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### University-Government-Industry Collaboration for Conducting R&D Projects

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**NRC-CNRC**

*Industrial Materials  
Institute*

# **University-Government-Industry Collaboration for Conducting R&D Projects**

Christian Moreau

Combustion Turbine Coatings Symposium 2005

**October 26-27, 2005**

**Houston, Texas**



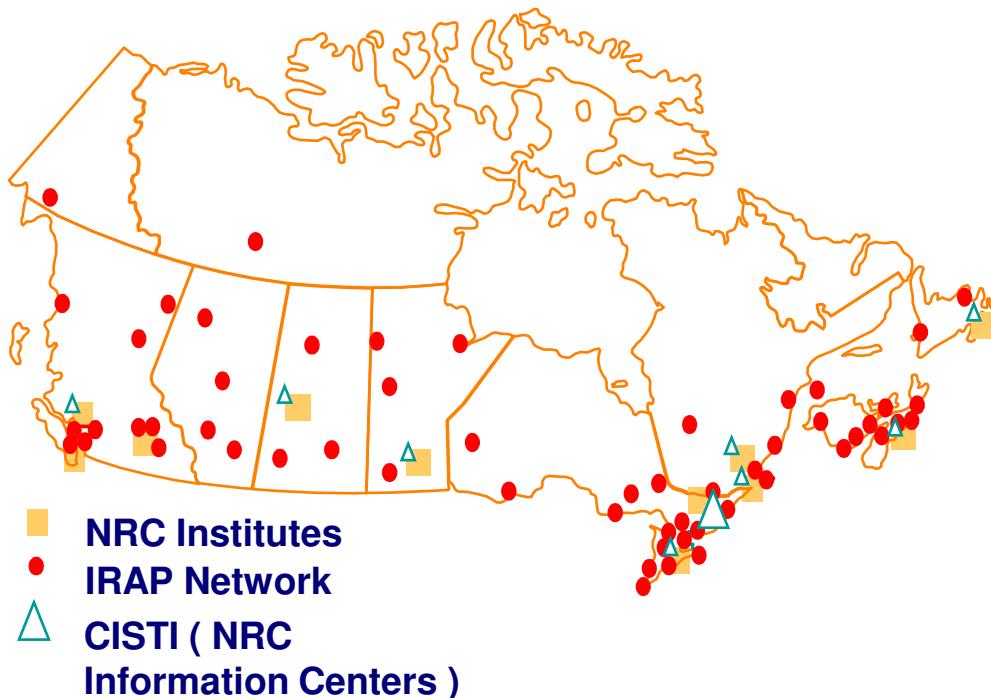
National Research  
Council Canada

Conseil national  
de recherches Canada

**Canada**

# National Research Council - Canada

As Canada's principal public R&D organization carrying out scientific and technical work, the NRC plays a leading role in developing an innovative and knowledge-based economy.



- 18 research institutes
- Close to 4000 employees
- 1 400 guest researchers
- \$800 million budget
- \$150 million income

# Outlook

- Introduction:
  - Value of collaborative research
- Roles and objectives:
  - University (U)
  - Government Laboratories (G)
  - Industry (I)
- Challenges
- Examples of collaboration
- Conclusion

