

# Understanding Transnational Business-Academia Collaboration: A View From the US

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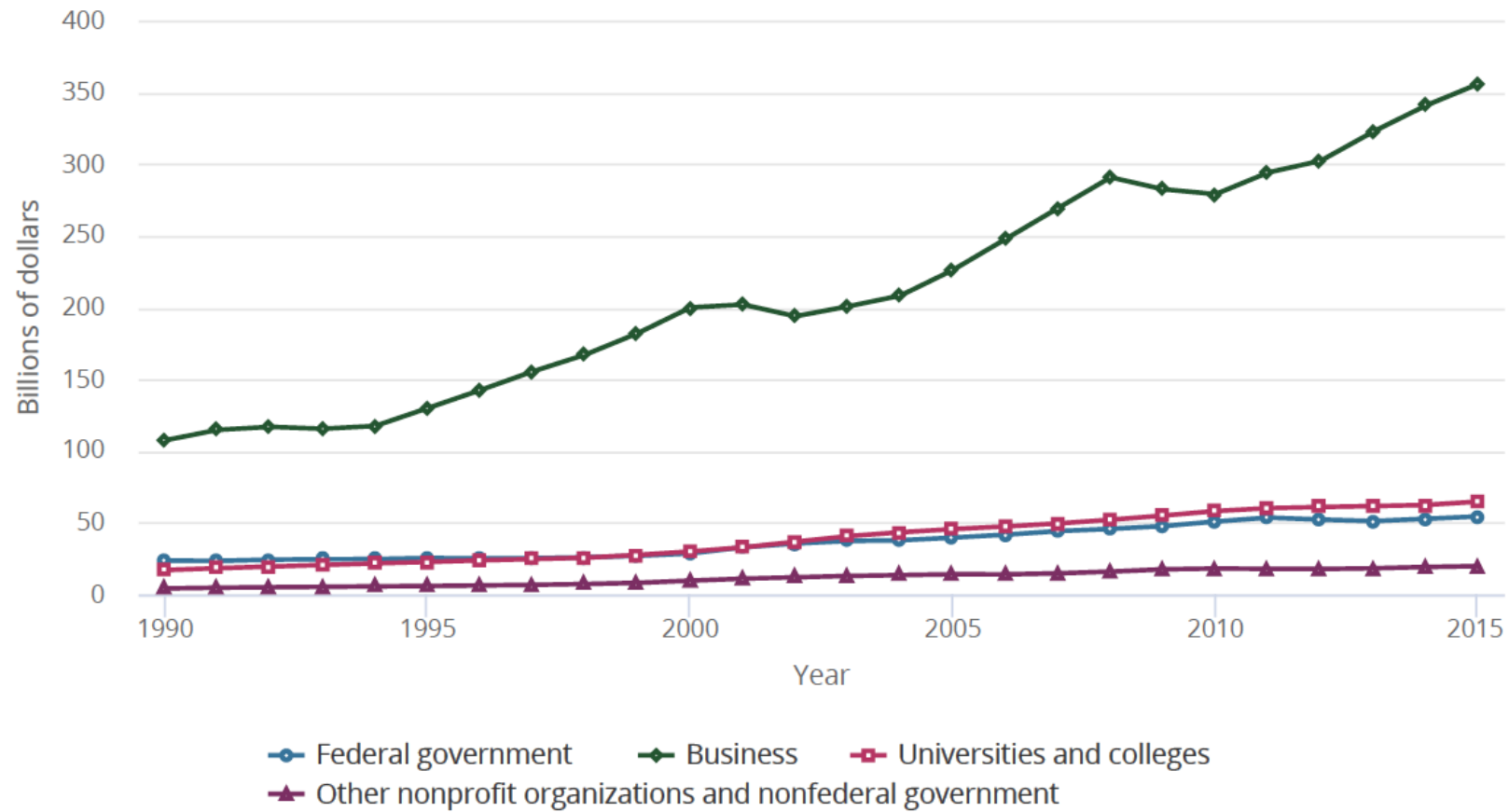
Center for Innovation Strategy and Policy



