



Partnering for American Competitiveness:

A workshop on government-university-industry research partnerships for innovation and workforce development

America's *innovation engine* is a prolific interaction of universities, laboratories, companies, entrepreneurs, inventors and investors. But our previous success does not guarantee America will maintain its leadership position. Looking forward, we face many challenges as discussed in reports such as the National Academies 'Rising Above the Gathering Storm' including: improving science, math and engineering education, sustaining basic research, cultivating the best and brightest in science and technology, and incentivizing an innovation culture.

In our time of ever increasing global competition, the U.S. must seek new ways to innovate and create competitive advantage. Significant advantage can be achieved by bringing together the talent and resources across the R&D communities in our universities, federal laboratories, and industries. Public-private partnerships have the opportunity to accelerate science and engineering education, workforce development, technical innovation, and technology transfer. This point was emphasized during the recent National Science & Technology Summit (Oak Ridge National Labs, August, 2008).

Powerful partnering approaches are being created around the world to accelerate innovation. In Europe and Asia, government-sponsored hubs bring together students, faculty and industrial scientists and their problems. Federal laboratories could play a similar role in the U.S. as hubs for research partnerships. Progress in creating new public-private partnerships is being made, but much remains to be done to develop strategies and approaches that can be implemented.

Workshop Goal:

- Design the long-term agenda for competitiveness through partnering.
- Explore best models for R&D partnerships throughout the world and how they can be applied in the U.S.
- Establish the role that federal lab – academic - industry partnerships can play in higher education and work-force development.
- Define governance structures to make these partnerships effective.
- Identify barriers to overcome to reach goals.

This workshop will bring together government leaders, academia, industry, and federal laboratories to consider the role of research hubs and partnerships. We will include participants from the government agencies including the Department of Energy and its national laboratories, National Science Foundation, Department of Defense and its labs, NASA labs, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Education, and Department of Homeland Security. There will also be broad participation from academia, industry, and institutions from outside the U.S. Key government policy leaders will kick-off the workshop.

The workshop will be co-hosted by the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Sandia National Laboratories, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, The Association of American Universities, National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation.