# Introduction

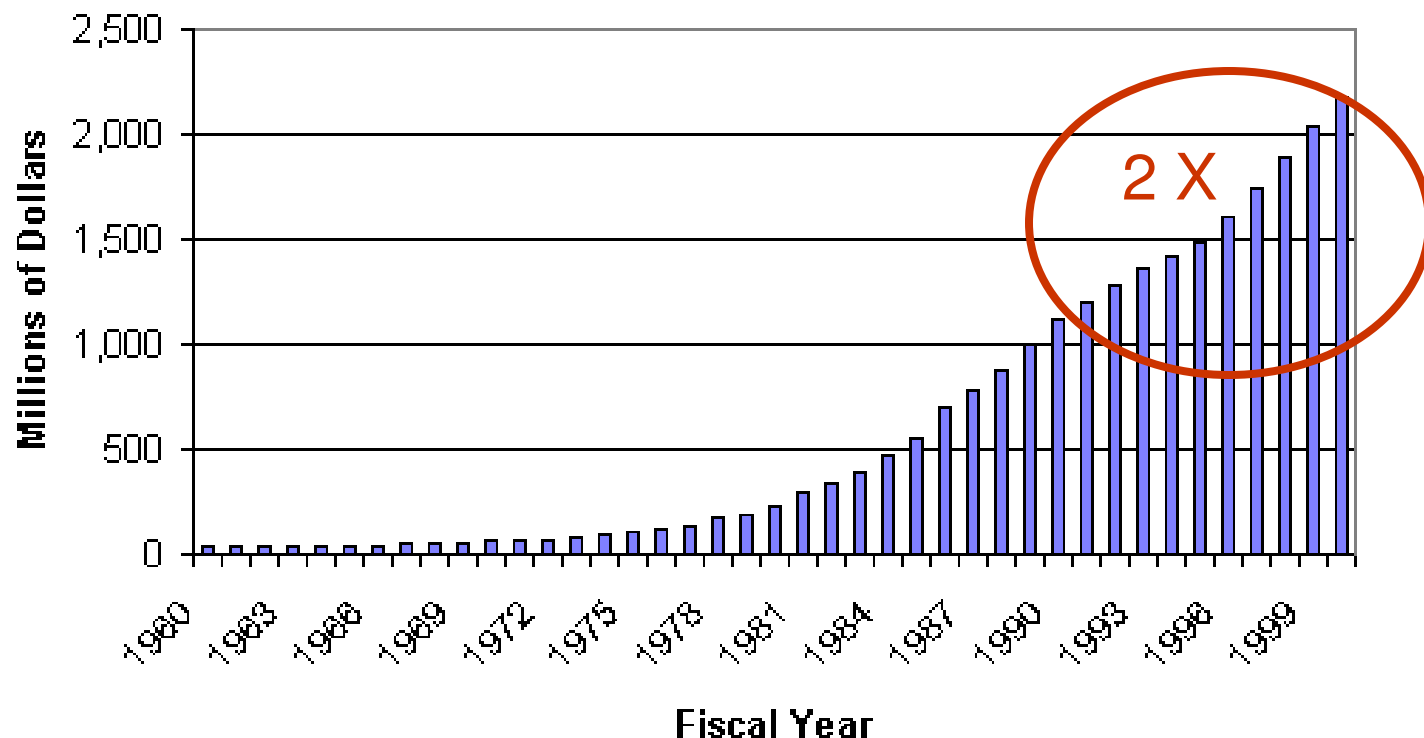
- We are moving towards an economy that is more and more based on knowledge and technology
  - For the industrially advanced countries, future growth will depend more on advanced technologies and less on primary resources
- In this context, the economic value of research activities increases
- It becomes crucial to:
  - Stimulate the creation of new ideas or intellectual property (IP)
  - Protect the IP
  - Translate the new IP in a commercial product/service

# Introduction

- These different steps are often times carried out by different actors in different organizations:
  - Research labs
  - Industry liaison offices in U and G
  - Venture capital firms
  - Small and larges enterprises
- The technical skills and knowledge required for the development of new IP are often found through scientists and engineers from different labs:
  - Many companies cut their central research laboratories that did basic, long-term research for cost saving
  - They leverage research capabilities in universities, research institutes and federal laboratories.
- The valorisation of the IP requires the input from different collaborators from U, G and I

