

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

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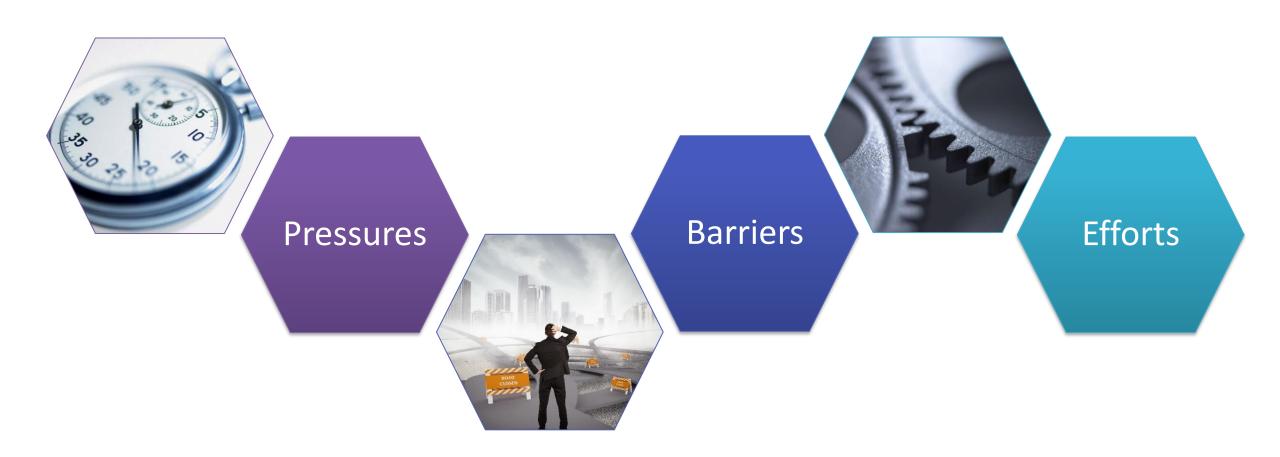




Motivation

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



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





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