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# Towards a workable and effective climate policy: a focus on innovation policies

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The Moller Centre, Churchill College  
Cambridge, UK

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# Getting to Net Zero will require major change across all sectors..

Power

Transport

Buildings

Industry

AFOLU

1. Accelerated deployment of net-zero or less-carbon intensive technologies we have today (considering co-benefits, possible trade-offs...)
2. Individual action to shift to lower-carbon or net-zero alternatives and reduce waste
3. **Development and deployment of technologies that are not yet available**

# 1. The role of governments in innovation in the energy sector

# Government policy has played an important role in innovation in energy technologies for many reasons

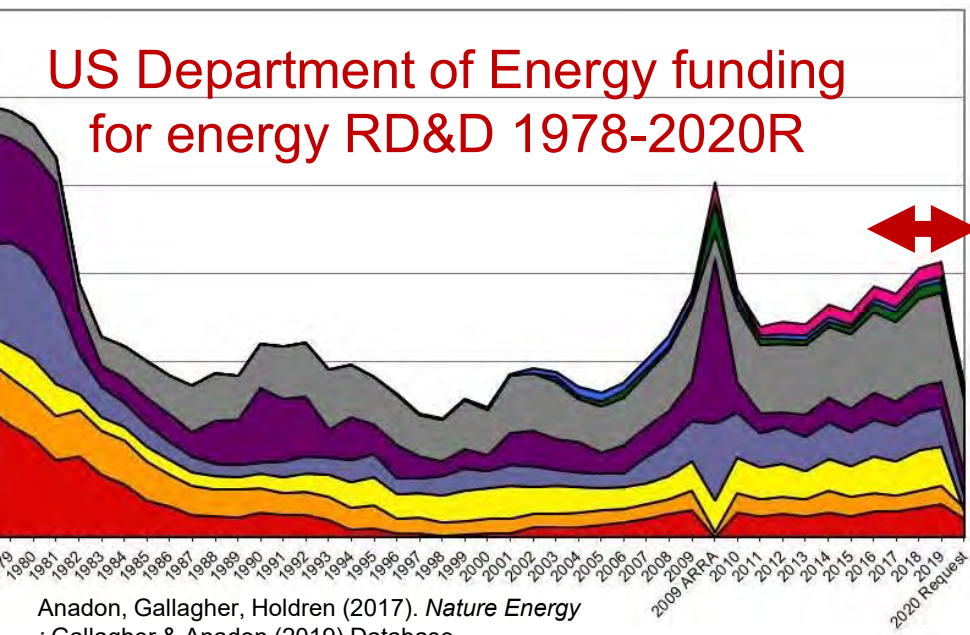
Government policies (tech push and market pull) have played historically a key role in energy



# here is relative consensus on the value of energy RD&D



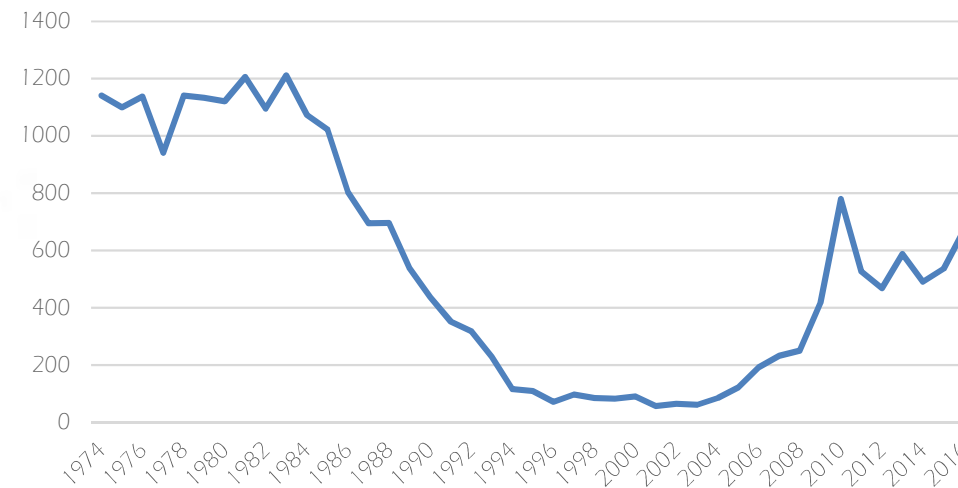
## US Department of Energy funding for energy RD&D 1978-2020R



Anadon, Gallagher, Holdren (2017). *Nature Energy*  
; Gallagher & Anadon (2019) Database

- ARPA-E
- Hydrogen (EERE)
- Electricity T&D
- Basic Energy Sciences
- Fossil including CCT demo
- Renewables
- Efficiency
- Fusion
- Fission

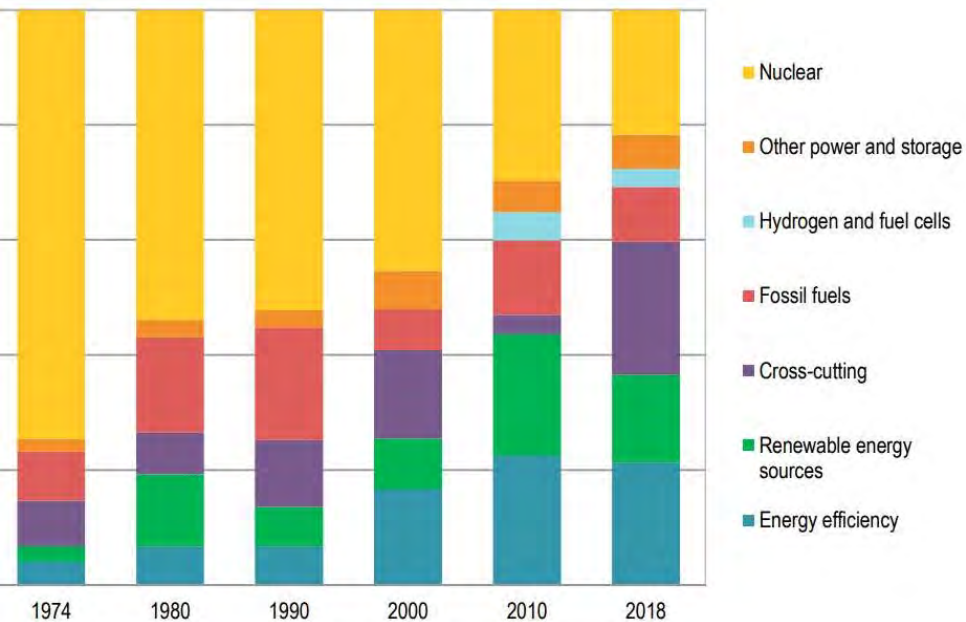
## Total UK public energy RD&D [million US 2018]



