NSERC DRIVES
INNOVATION

We have a proven track record of creating industry-research partnerships grounded in advanced and applied research produced by an NSERC-funded brain trust. Collaborations boost private-sector R&D and commercialization by validating and de-risking new ideas essential to innovation. SMEs use partnerships to scale-up. Established companies access disruptive ideas necessary for new growth. Students get industry experience and business skills, and industry gains new talent. Insights from the innovation process inform future discovery-based research.

NSERC Programs Reverse the Trend

-1.1%

Canadian business investment in R&D (2005–2015)

+115%

Business investment in NSERC-led partnership programs (2005–2015)

NSERC Advantage

Validated Expertise
Quality assurance through scientific and business merit review, completed within short timelines.

Toolbox, Not a Tool
Flexible, scalable set of interconnected programs: short-, medium- and long-term collaborations, and access via universities and/or colleges and polytechnics.

Sector Expertise
Expert NSERC understanding of key sectors (ICT, Manufacturing, Natural Resources, Energy), and engagement with leading companies and industry associations within sectors.

Community-Level Convening
Experienced advisors across Canada convene partnerships that strengthen regional clusters.

Facts

$200M
in annual co-investment by 3,600 industry partners in NSERC-led programs

27%
of NSERC-supported professors have a partnership with industry

1,900
new products in development over the past five years as a result of R&D activity triggered by NSERC-partnered programs

10,000
students trained each year in industrial settings

1 in 3
companies hire a student trained under NSERC partnership programs

16,000
attendees in 2015-16 at regional partnership-building workshops, strong industry demand for academic research (43% of attendees from business sector, 28% academic)

97%
of companies that have used NSERC's partnership programs would recommend them to others

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada