



# Rensselaer

## University-Industry Partnership for Next Generation Manufacturing

**John Wen**

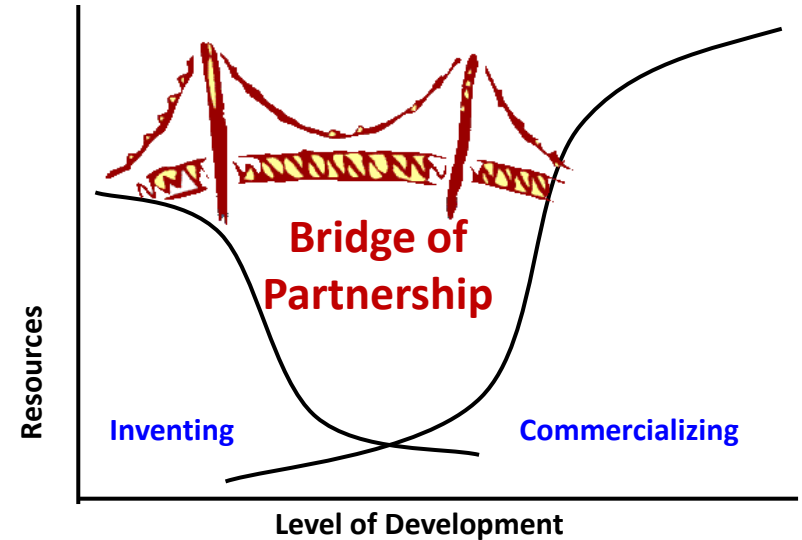
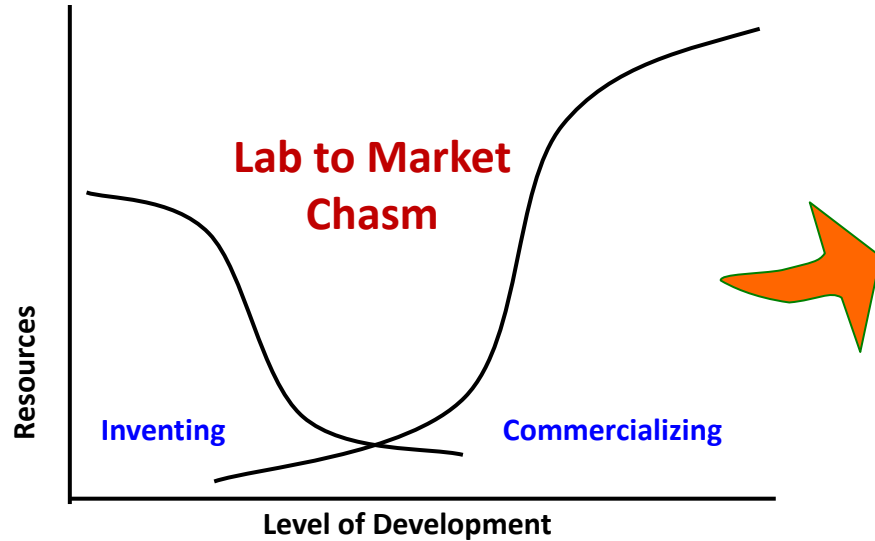
Director, Center for Automation Technologies and Systems (CATS)

Professor, Electrical, Computer, & Systems Eng. (ECSE)

Professor, Mechanical, Aerospace, & Nuclear Eng. (MANE)

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# Key Challenge: From Discovery to Scale-Up

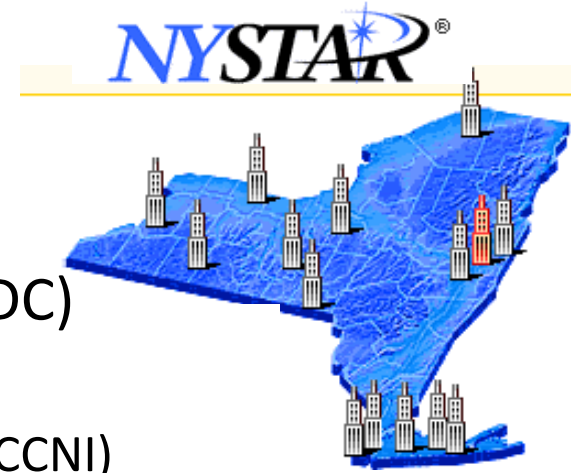


**Industrial-academic-  
government partnership**

# A Successful Example: NYSTAR

Empire State Development Division of Science,  
Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR)