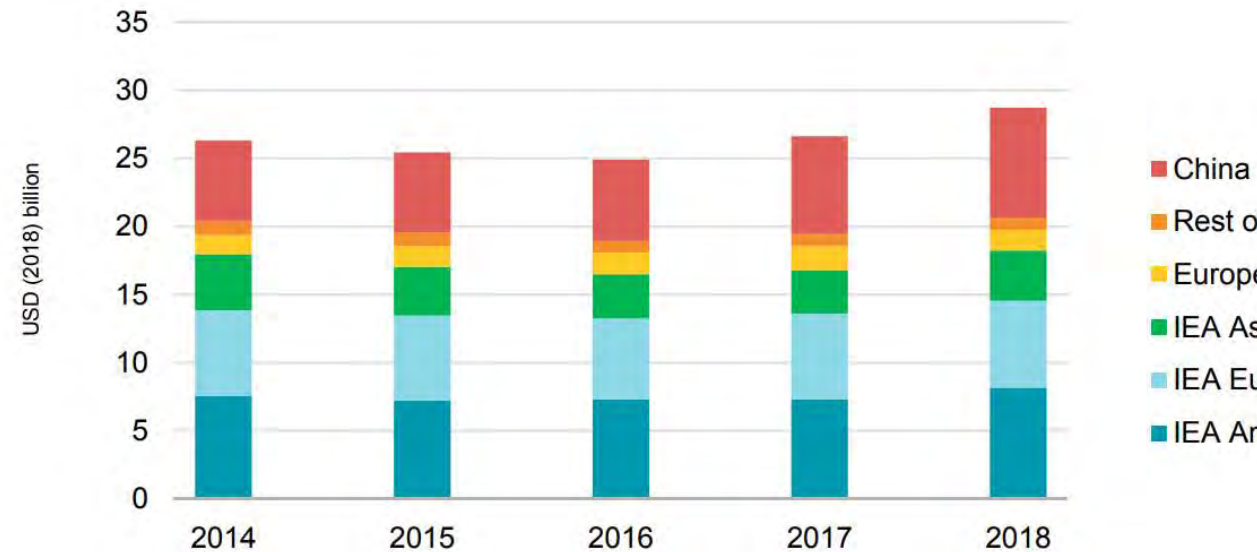
IEA (2019)

# The focus of public energy RD&D investments has changed

Public energy R&D by technology of Member Countries (1974-2018)



Global public energy RD&D budget by region/country (2014-2018)

