



NEWS MEDIA CONTACT

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Researchers Meet Partners for Collaborative R&D at Innovative Workshop

A first-of-its-kind workshop held in Baltimore on December 2, 2004, helped researchers find partners for future collaborative projects. The Chemical Industry Vision2020 Technology Partnership (Vision2020) and the Council for Chemical Research (CCR) sponsored the unique *Workshop to Identify Research Collaborations* near the BWI Airport. The event brought together 92 technical experts with similar interests from industry, universities, and national laboratories. At this one-day event, participants proposed R&D projects and potential collaborators identified projects of interest. Informal discussions were held to scope out the potential of working together. The workshop focused on funding opportunities with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Finding partners with the right skills and experience is one of the biggest obstacles to creating strategic research alliances in the chemical industry today. "We created the environment and the collaborators found each other," said Jack Solomon, chair of Vision2020. "The workshop was outrageously successful. Companies were able to find partners for real needs without disclosing proprietary details." Some of these partnerships will submit proposals to DOE and NSF.

Program managers from DOE and NSF presented their research focus areas and identified available funding in four areas: alternative energy production, storage and transmission; alternative fossil based feedstocks and chemistries; energy efficient process alternatives; and energy conversion. Vision2020 and CCR will host the second collaboration workshop in Pittsburg, Penna., as part of CCR's Spring Meeting, April 12 and 13, 2005. Participation is open to anyone who would like to attend.

R&D collaboration helps to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the U.S. chemical industry. Vision2020's goal is to accelerate innovation and technology development by leveraging financial and technical resources. Visit our website at <http://www.chemicalvision2020.org/collaboration.html>. Vision2020 members include Air Products and Chemicals, BP, Cargill, Ciba Specialty Chemicals, Dow Chemical Company, Eastman Chemical Company, Honeywell International Inc., E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, General Electric Company, Praxair Inc., Rohm and Haas Company, Shell, Solutia, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Materials technology Institute Inc., and CCR.