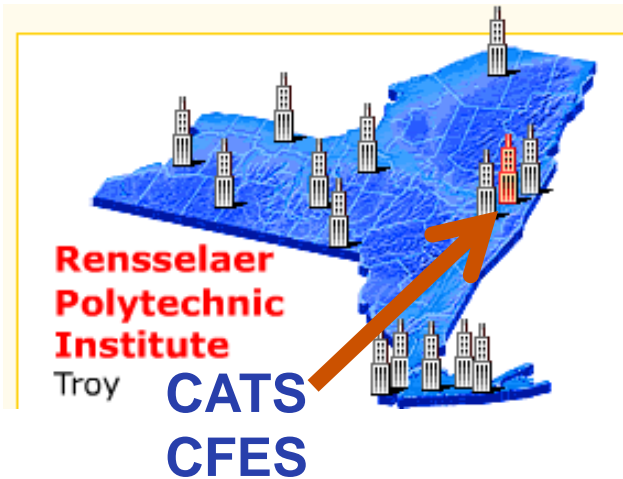
- Center for Advanced Technology (CAT)
- Regional Technology Development Center (RTDC)
- High Performance Computing (HPC): RPI's  
Computational Center for Nanotechnology Innovation (CCNI)



CAT Program: Industrially-driven research leading to measurable economic impact

- Annual baseline funding with industrial match requirement
- Renewable ten-year designation
- Annual economic impact reporting
- Since 2000 → over \$5B economic impact

# CATS: the Automation CAT

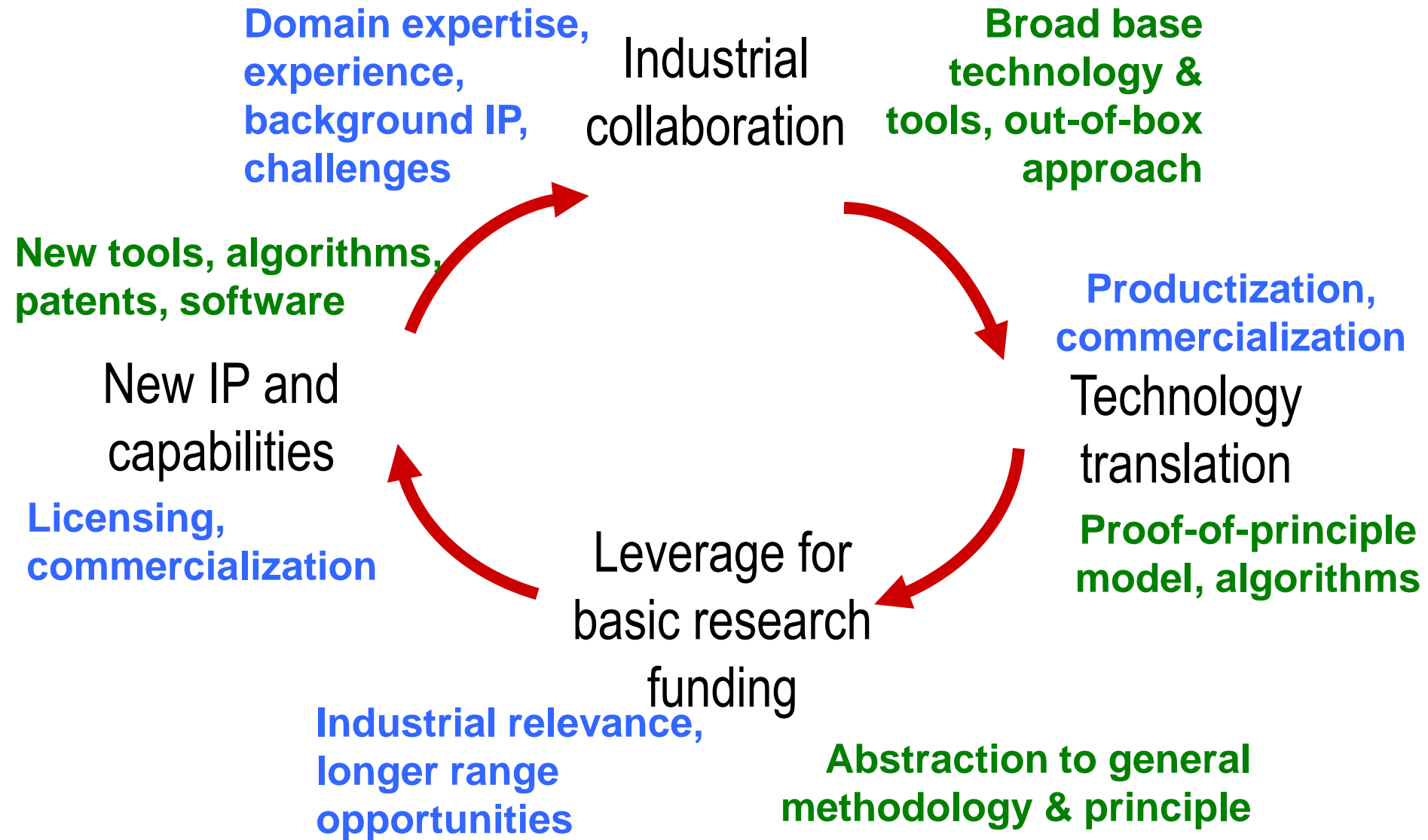


- 50 faculty, 40 students in 9 depts
- 5 research staff + biz dev staff
- NYS metric: economic impact.  
FY 12: \$45M revenue 45 new jobs
- Dedicated infrastructure and support



