



The UK Innovation Research Centre (UK~ IRC) is a collaborative initiative for cutting-edge research and knowledge exchange activities. It is a joint venture between the Centre for Business Research at the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge, and Imperial College London Business School.

The Centre is carrying out high quality research into how innovation can make businesses more competitive; improve public services delivery; and help the UK meet the social, environmental and economic challenges it faces.

**Key areas the Centre focuses on include:**

- Ensuring that new research on innovation in both the public and private sectors has the greatest effect on policy and practice.
- Exploring the relationship between innovation and business performance and how this affects the national economy and the individual organisation.
- Actively disseminating its work through a 'Knowledge Exchange Hub', using activities ranging from seminars to innovation podcasts

In addition to their research, members of both institutions are involved in developing business practice and policy advice in the fields of innovation and knowledge exchange at national and international levels - for example, contributing to the UK Innovation and Productivity Grand Challenge and the Australian National Innovation Review.

The Centre has been set up in response to The Government's 'Innovation Nation' White Paper (March 2008). This laid out the Government's intention to "build on the UK's current impressive performance on research and broaden the traditional knowledge exchange agenda to encompass new disciplines, new sectors, new businesses and those who work in the development and delivery of public services."

The 'Innovation Nation' White paper can be found at:

[http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedD/ec\\_group/18-08-C\\_b](http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedD/ec_group/18-08-C_b)

# Reports and press coverage

## Open Innovation Choices - What is British Enterprise doing?

**Author(s):** Andy Cosh, Joanne Zhang

**Summary:** This report gives the first findings of a survey into open innovation practices in the UK. The report examines the open innovation activities of firms measured by their hunting (seeking knowledge outside the firm); cultivating (collaborating with partners); and exploiting (benefiting by providing their own knowledge to others).



## Is the British Economy supply constrained? A critique of productivity pessimism

**Author(s):** Bill Martin

**Summary:** In this study, the author challenges the widely held view that the productivity of the British economy has been permanently and drastically impaired by the banking crisis, with the implication that the economy has already returned to near normal levels of capacity utilisation. The authors view is that this line of thought and its policy implications risks a vicious spiral of weaker demand and weaker supply.



## Knowledge Exchange between Academics and the Business, Public and Third Sectors

**Author(s):** Maria Abreu, Vadim Grinevich, Alan Hughes and Michael Kitson

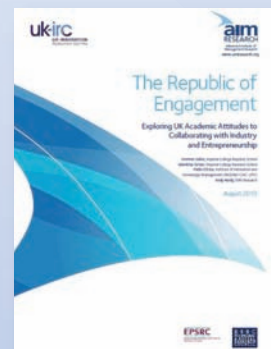
**Summary:** This report researches how British academics interact with businesses and other sectors of the economy. The results are from the largest survey of academics undertaken in the UK - with over 20,000 respondents. The research shows that although there is significant interaction between the science base and business, there are also significant 'hidden' interactions encompassing a range of other academic disciplines.



## The Republic of Engagement

**Author(s):** Ammon Salter, Valentina Tartari, Pablo D'Este, Andy Neely

**Summary:** Drawing on a unique set of surveys of academics funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), this report explores changes in the way academics engage with industry in the UK between 2004 and 2009. Although there are new and increasing pressures for academics to engage with industry, this report highlights that the nature and extent of this industry engagement remains an area of choice for individual academics.



Our research has commanded attention in many of the mainstream popular press including: The Financial Times, The Guardian, The Economist, along with more specialised trade publications. Our researchers are also often asked for contributions to local and national television and radio stations.

# Overview of research projects

## Project 1

**Topic:** New Modes of Innovation: Managerial and Strategic Business Practices and Open Innovation

**Researchers:** Andy Cosh, Joanne Zhang, Oliver Alexy, Alan Hughes, Michael Kitson, Tim Minshall, Ammon Salter

**Outline:** This project will shed light on the mechanisms and competences required to foster Open Innovation. It will show which management practices are crucial for the innovation process and which can help develop absorptive capacity and the optimal access of external knowledge. It will also show how these mechanisms evolve and vary across time and sector.

## Project 2

**Topic:** Services innovation and innovation performance at the sector level

**Researchers:** Bruce Tether, Andrea Mina, Alan Hughes, Cher Li, Jonathan Haskel, Stan Metcalfe, Ken Coutts, Bob Rowthorn, Bill Martin, Karl Wennberg, Elif Moreau-Bascavusoglu

**Outline:** The focal point of this research is knowledge-intensive business services (KIBS). The project is looking to provide evidence for understanding the linkages between different sectors of the UK economy and how innovation and performance in one sector can influence another sector.

## Project 3

**Topic:** How does the evidence base influence innovation policy?

**Researchers:** Alan Hughes, David Connell, Ammon Salter, Michael Kitson, Bruce Tether

**Outline:** How do policy makers access the evidence base to formulate policy? This research will look to address this question in the realm of innovation policy. The project will provide better understanding of how policy makers can access the evidence base and will highlight those mechanisms that are most effective in different contexts.

## Project 4

**Topic:** Network Evolution in Open Innovation Communities

**Researchers:** Ammon Salter, Martin Kilduff, Oliver Alexy, Antoine Vernet

**Outline:** This project examines distributed innovation in online communities that are responsible for many innovations, including software and services. We seek to understand how the power of online communities is shaped and harnessed to produce innovative outcomes and to develop best practice strategies for high-tech SME's to access and develop sustainable business models based on specific sectoral innovation systems resulting from open innovation.



# Contact details

## Some of the UK~IRC team:

### **Professor Alan Hughes,**

UK~IRC Director, Margaret Thatcher, Professor of Enterprise Studies at the Judge Business School, Director of the Centre for Business Research at the University of Cambridge

### **Professor Ammon Salter,**

UK~IRC Research Director, Co-Director of the Innovation Studies Centre at Imperial Business School

### **Michael Kitson,**

UK~IRC Knowledge Hub Director, University Senior Lecturer in global macroeconomics at the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

### **Andy Cosh,**

UK~IRC Executive Committee member, Programme Director for Enterprise and Innovation, University of Cambridge

### **Professor Bruce Tether,**

UK~IRC Executive Committee member, Professor of Innovation Management and Strategy at Manchester Business School, University of Manchester

The UK~IRC run a range of Knowledge Exchange events including evening seminars, workshops and conferences. For all the latest information about our events see: <http://ukirc.ac.uk/newsandevents/events/>

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Email: [enquiries@ukirc.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ukirc.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01223 746675 or 020 7594 5484  
[www.ukirc.ac.uk](http://www.ukirc.ac.uk)