# Industry Support of Research

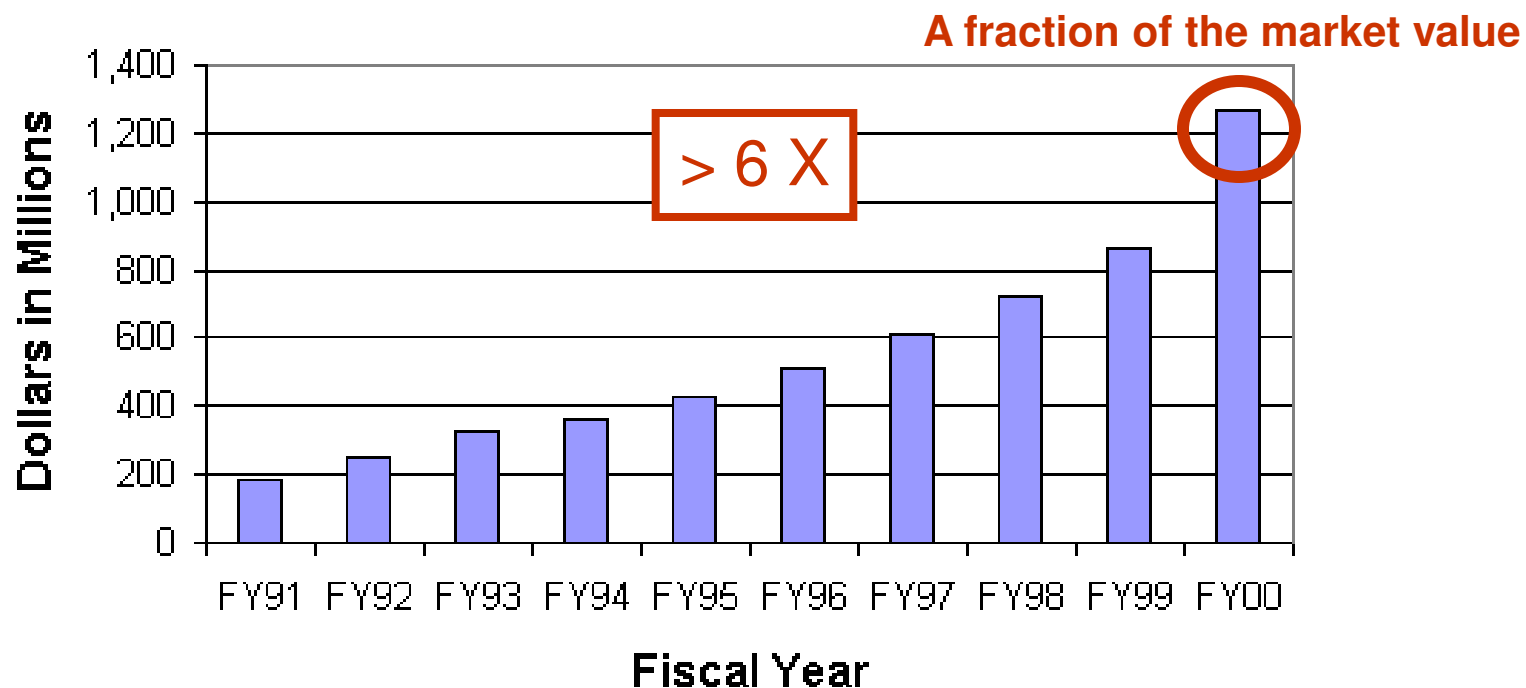
## Industry Support of Science and Engineering Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities