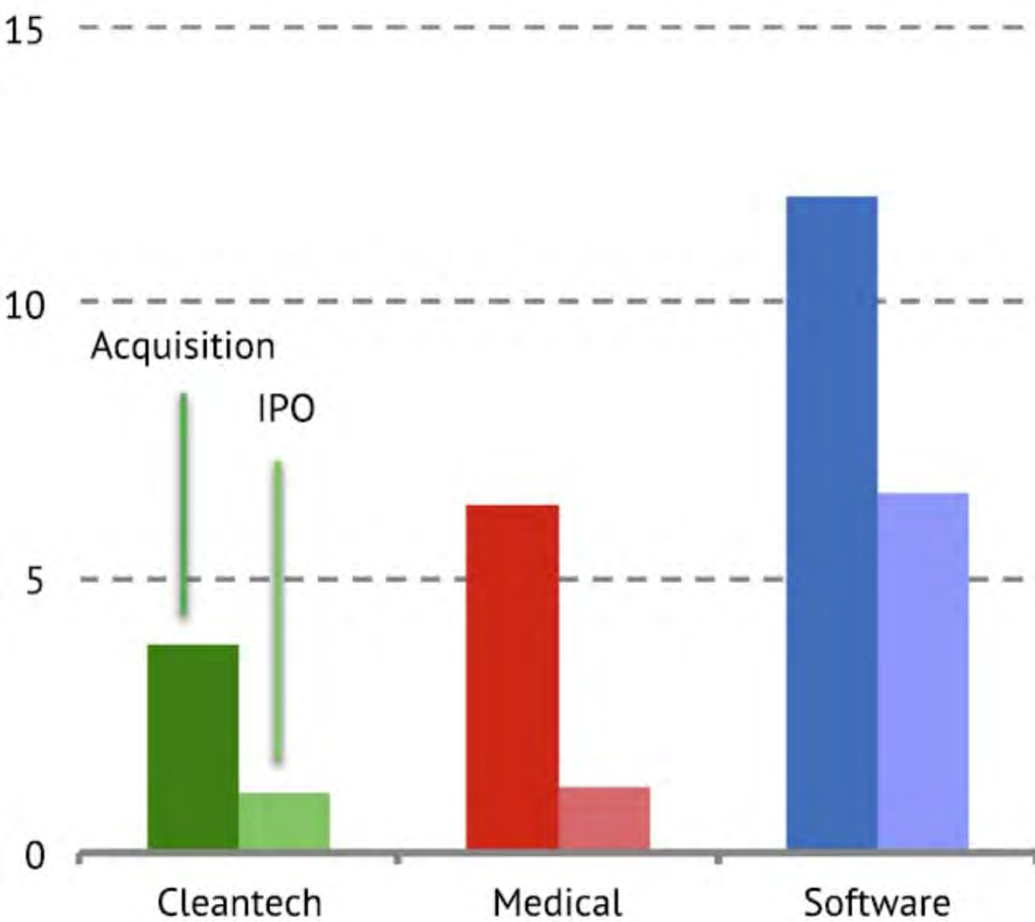


- Increase in public energy RD&D since Mission Innovation, especially from China

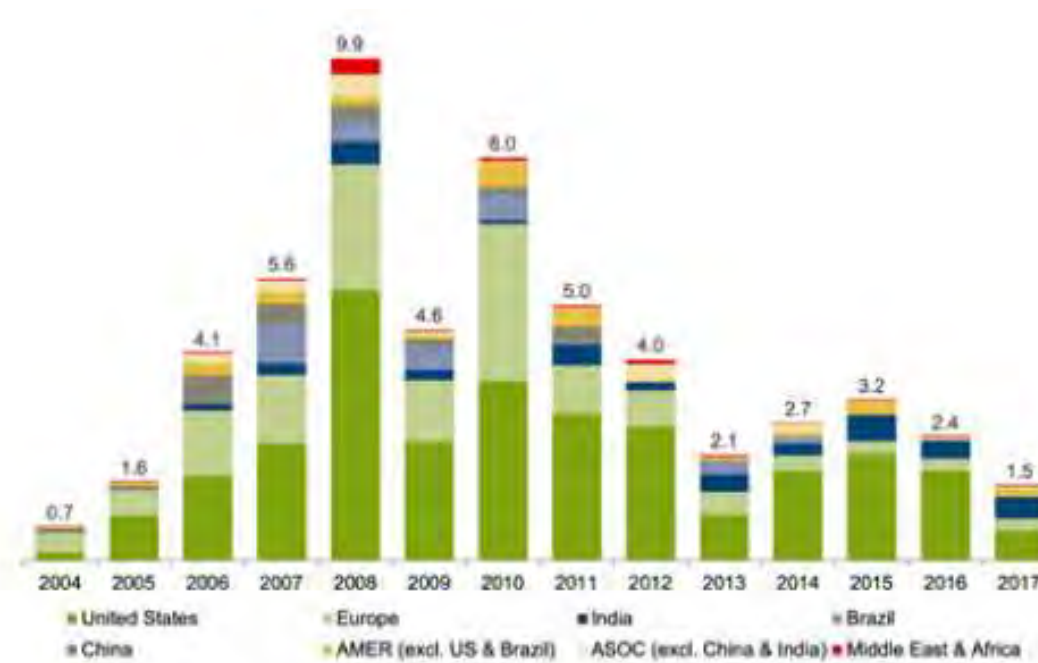


# Exit outcomes of US cleantech VC investments vs other sectors (2004-2014)

% of companies receiving A-round that exited through an IPO or acquisition



VC/PE investment in renewable energy by region (2004-2018) \$BN



Source: UN Environment, Frankfurt School-UNEP Centre, BloombergNEF

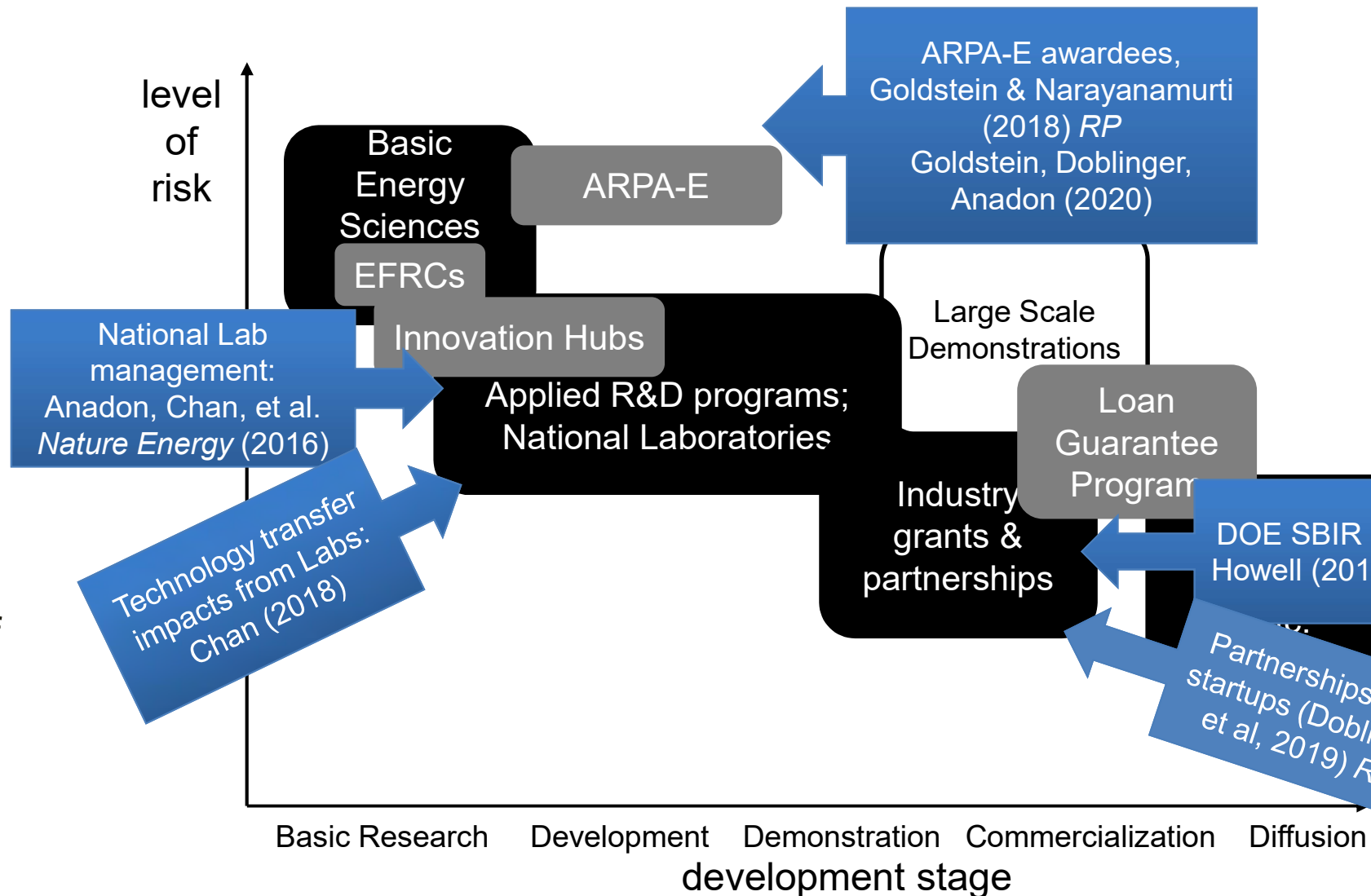


## 2. Public energy R&D in the US

# Evidence on the impact of different US public energy innovation institutions

Data has starting to become available to learn about short- to médium term **outputs** (*dependent variables*), *i.e. firm-level publications, patents, follow on funding, survival*

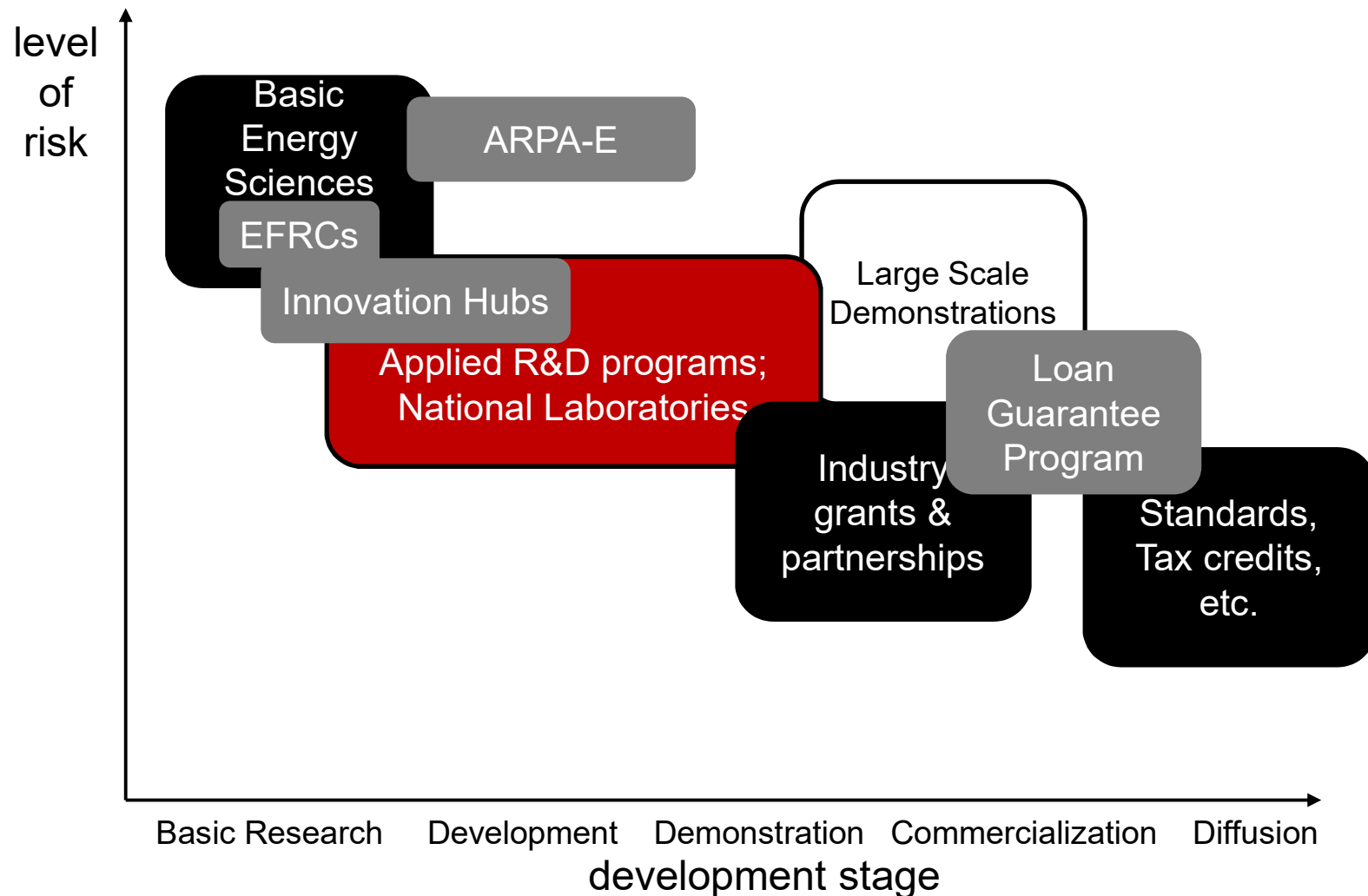
we have some sense of what works, at least in the short- to medium-term