**How to balance applied research  
and company-specific focus with  
basic research for fundamental  
discovery?**

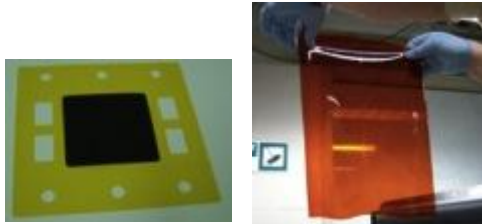
# Our Approach: Cycle of Partnership





# Example: Fuel Cell

## Concept to Production to Systems



Concept

**PEMEAS**  
Fuel Cell Technologies



Prototype

**UTC Power**  
A United Technologies Company



Production

**PMD**  
PROGRESSIVE MACHINE & DESIGN



Systems level  
modeling and control



Leveraging for  
Research Support



New Technology  
Expanded Projects

**SONO•TEK**



**BASF**  
The Chemical Company

**NYSERDA**



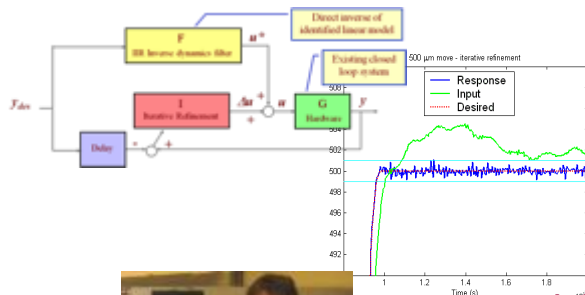
# Example: Active Optics



Company  
Specific  
Problem



## Problem Solving to New Product & Research



High Impact  
Solution

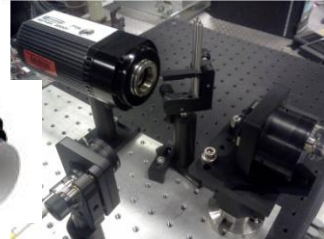
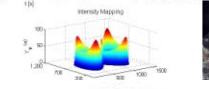
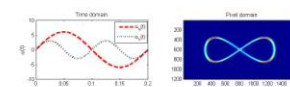
Joint publication, patent