- <http://nationalacademies.org/>

# License Income

## License Income to North America Universities and Research Institutes

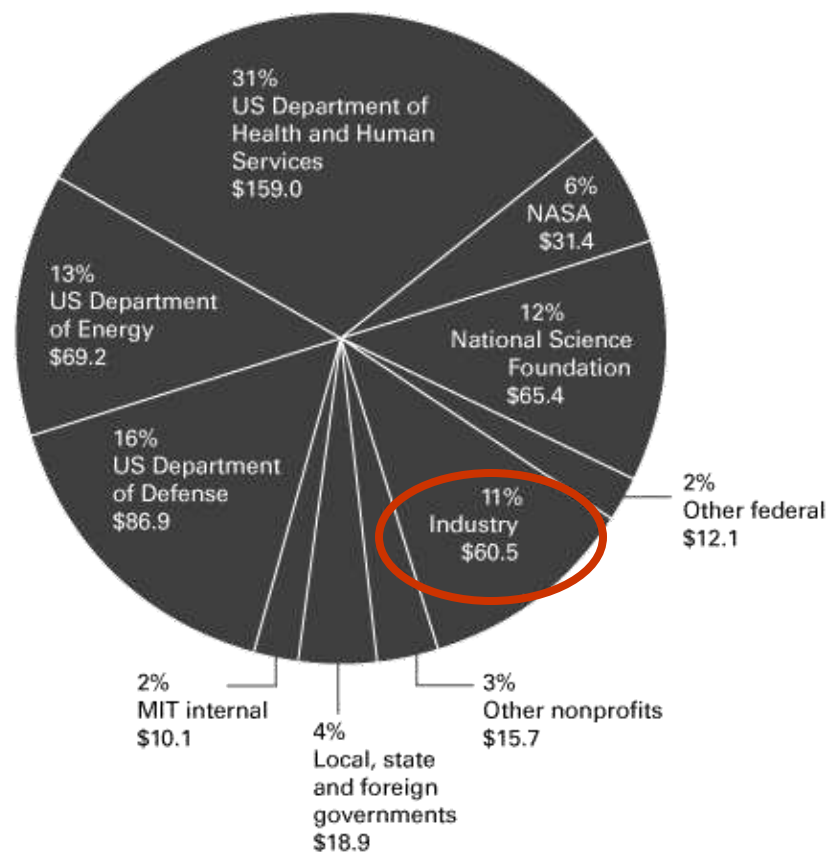


- <http://nationalacademies.org/>



## A Few Numbers from MIT

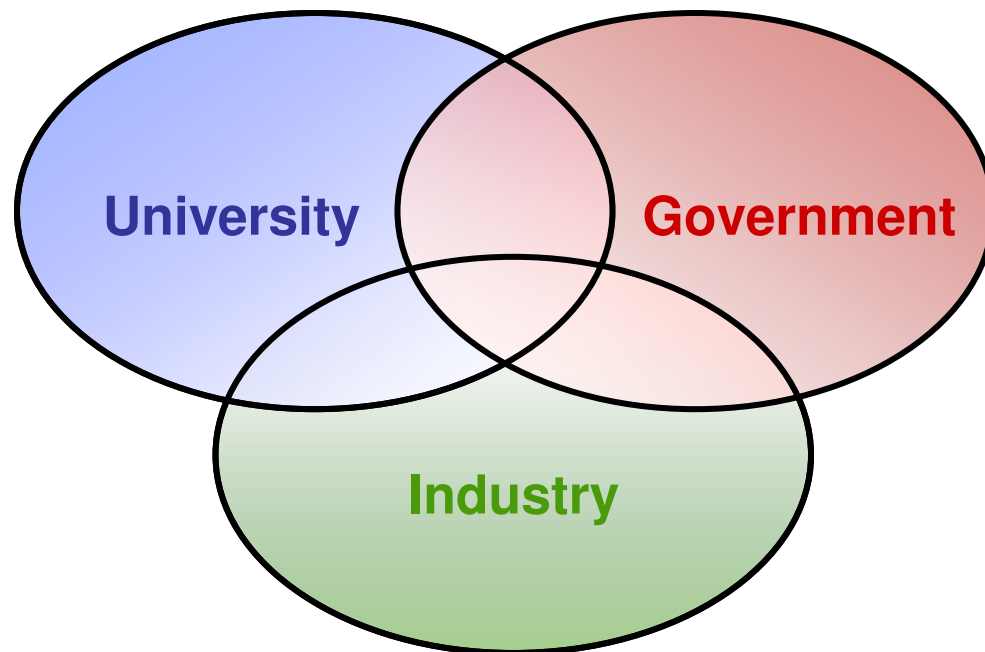
- Each year, MIT grants 10 to 15 percent of its licenses to start-up firms
- Each year, 400 new inventions, and 100 US patents obtained
- 60% of the new patents are licensed within one year
- Boston's 8 research universities provide \$7B annual boost to regional economy
- MIT graduates have started 4,000 companies employing 1.1 million people, and having annual world sales of \$232 billion