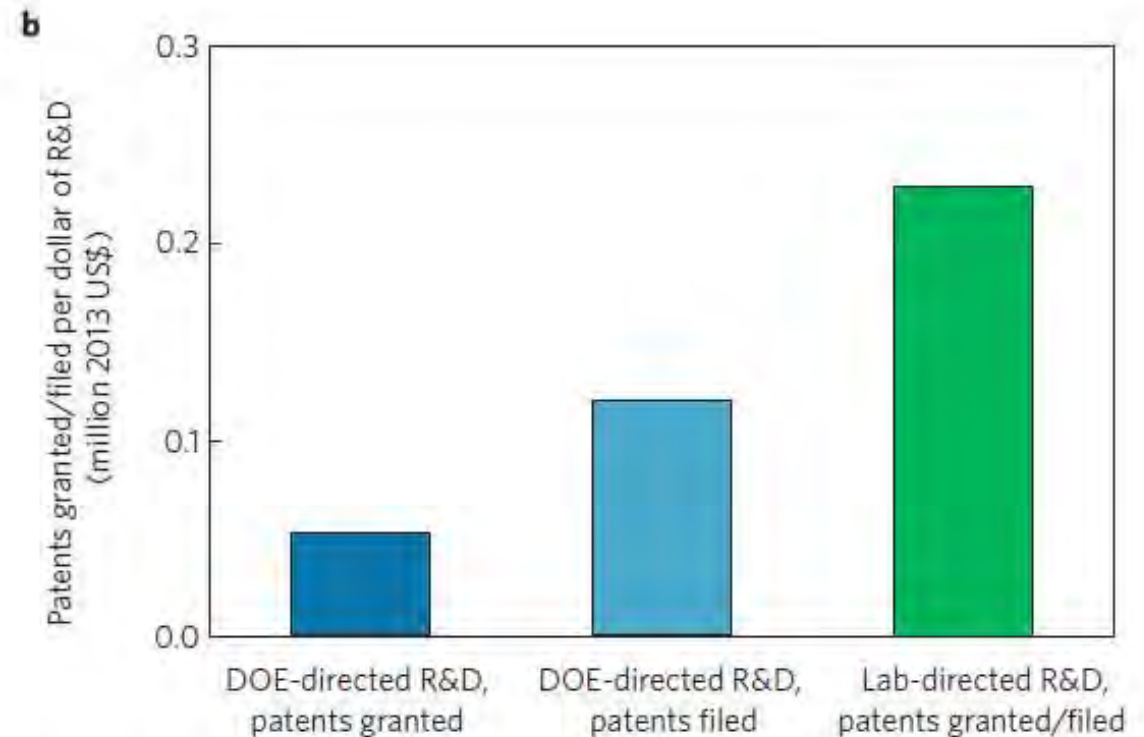
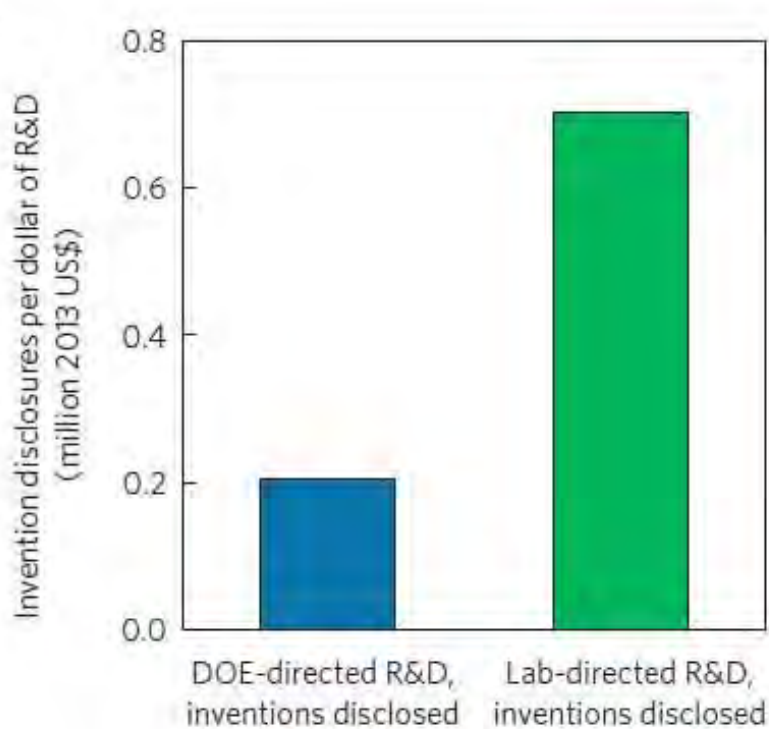
# US National Labs

In over 68 countries, national labs conduct at least 30% of all R&D in the country

Research combining public expenditure data for different funding types and technology transfer outputs (patents, disclosures, licenses) on about \$2 billion of public funding for Labs



