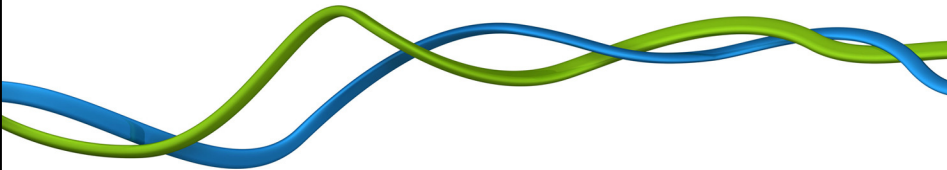



The Dowling Review of Business-University Research Collaborations


Professor Dame Ann Dowling DBE FEng FRS
President, Royal Academy of Engineering



The Foundation for Science and Technology
 7 October 2015



The Dowling Review



215 written submissions

- Universities, PSRES, Research Organisations
- Academics
- SMEs
- Large Businesses
- Catapults and Hubs
- Trade Associations/Membership Organisations/Networks
- Other

6 roundtables and 1 workshop involving:

- visits to Cardiff, Strathclyde, Liverpool and Sheffield
- over 200 participants
- engagement with academics, SMEs, corporates, knowledge exchange professionals, funders and hubs, across a range of sectors and disciplines

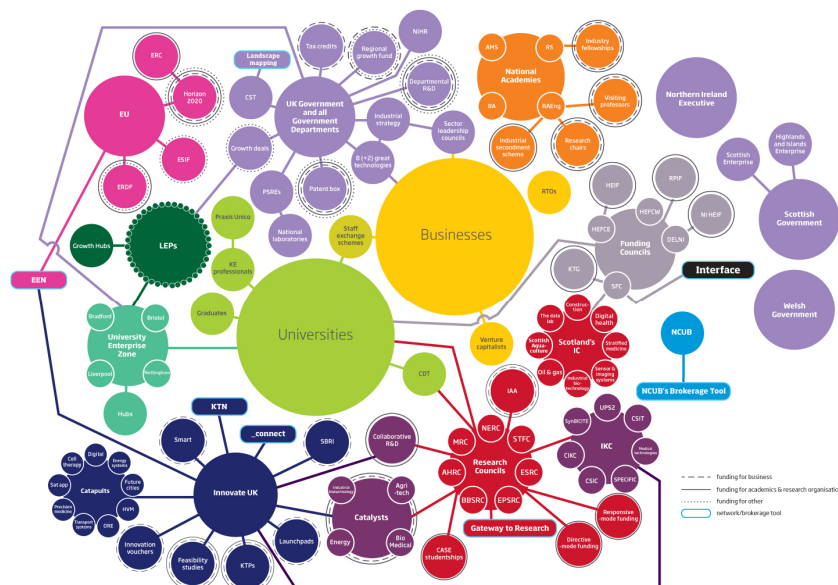


The Dowling Review

Rank	Top ten barriers for business	Rank	Top ten barriers for universities
1	IP and other contract negotiations are difficult to complete, processes difficult to navigate, or take too long	1	University metrics, including the REF, prioritise the production of high-quality publications
2	Business find it difficult to identify academic partners or where academic capability lies	2	IP and other contract negotiations are difficult to complete, processes difficult to navigate, or take too long
3	Business and academia operate to different timescales	3	Other pressures on academic time (teaching and research) limit resources for collaboration
4	Lack of funding	4	Lack of funding
=5	Lack of alignment of objectives: tension between business and university needs or objectives	=5	Collaborative experience not valued as part of academic career progression
=5	Lack of trust or mutual understanding	=5	Lack of time/resource for networking or project development
=7	Businesses focus on the short term, rather than long term R&D	=7	Business and academia operate to different timescales
=7	Other funding issues (for example, SME eligibility, subjects within scope)	=7	Tension between academic desire to publish work, and business concerns about competition
9	Low overall levels of business investment in R&D, including a lack of absorptive capacity	9	Lack of trust or mutual understanding
10	Lack of understanding within business of potential benefits of working with universities	10	Low overall levels of business investment in R&D, including a lack of absorptive capacity




Complexity






People

Rank	Key success factor
1	Strong and trusting personal relationships
2	Shared vision, goals and objectives defined, setting in place clear expectations
3	Mutual understanding between partners
4	Ability of – and opportunities for – staff to work across institutional boundaries
5	Collaboration brings about mutual benefits
6	Funding available
7	Processes for agreeing contracts and IP are in place
8	Clear and effective communication between partners
9	Organisational support, including senior management buy-in and championing
10	Willingness to devote time and resources from both parties



Brokerage



Taken from NCUB's State of the Relationship Report 2015



ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING **Political Response**

“So as we look to make Britain the best place in Europe to innovate, we start from a position of strength. But we need to do more, not just to commercialise past research, but to meet future challenges too.

That is why Ann Dowling’s recent Review of Business-University Research Collaboration is important. We will respond to her recommendations by the Spending Review, including how to take forward the central recommendation of simplifying support for business.

And we mean business on this.”

Universities and Science Minister Jo Johnson MP
16 July 2015





www.raeng.org.uk/investing-in-innovation