Research Sponsorship:  
\$ 530 millions in 2004

# U-G-I Collaborative R&D

- Many types of collaboration are possible between U, G and I (we will see a few examples in this presentation)
- The nature of these collaborations depends on the roles and objectives of each organization



- Roles:
  - Teaching students:
    - Undergraduate and graduate students
  - Carrying out applied and basic research
- Need money to support their activities
  - Tuition fees
  - Grants from funding agencies and industry
  - Royalties (represent a small fraction of the total revenues)
- Collaborative projects with industry are often times positively seen by granting agencies
- Most universities have put in place a Industry Liaison Office/Program that is responsible for:
  - IP protection
  - Negotiation of contracts and licenses

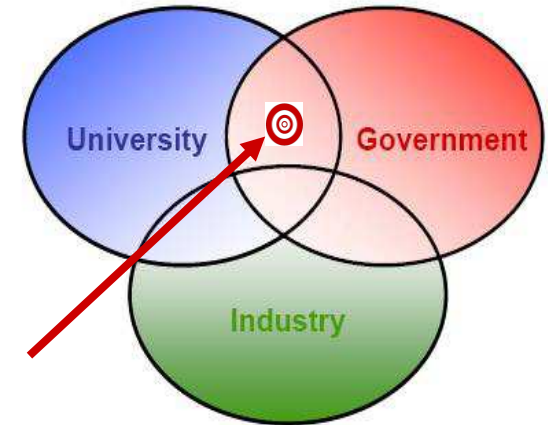
# Government National Laboratories

- Roles (NRC for example):
  - Carrying out R&D activities to play a leading role in developing an innovative and knowledge-based economy
  - Creating value through:
    - Advances in scientific knowledge
    - Commercialization and technology transfer
    - R&D assistance to Canadian companies
    - Creation of new companies and highly skilled jobs
    - New and improved technologies
    - Community-based technology cluster and innovation initiatives
    - Provision of scientific, technical & medical information
    - Incubator facilities for young companies
  - Maintaining national facilities
  - Defining standards and methods of measurement

# Industry

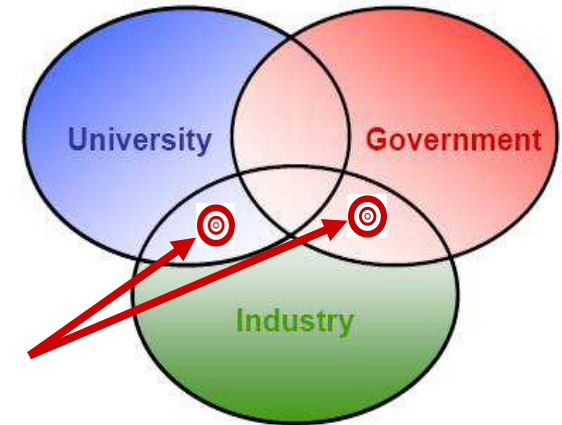
- Roles:
  - Providing value to their shareholders
  - Commercializing services and products
- Needs:
  - Competitive advantages over their competitors
  - New business opportunities
  - Profits

## U and G



- Projects tend to be oriented towards more basic research with a longer time frame
- IP issues have to be negotiated in advance
- Might be simpler as the objectives are similar
  - A “reasonable” share of the benefits of the research
- G researchers appointed adjunct professors in universities
  - Usually the researchers are not paid by the university (less possibility of conflict of interest)

## U and I G and I



- U and G interactions with industry have many commonalities
  - Transfer IP to industry for commercialisation
  - Seek financial or “moral” support for their projects
- Some G laboratories have a clear mandate to help the industry:
  - Better geared to conduct applied research projects with:
    - Specific deliverables
    - Well defined schedule
    - Dedicated scientists and technicians
  - Pressure to publish reduced



