

Procurement and R&D Support: Two Policies Aiming at Enhancing Technical Progress

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First, this paper summarizes ECS' recent work on collecting a database of so-called learning or experience curves in the wider field of energy technologies. It then proceeds to discuss two possible strategies for policy making, (i) procurement, i. e., purchasing significant amounts of a "learning" technology to enhance its market potential and (ii) support of research and development to accelerate technological progress. After a brief description of SAPIENT, an EC-supported collaborative project in the field, first (experimental) results on the tradeoff between the two strategies will be presented.