# Lab-controlled funds are more productive than centrally controlled funds (at the margin) in terms of tech transfer

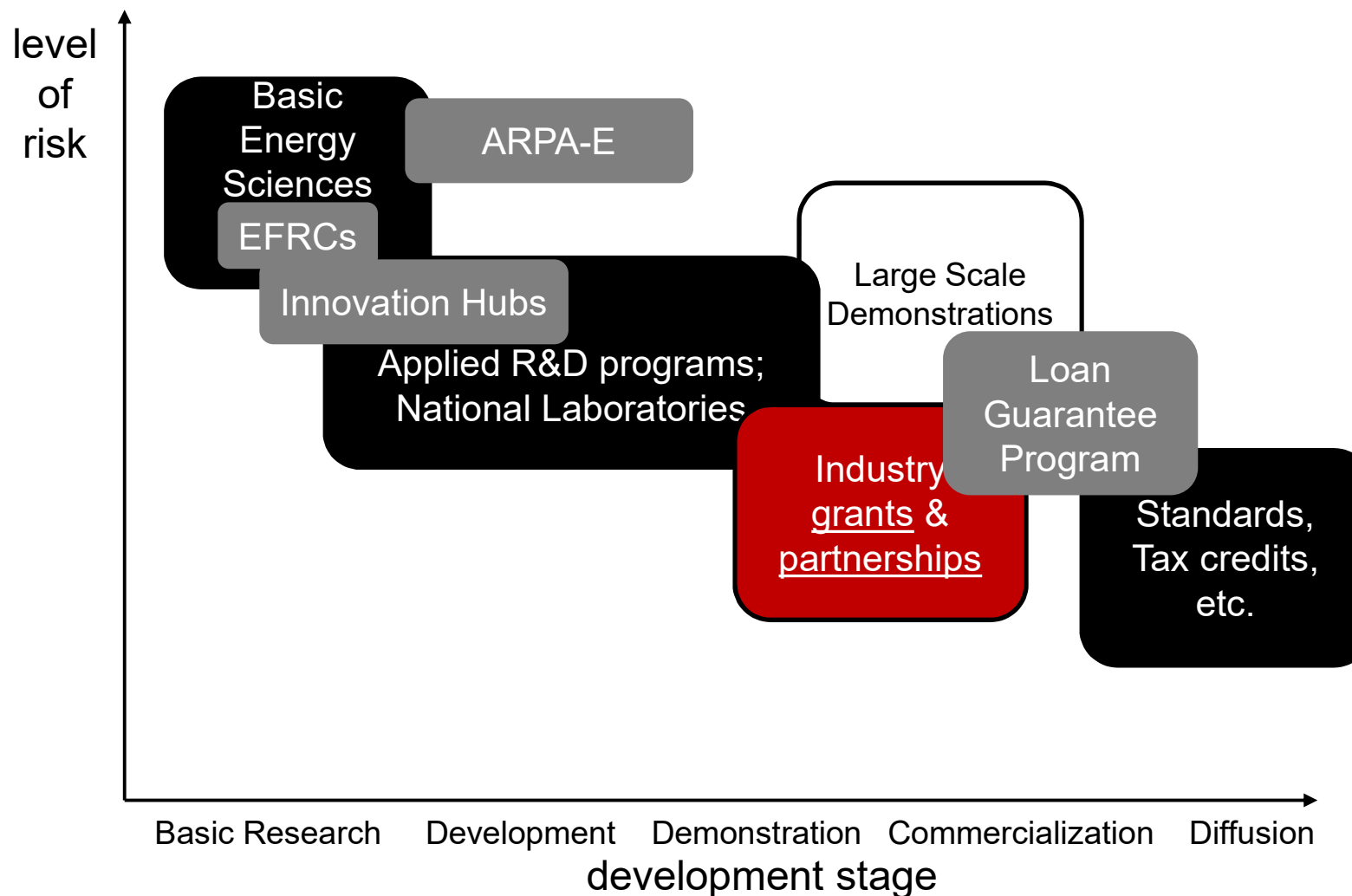


- Lab directed funds (**green**) have decreased twice recently but are the most productive than those centrally controlled (**blue**)

# Alliances (joint development, licensing, procurement) between public institutions (e.g., labs) and cleantech startups

Recommendation from the (mainly qualitative) literature to date was (approximately): collaborate as much with as many diverse partners as possible or “Don’t Go At It Alone” Baum et al., (2000, p. 267)

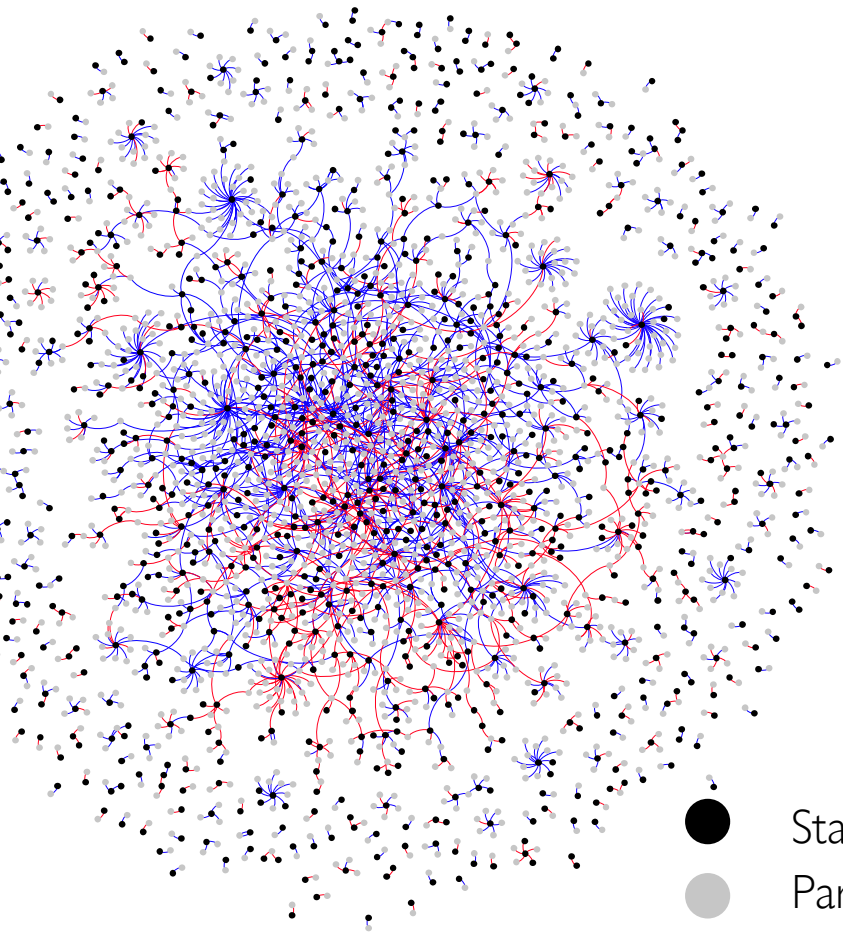
What if startups cannot collaborate with everyone: Who holds the critical technological resources in cleantech innovation?



# US cleantech startup alliance network overview

All partners and partnerships

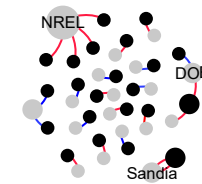
Closer look at govnm't partne



- Startups
- Partners
- Technology-based relationship
- Market-based relationship