Leveraging for  
Research Support



New Research Directions



**THORLABS**



New Technology/IP,  
Licensing, and Award

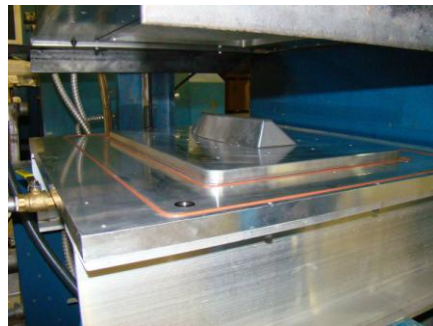


# Example: Composites

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**



Company Specific  
Need: composites  
forming

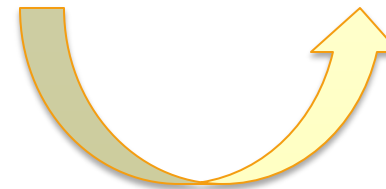


Joint development:  
double diaphragm  
forming

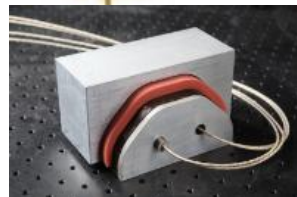


## Specific Needs to New Collaboration

New Research  
Collaborations



Leveraging for  
Research Support



**AUTOMATED DYNAMICS**  
BUILD • SMARTER



# Challenges

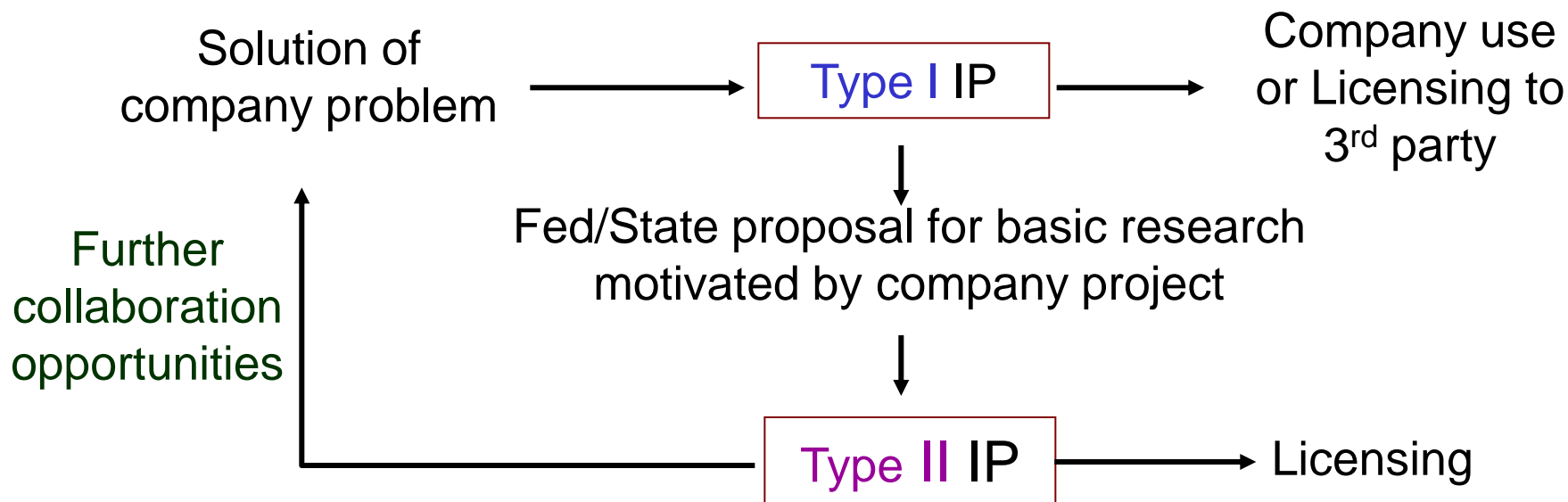
- Intellectual property
- Continuity of expertise and infrastructure
- Industry vs. university timeline
- Multi-disciplinary team

# Recognizing Value of IP

**Type I IP: Company brings domain expertise, problem specification, background IP to address specific problem.**

**Type II IP: University led IP generation through internal, government, or industry funding.**

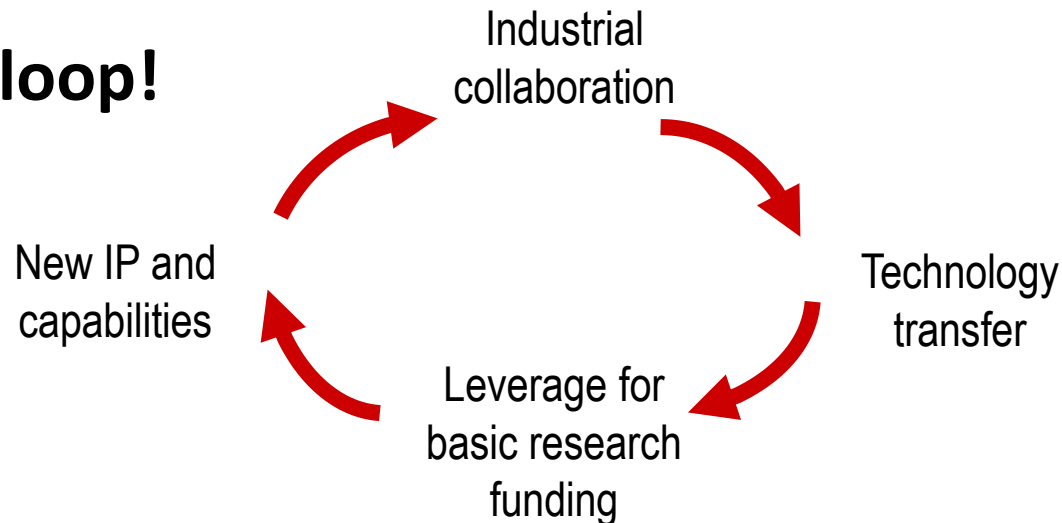
**Academia/University Collaboration: Transform Type I IP to Type II IP**



# Lesson Learned

- IP navigation (needs the EASY button!)
- Sustained long term base funding
- Research staff: project management
- Quantifiable outcome
- Skin in the game: matching fund, reduced overhead rate
- Multi-disciplinary team: research enterprises within university, partner external organizations – avoid zero-sum mentality!

## Close the loop!



# Opportunity to Build Partnership

## First Annual CATS/CEG Advanced Manufacturing Conference

April 16-17, Troy Hilton Garden Inn

**Keynote:** Dr. Patrick Gallagher, Director of National Institute of Standards and Technology and Under Secretary of Commerce of Standards and Technology

- Solution Fair
- CEO Round Table
- Biomimicry and Energy
- Poster Session
- Technical and Business Tracks:
  - Smart Manufacturing
  - Energy Systems
  - Supply Chain Management
  - Small/Medium-Size Enterprise Funding
  - ...

