



NSERC & Business School Research

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Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences
naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada

Outline

- **What's new at NSERC & Research Partnerships**
- **NSERC objectives and alignment with Business School Research**
- **Opportunities for multidisciplinary projects**
 - Existing grants
 - New opportunities





- **\$1.1 billion dollars**
- **30,500 post-secondary students and post-doctoral fellows**
- **11,300 professors**
- **3,000 Canadian companies**

“Making Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians”

What's new at NSERC

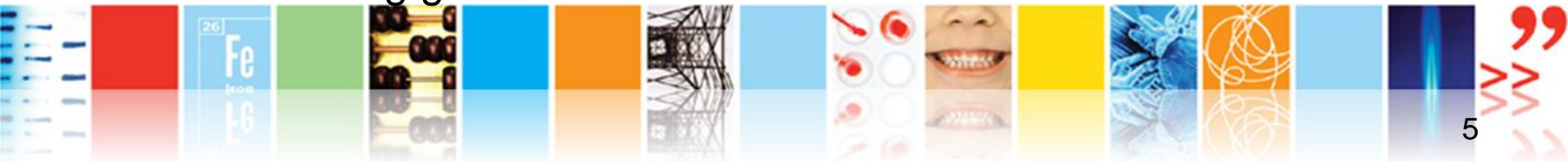


- **Arrival of new President: Dr. Mario Pinto**
- **New Science Technology & Innovation Strategy released**
- **NSERC 2020: Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020**
- **Success of the Strategy for Partnerships and Innovation (SPI)**

