

Strengthening National Lab Links with University and Industry Partners to Drive Increased R&D and Innovation

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Motivation

Growing recognition of the potential value of the expertise and facilities within national research labs for universities and companies as they seek to drive their R&D and innovation efforts. However, national research labs have historically been relatively closed to external partnering, and partners find it difficult to engage.

Overview



Pressures



Barriers



Efforts

Growing pressures to open up

- Mission/challenge-led policies → pressures for NRLs to be actively engaged
- Policy priorities to deliver impact from public investments → increased focus on NRL contributions
- Policy pressures for government-funded facilities to be utilised efficiently
- Shift of research from basic/applied science to emerging commercial exploitation
- Changing societal pressures for whole R&D ecosystem to come together to find solutions
- Industry pressures to leverage external facilities and equipment to drive innovation

Many barriers similar to those facing university-industry partnerships

- Lack of awareness of expertise, facilities and services available
- Perception of too much bureaucracy
- Negotiation frictions causing agreement delays or deterring partnerships
- Perception of fees being too high
- Contract terms that can be difficult to accept
- Unrealistic requests for leveraged funding for some partners/domains

ROAD
CLOSED

ROAD
CLOSED

But some barriers more specific to NRLs

- Tensions between core mission and pressures to commercialise IP and raise external revenues
- Shifting government priorities and pressures
- Increased competition and tension with others in public research base

What are NRLs doing to open up?



Thank you