

Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS)

Additional Information for the Senate Economics References Committee – Inquiry into Australia’s Innovation System

ARMS presented at the Inquiry in Melbourne on Monday 3rd August 2015 and agreed to provide the Committee with more information in regards to point B) of our submission, *regarding the Canadian Model where funding is provided to industry if they collaborate with higher education and research organizations.*

ARMS trusts that the following information will be of value to the Committee.

National Research Council Canada: Industrial Research Assistance Program

The Canadian Government believes that to fully take advantage of Canada’s investments in research and development, **businesses must be able to bridge the innovation gap by forging stronger linkages with post-secondary institutions** to access new knowledge and skills, and transform them into a competitive advantage.

Research and development funding is therefore provided to *industry for collaboration with universities*. The research initiatives and topics are industry driven.

In brief:

Regarded worldwide as one of the best programs of its kind, National Research Council’s Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) is a cornerstone of Canada’s innovation system. In response to the Jenkins Panel recommendation, Economic Action Plan 2013 proposed to provide \$20 million over three years for a new pilot program to be delivered through NRC-IRAP.

The pilot program will enable hundreds of Canadian companies to commercialize their products and services more quickly and effectively by **providing them with credit notes to help pay for research, technology and business development services at universities, colleges and other not-for-profit research institutions of their choice.**

Evidence suggests that these initiatives can be effective in promoting more collaborative projects involving businesses and research institutions.

Economic Action Plan 2012 provided an additional \$110 million in annual ongoing funding to NRC-IRAP to double its support for Canadian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and to expand the services of its industrial technology advisors (ITA). It was also announced that the National Research Council of Canada would be responsible for creating a concierge service that will provide information and assistance to firms to help them make effective use of federal innovation programs. - See more at: <http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/irap/index.html>

The National Research Council Canada link <http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/irap/index.html> provides more details about the programs, concierge services, eligibility and other information.