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Can governments afford R&D?

David Manners

Tuesday 20 November 2012 13:32

“Do we have the resources to invest in R&D considering the public debt?” asked Sebastien Rospide of analysts Decision at the European Nanoelectronics Forum in Munich this morning.

Rospide's answer is Yes because although the world has public debt of \$50trn, the indebted governments have financial assets of \$60-65trn.

“If the indebted countries sold their financial assets they'd have \$10-15trn after paying off their debts,” said Rospide.

Top debtor is Japan with debt worth 210% of GDP, said Rospide followed by Greece 165%, Italy 120%, Ireland 110%, USA 105%, UK and France 85%, Germany 80%, India 50%, China 45%, Switzerland 40% and Korea 35%.

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