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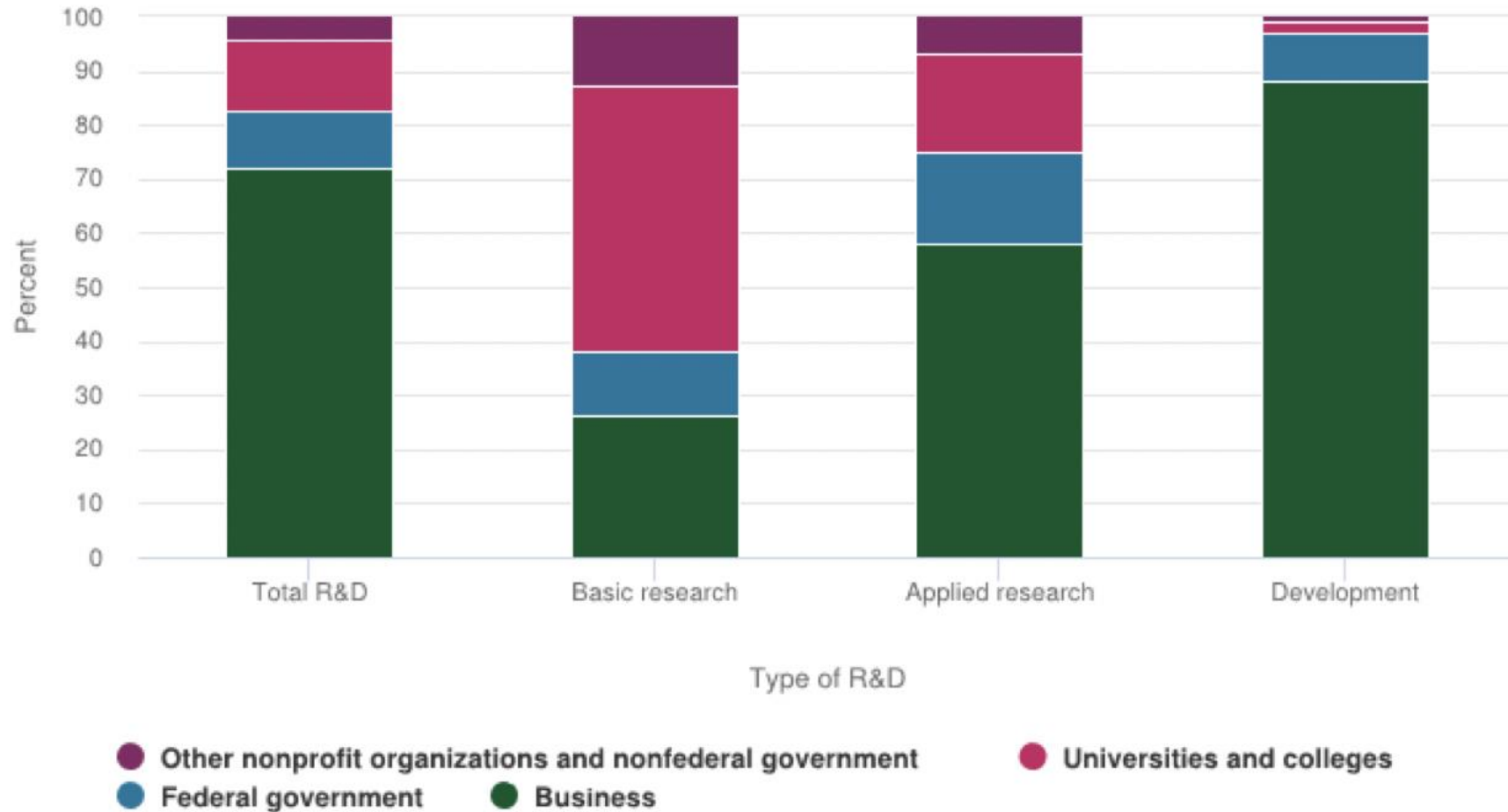
# The overall research, development, and innovation effort in the US is dominated by business spending

