee consisted of the departments which were busy providing its daily activity: administration, general service department, personnel department, international business trip department.

The main departments of SCST were built upon the sectoral principle not that of the ministry principle. For example, chemistry department dealt with the problems under the supervision of the Ministry of chemical industry, the Ministry of oil-refining industry, the Ministry of chemical engineering. Thus, SCST departments resembled the industries of the national economy.

After some changes in 1975 there appeared new departments: radio electronics and instrument-making industry; agricultural department, management of natural resources and environmental protection department, department dealing with the organization and economy of scientific and technical research, department inspecting the technological side of building projects and enterprise reconstruction; computer engineering and controlling system department; the department of foreign affairs; scientific and production cooperative department.

The SCST structure had been changing in accordance with the appearance of 'narrow specializations'. There appeared: organization and economy of scientific and technical research; scientific and production cooperative; inspection of new projects; development of instrument-making industry, computer engineering and controlling system; development of agriculture and management of natural resources.

Thus, the Soviet government established state bodies managing scientific and technical development amid expansion of scientific and technical revolution (STR). The main functions were executed by State committee for science and technology. There appeared contradictory tendencies in SCST functioning during 60-70. On the one hand, the committee tried to consider innovation of STR. It was especially conspicuous in the field of production automation and electronics. On the other hand, the traditional sectoral approach was still used. Thus, these departments performed the same functions of the similar ministries.

During 1965-1970 the functions of SCST, the inner structure and contacts with ministries and state authorities had been changing. It marked the absence of precise conception about the ways and controlling forms of introduction of technical achievements into national economy.

By the end of 1980 there appeared secondary bodies as the parts of SCST: the Soviet research institute of industrial design; Vnesh-tekhnika; the Organization controlling scientific and technical information and propaganda of Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic; the Institute controlling national economy; the Institute upgrading the qualification of workers dealing with computer engineering; the Soviet research institute dealing with organization and management; the State public scientific and tech-

nical library; Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy and others. These bodies distracted SCST from its main functions. Besides it was difficult to control the introduction of technical achievements into national economy. Moreover, it took much time and resources of SCST to plan the introduction of new technologies and to discuss it with ministries, state bodies, deputies to the Supreme Soviet of USSR. Thus, the results of this work were unsatisfactory.

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