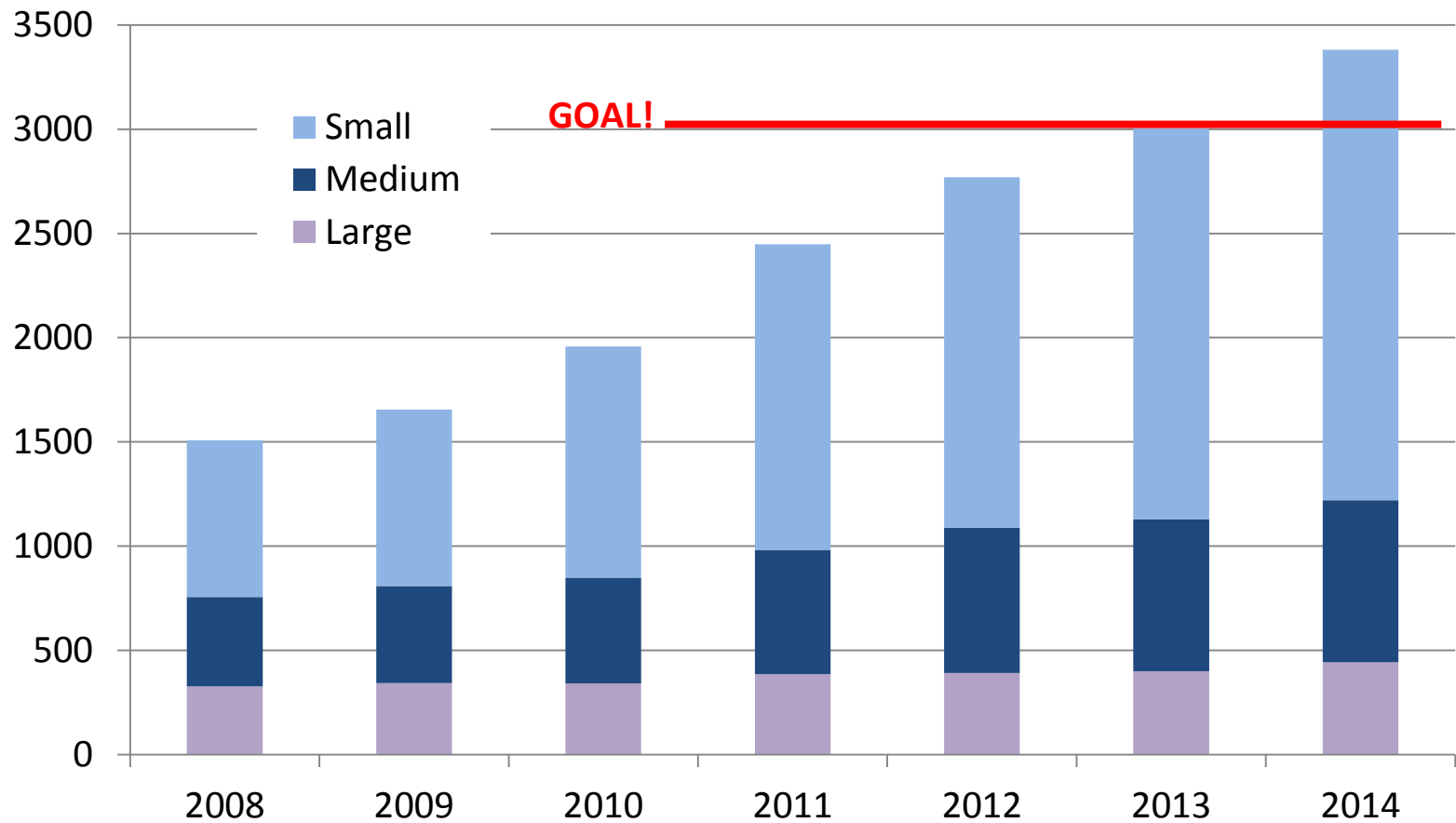


NSERC 2020

- **Vision for NSERC in 2020: “to be a global leader in strengthening the discovery-innovation continuum for the societal and economic benefit of Canada.”**
- **Our vision is founded on people, the lifeblood of discovery and innovation, and on achieving four strategic goals:**
 1. Fostering a science culture in Canada.
 2. Building a diversified and competitive research base through discovery research.
 3. Strengthening the discovery-innovation continuum.
 4. Going global.



Success of the Strategy for Partnerships & Innovation (SPI)



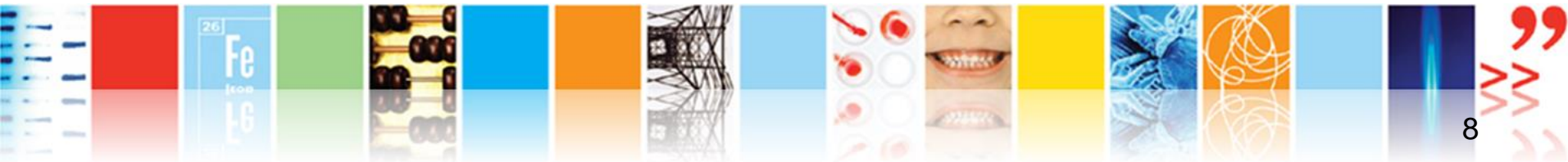
SPI Impacts for Students

- **Company hiring of students**
 - strongly influenced by **skills** students gained in the project
 - Also influenced by **knowing the students** in the project
- **An average of **10** students involved per (university) grant**
- **An average of **3.4** students were hired by industry (1.8 other orgs, 2 still in school)**



NSERC's Objectives

- **Better connect and apply the strengths of the post-secondary system to the needs of Canadian business for the benefit of Canadians**
 - How can NSERC increase this impact?
 - Synergies with Business School objectives?
 - Can we foster innovation and entrepreneurship skills through multidisciplinary projects?



NSERC's Refreshed Homepage





- Engage
- Collaborate
- Commercialize
- Celebrate

Collaborations with over 3,000 companies backed by a scalable and flexible set of programs. We connect industry with world-firsts in knowledge and the people behind them, fuelling R&D and leading to firsts in the marketplace.

Options for universities, colleges and industry to easily connect and start working together. No risk.

Scalable tools to meet industry needs. On-demand expertise, joint business-university and business-college/polytechnic research chairs, large-scale industrial collaborations. De-risk.

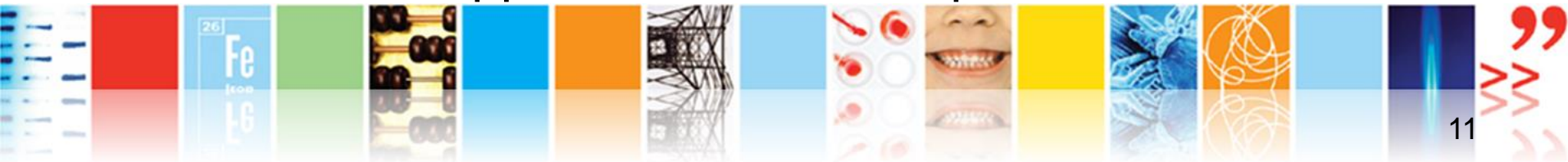
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Assistance to speed the path
for promising research.
Launch.

Recognition for inspiring and productive business-research partnerships. Promote.

Existing Opportunities for Multidisciplinary Projects with NSERC

- Opportunities exist today for researchers and students within the Business Schools
- Up to 30% of costs for Strategic Partnership Grants for networks and project – **BUT** we see few proposals.
 - Tends to be focused on socio-economics
 - Soft skills training for HQP (Mitacs)
 - Missed opportunities – start-ups?