U.S. R&D performance, by performing sector: 1990-2015



# Applied research and development comprise more than 80% of U.S. R&D performance

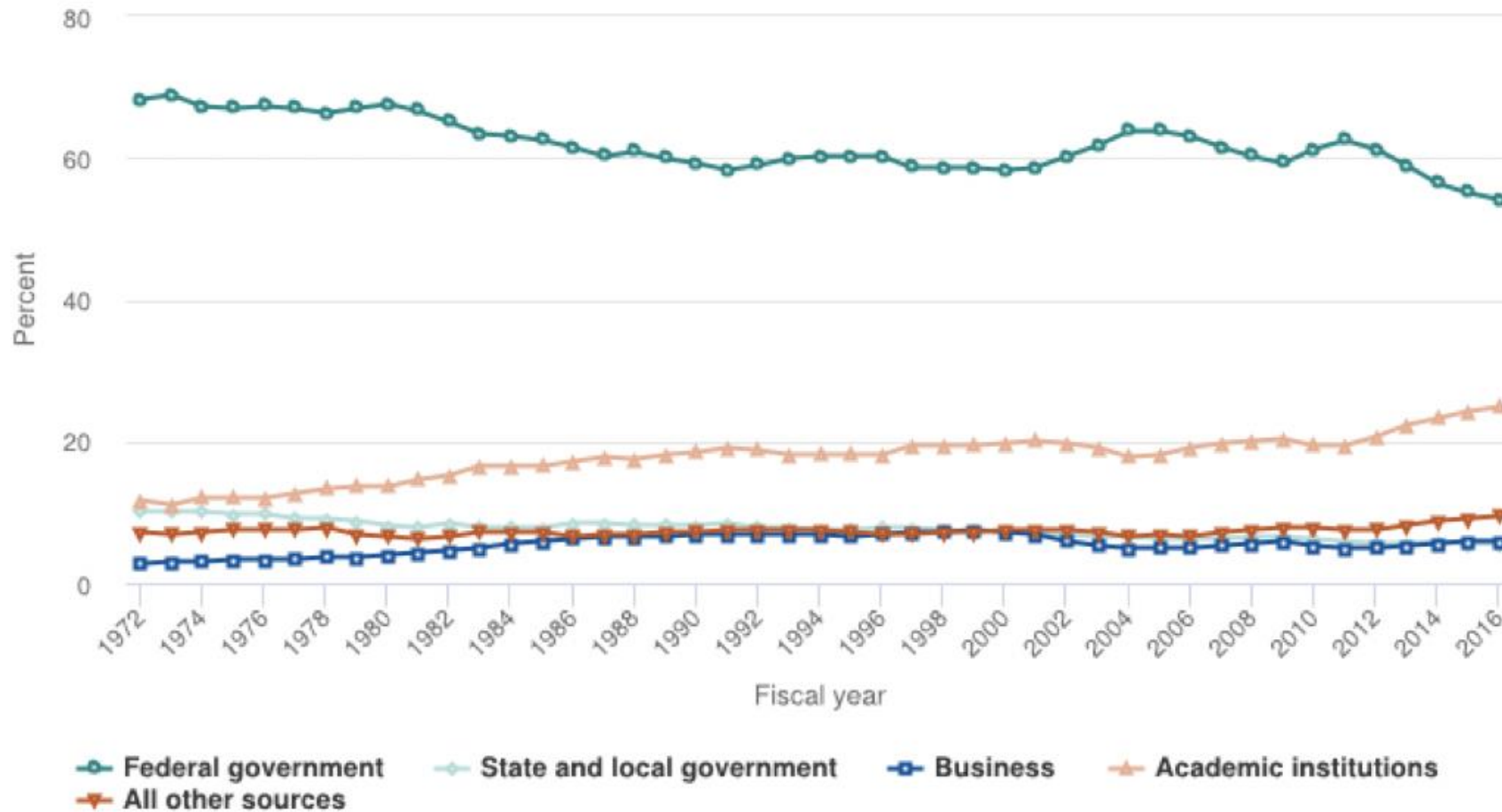
U.S. R&D performance, by type of R&D and performing sector: 2015



