

## "Links and Impacts: the Influence of Public Research on Industrial R&D"

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### ABSTRACT

Using data on the U.S. manufacturing sector from the Carnegie Mellon Survey on Industrial R&D, this paper evaluates the influence of "public" (i.e., university and government R&D lab) research on industrial R&D, the role that public research plays in industrial R&D, and the pathways through which that effect is exercised. We find a more pervasive effect of public research than found previously. Our data also show that public research both suggests new R&D projects and contributes to the completion of existing projects in roughly equal measure, although with considerable cross-industry differences. The key channels through which university research impacts industrial R&D are publications, public conferences and meetings, informal information exchange and consulting relationships. Within industries, the influence of public research is disproportionately greater for larger firms and firms that invest more in absorptive capacity.