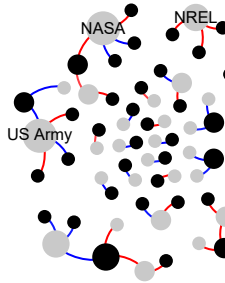
*Startup – Government*

2009



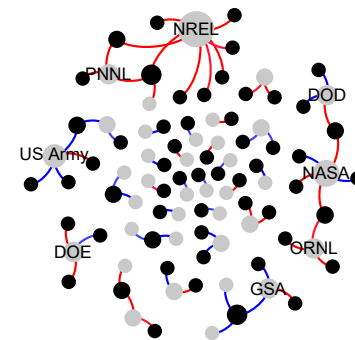
*Startup – Government*

2010



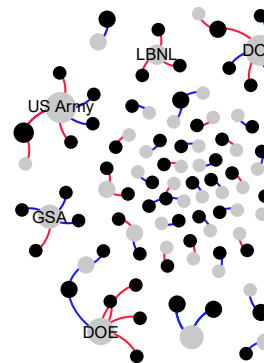
*Startup – Government*

2011

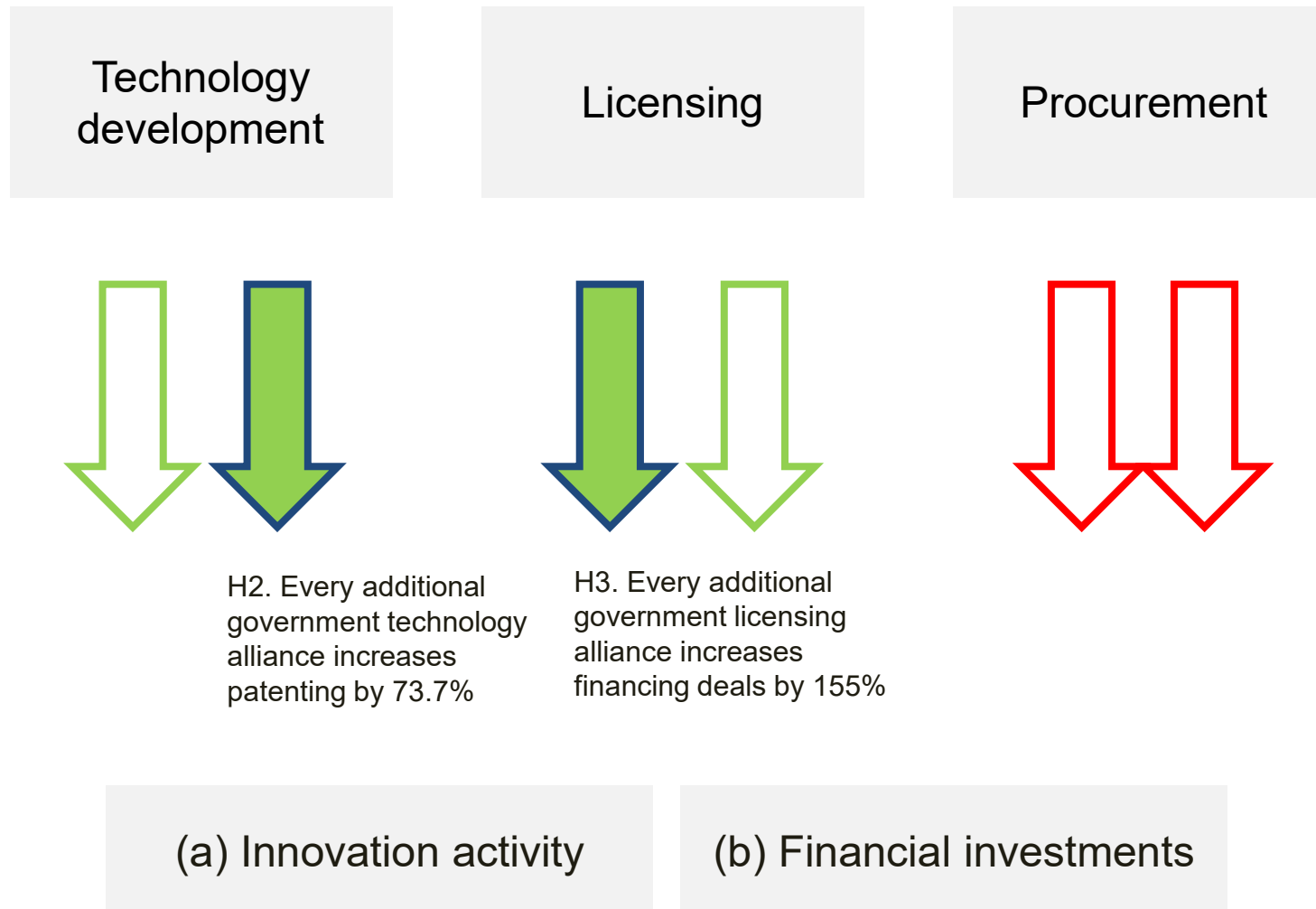


*Startup – Government*

2012



# Direction and significance of relationship between cleantech startup-government collaborations and outcomes

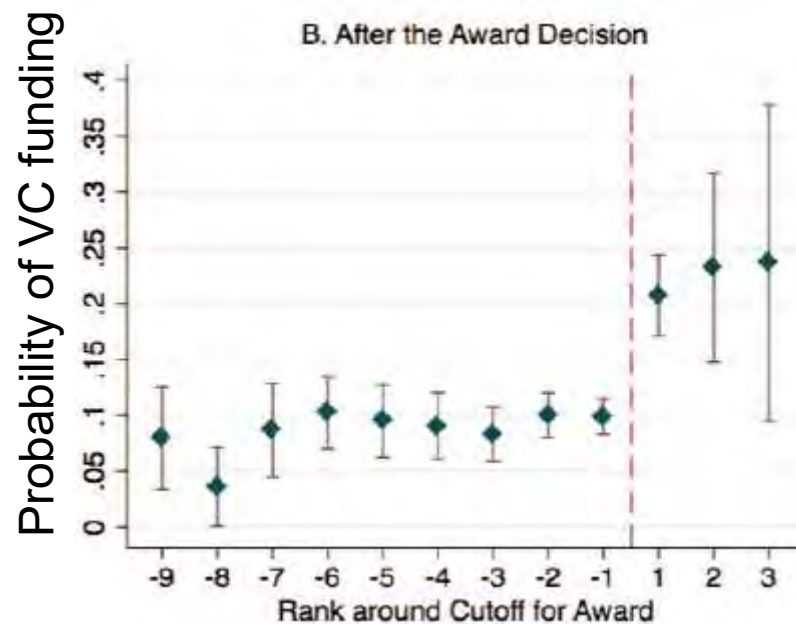
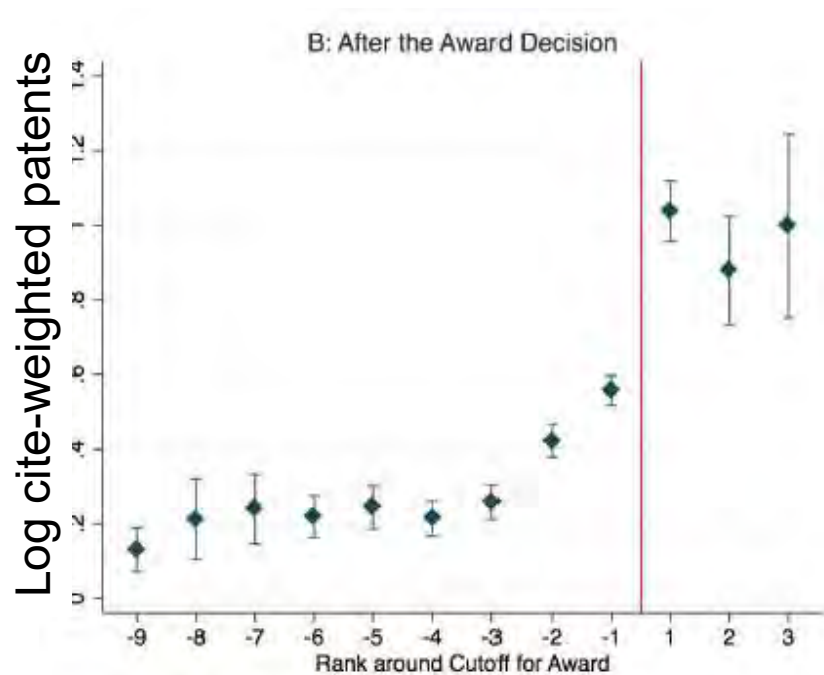