# Challenges

- Intellectual property
  - Ownership
    - U and G want to keep the property to transfer it to another partner if the technology is not used
    - Small spin-off companies financed by venture capital firms would like to have the ownership to increase the “value” of the company
  - Licensing
    - Exclusivity, royalty, field, territory, etc.
    - Companies ask for royalty free licenses when they pay for the project (incremental costs only)
    - The royalties negotiated between the partners depend on:
      - Perceived value of the technology
      - Share of the development cost
      - Exclusivity or not, extent of the field and territory



# Challenges

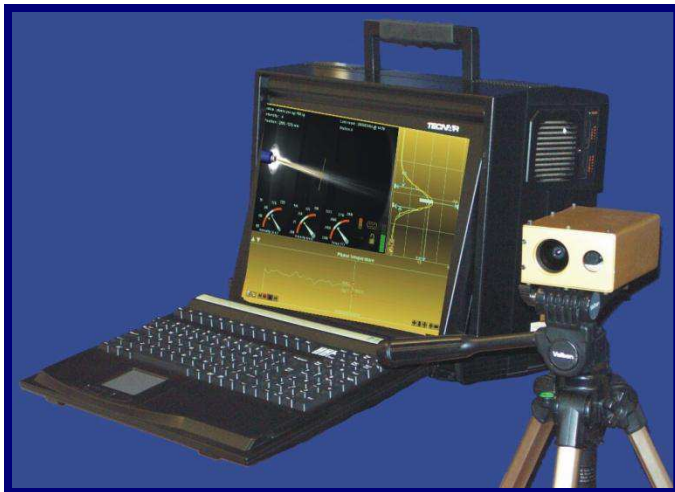
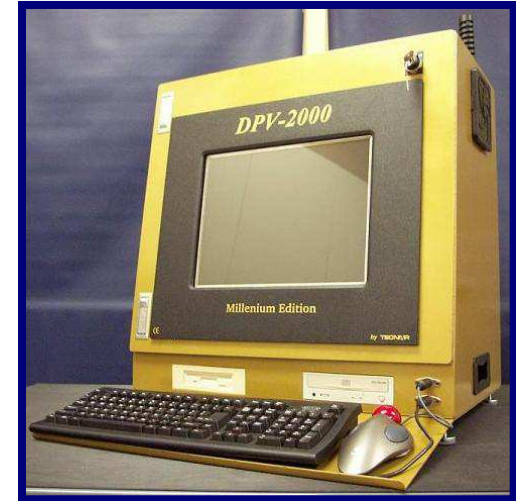
- Background rights
  - The company wants to have access to the background IP of the partner to be able to commercialize the IP developed in the project
- Confidentiality
  - U and G researchers need to publish
  - The company's know-how must be kept confidential
  - Publications reviewed by the industrial partner and eventually delayed for a pre-determined period of time:
    - Makes it possible to protect the IP (patent application) before publication
    - Restricts the publication freedom of the researcher
  - U or G researchers working with competitors on the market place
    - Relationship based on trust and fairness

# Challenges

- Conflicts of interest
  - Faculty member having his/her own company
    - Not permitted in some Government labs
- Different time horizons
  - Industry tends to look for shorter term results
- Research independence
  - Research curiosity ↔ market needs
- Develop trust between partners

# Tecnar–NRC: A Long Term Collaboration

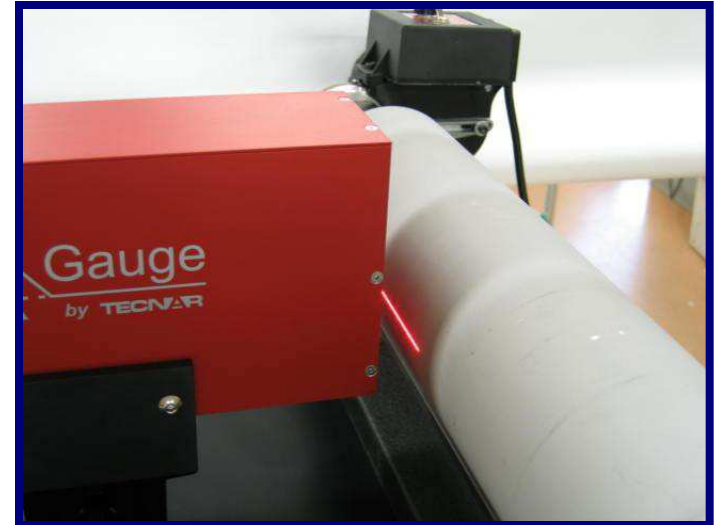
- DPV-2000
  - Invented and developed at NRC without the company financial support
  - Technology license offered to Canadian firms
  - Agreement with Tecnar that didn't know anything about thermal spray at that time
  - The first systems sold were exact copies of our prototype