Innovation / Collaborate /

Engage

Collaborate

Commercialize

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Collaborative R&D for Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities ▾

Collaborate to solve a specific, research-based industry problem.



Industrial Research Chairs for Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities ▾

Leverage dedicated senior-level expertise towards a major industrial challenge.



Strategic Partnerships with Universities ▾

Major industry-university collaborations focusing on sector-level challenges and opportunities. Can involve partnerships with different levels of Government.



Strategic Partnership Grants – Projects & Networks – new target areas

- New for the 2016-2020 competition cycle
- Based on the national priorities identified in *Seizing Canada's Moment: Moving Forward in Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I Strategy)*,
- A consultation process underway

Information &
Communications
Technologies

Environment &
Agriculture

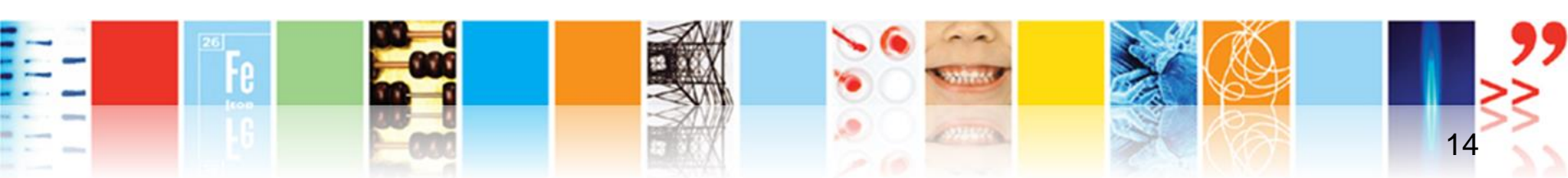
Advanced
Manufacturing

Natural Resources
& Energy



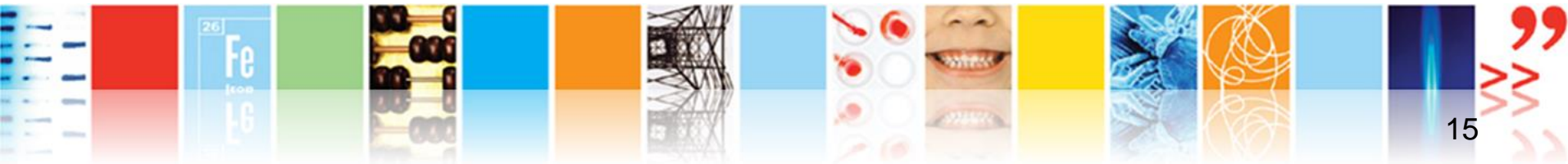
New Opportunities

- **Can we increase the innovation management skills of HQP?**
 - NSE students
 - Business students
- **How can Business Schools contribute more significantly to the understanding of the Canadian system of innovation?**
 - Develop Entrepreneurs?



New Opportunities – con't

- **What would a NSE/Business School multidisciplinary project look like?**
- **Can we create new opportunities for Business School students and NSE students in parallel?**
- **Would industry partners be interested?**





Innovation / Collaborate /

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CRD

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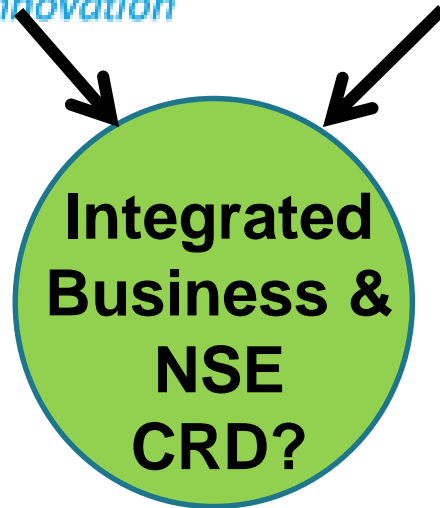
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Mitacs
Inspiring innovation
Inspirer l'innovation



**NSERC
CRSNG**



- ✓ 30,500 graduate students & PDFs
- ✓ 3,000 Canadian companies

“Making Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians”



Questions?

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Advantages of a CRD Project

Flexible Mechanism Supporting Industry-Driven Collaborative Projects

- Breadth of R&D Spectrum (research challenge required)
- Apply at any time – no competition, no deadlines
- Defined projects with milestones and deliverables – 1-5 years duration
 - Apply your expertise to an industrial problem
 - Give your students experience solving an industrial problem
 - Access to interesting problems, proprietary data and materials
- Success Rate of about 85% - merit based
- Projects vary from \$10k/yr to \$1million/yr