*Negative Binomial  
Regressions, in  
Instrumental Variable  
Approach*

# Consistent with results from research on the U.S. Department of Energy R&D grants to small businesses

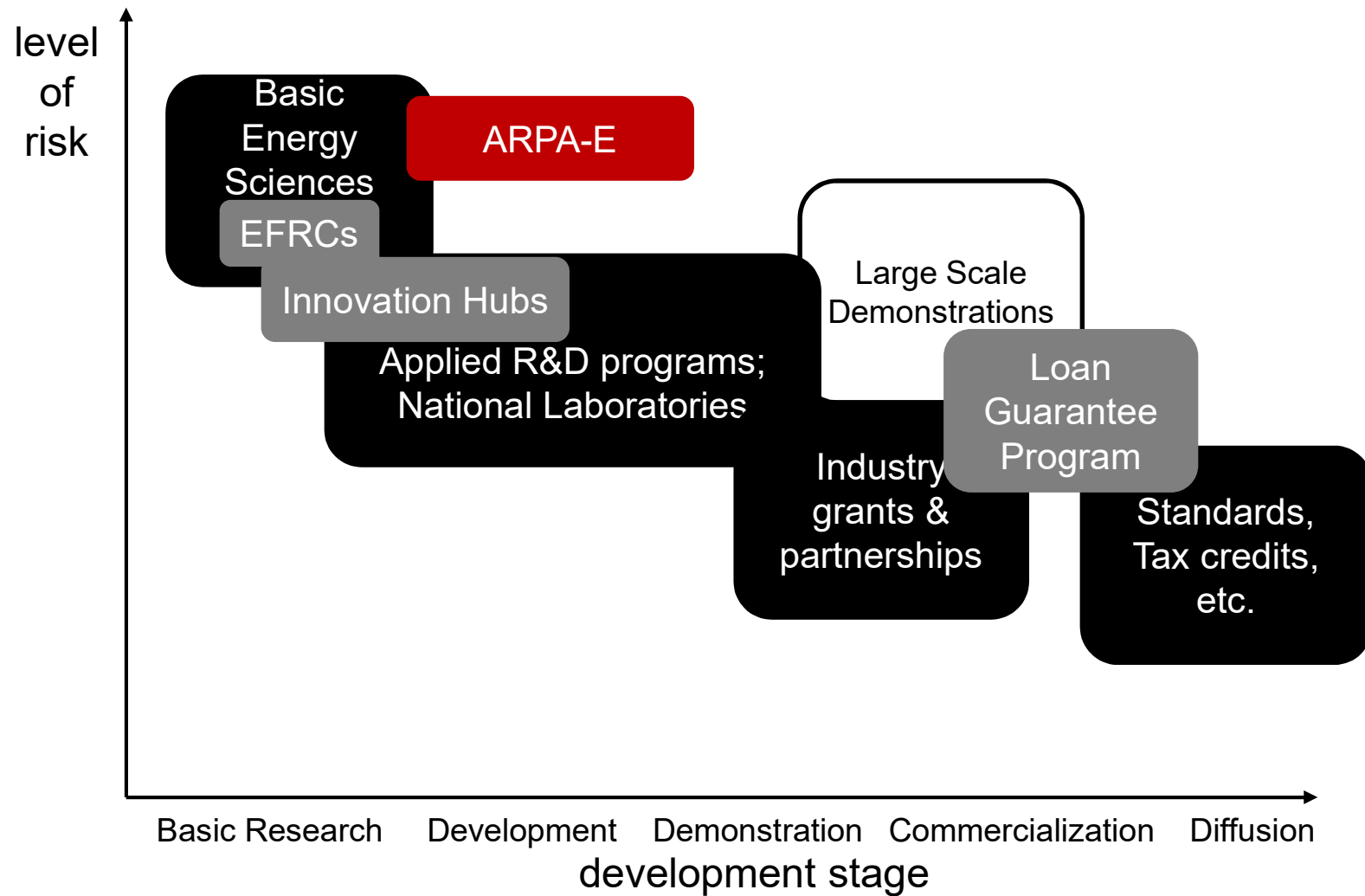
Analysis of U.S. DOE Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant recipients over 2 years

- Award doubles probability that a firm receives subsequent VC and has large, positive impacts on patenting and commercialization