- AccuraSpray:
  - Proof of concept and patent application done by NRC
  - R&D project with Tecnar to develop a first industrial prototype financed by IRAP
  - Today the third generation is on the market

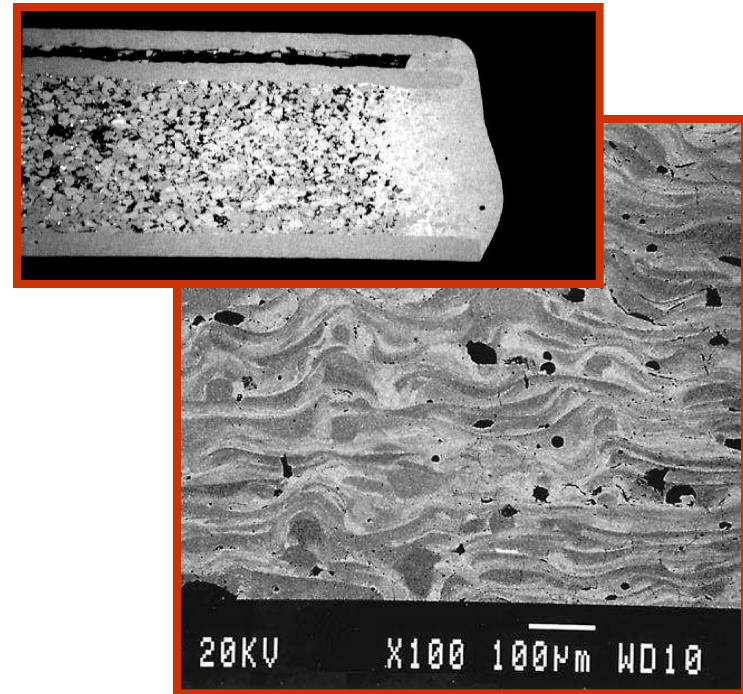
# Tecnar–NRC: A Long Term Collaboration

- LayerGauge
  - Invented and preliminary tests done at NRC
  - Discussions with Tecnar
  - R&D project signed to better define the concept (joint patent application) and develop an industrial prototype
- Keys of success
  - Trust
  - Technical skills
  - Market development strategy
  - Reasonable expectations



# SYNTHESARC – Reactive Cored Wires

- R&D contract with Québec Cartier Mining for developing an high temperature erosion resistant coating
- A highly successful project
- S. Dallaire decided to commercialize the technology and created a spin-off company, SYNTHESARC



- Incubated in our new CIMI facility
- NRC continues supporting the company through applied R&D projects





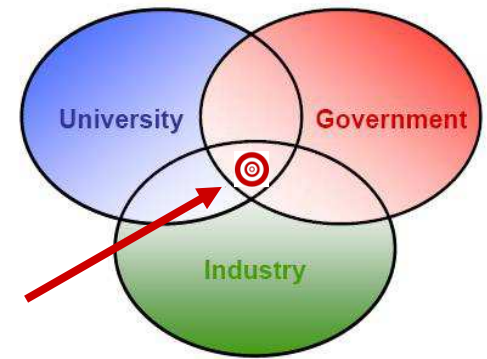
# Surftec – A Surface Technology Group

- Consortium of companies, Canadian universities and NRC labs
- Work on common research issues
- Research program established with the members
  - TBC systems
  - Particle diagnostics
  - Wear (process map)
- Information confidential for 2 years
- Confidential services