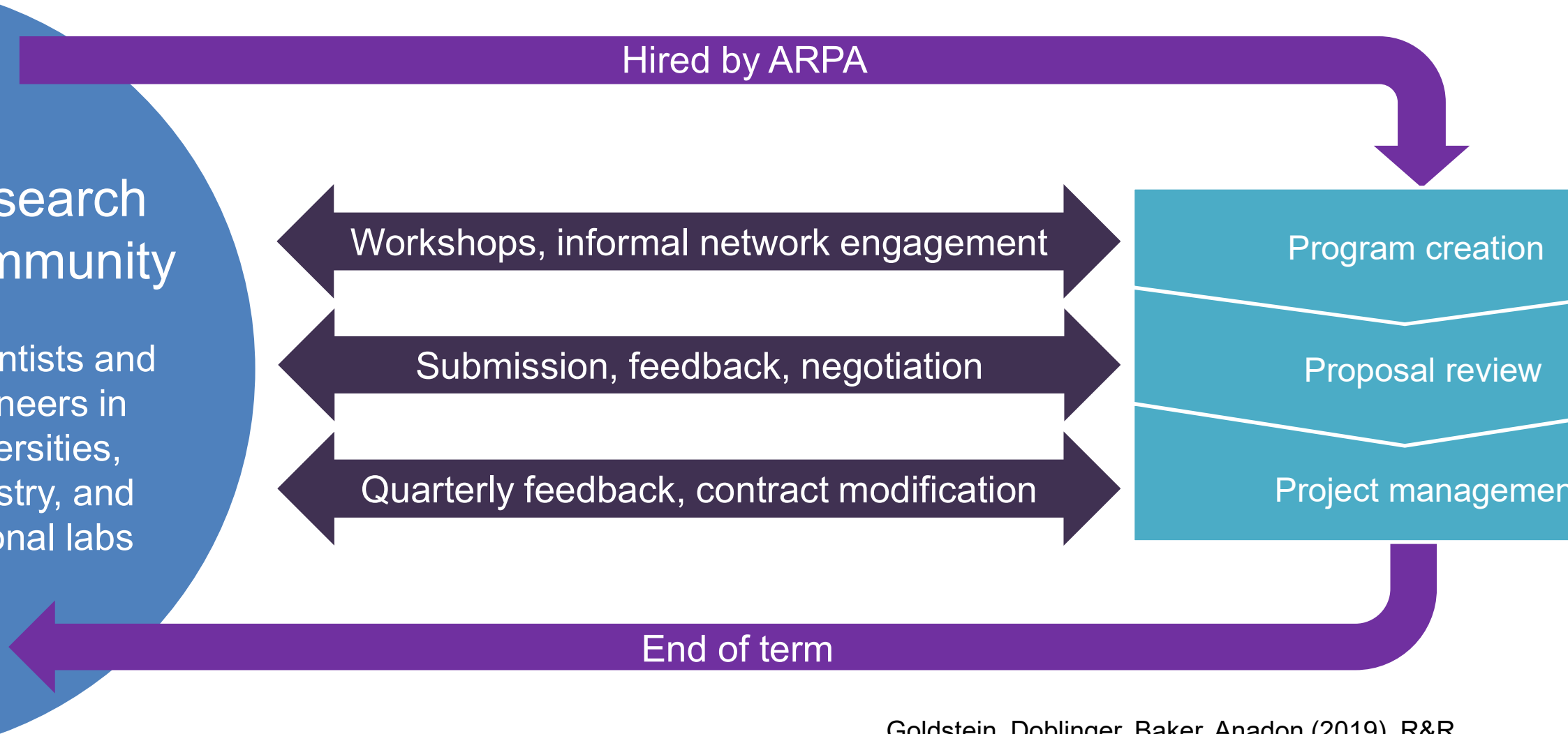




# Actively managed R&D funding organizations: ARPA-E



# ARPA-E program management



## ARPA-E research question

~~Does ARPA-style funding *improve* outcomes for startups?~~

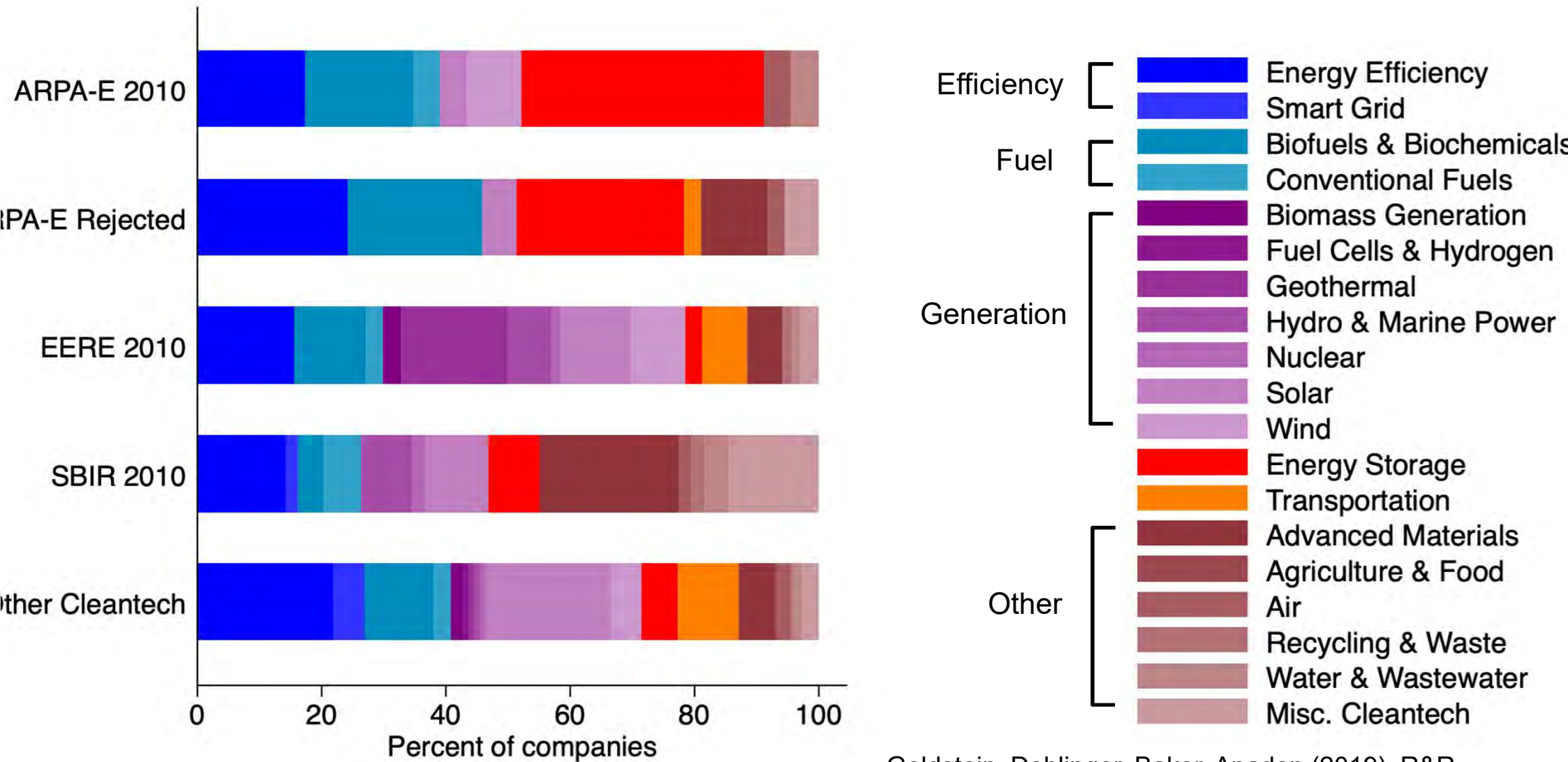
**Does ARPA-style funding advance technology more than other types of funding?**

- ❖ Allows for the possibility of selection and/or treatment
- ❖ Aligns with the goal of the agency, which is to overcome long-term technological barriers

**Enhanced patenting for US cleantech startups post-ARPA-E:  
result robust to all specifications**

**ARPA-E awardees receive more post VC funding, although the  
effect not significant when conducting the statistical analysis**

# ARPA-E allocated funding to a different range of technologies compared to other programs and the universe of startups



Goldstein, Doblinger, Baker, Anadon (2019). R&R

### 3. Public energy innovation institutions in the UK

# UK institutional innovation on public energy R&D

**\$:** provision of funds  
**circles:** direct private sector involvement in decision-making;  
**house:** creation of new entity during the funding;  
**person:** provision of expertise in the form of business or technical advice.

updated and adapted from  
 Radon (2012) in *Research Policy* & Chan et al. (2017) in *Structure*

Country	Selection of new institutions funding and enabling energy innovation	Use-inspired basic research	Applied R&D	Demonstration	Market formation and deployment	
United Kingdom	UK Carbon Trust (2001-)				\$	
	UK Energy Research Center (2004-)	Non-technology, social science research				
	Energy Technologies Institute (2007-)			\$		
	Env. Transf. Fund/International Climate Fund (2008/2011-)				\$	
	Technology Strategy Board/Innovate UK (2008/2014) <sup>1</sup>			\$		
	Catapults <sup>2</sup> (2011-)				\$	
2017: Faraday Institute						
United States	Energy Frontier Research Centers (2008-)	\$				
	ARPA-E (2009-)			\$		
	Energy Innovation Hubs <sup>3</sup> (2009-)		\$			
	Cyclotron Road (2015-)		\$			

## from the US experience and the UK context

1. The UK has not increased public funding for R&D in general commensurate with other nations
2. Institutional approaches have not been sticky (volatility)
3. Very limited national lab infrastructure
4. Limited (although now significant) VC funding
5. Less R&D funding focus on small firms
6. Now that the Carbon Trust has been redefined, no managed funding





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and thanks also to my co-authors!

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