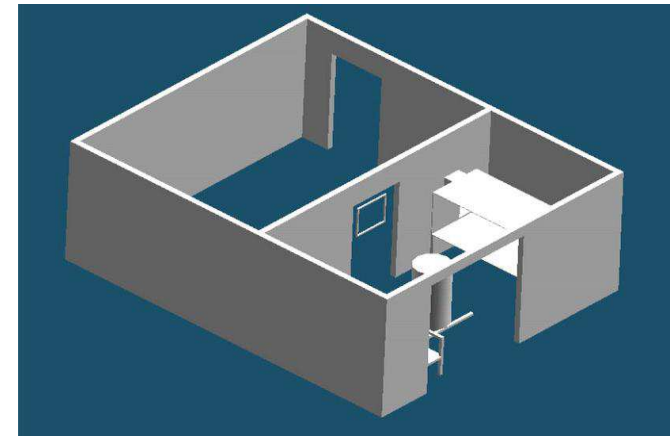
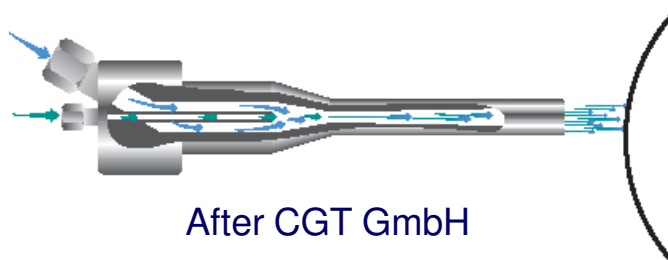
The group has been active for 10 years

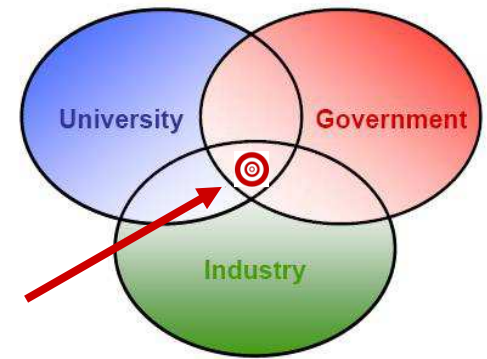


## U, G and I



- Creation of an Aerospace Materials & Alloy Development Center in collaboration with **McGill University** and **NRC**
  - EB-PVD, Cold Spray, Isothermal Vacuum Forging
- Installation of a fully integrated Cold Spray facility at IMI-NRC:
  - 2 commercial cold spray systems
  - Helium recovery system
  - Surface preparation by laser (Protal)
  - Optical diagnostics systems





- Development of technologies that can be commercialized by the growing aerospace industry in the Montreal region
- The research program will comprise:
  - Development of new materials processed by cold spraying
    - Super alloys
    - Nano dispersion reinforced super alloys
  - Cold spray forming and repair
    - Prototyping capabilities
    - Demonstration of the technology viability



# The Future

- Converging technologies
  - New technologies will be a blend of two or more disciplines, and advances in one field will enable advances in another
    - Nano-bio-opto-information technologies
  - Opportunities for more U-G-I collaborations
- Global challenges facing our societies
  - Energy
  - Environment
  - Health and wellness
    - aging population

# Journal of Thermal Spray Technology

**From the scientific to the practical— stay on top of advances in this fast-growing coating technology**



- Critically reviewed scientific papers and engineering articles combine the best of new research with the latest applications and problem solving
- Covers all fundamental and practical aspects of thermal spray science, including processes, feedstock manufacture, and testing and characterization
- Contains worldwide coverage of the latest research, products, equipment and process developments
- Includes technical note case studies from real-time applications and in-depth topical reviews
- Provides abstracts of recent technical literature with patents and critically reviewed scientific papers
- Covers industry news such as organizational changes and event listings



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# Science —at work for— Canada



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Canada 