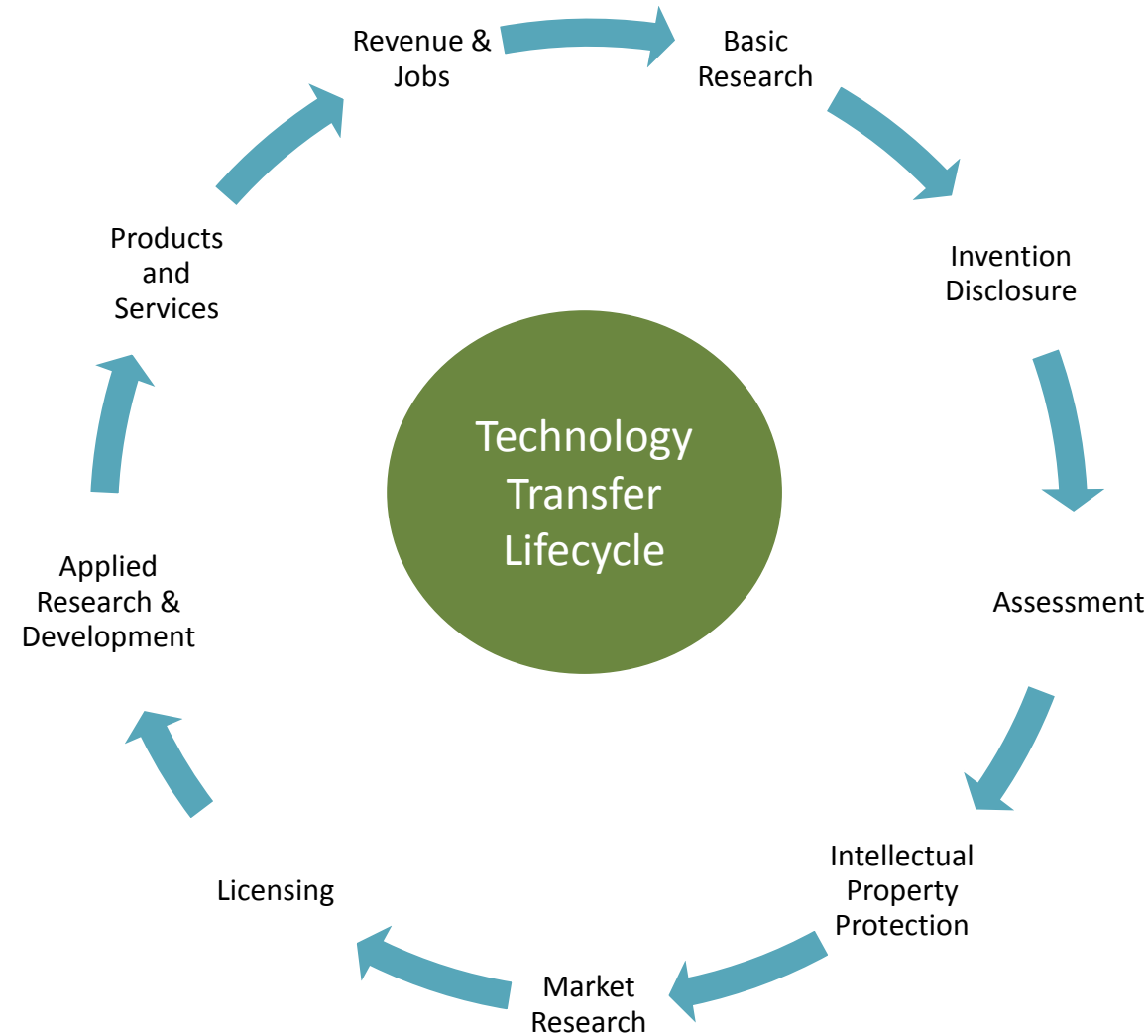
Indicators 2018: Recent Trends in U.S. R&D Performance, Chapter 4.

# The relationship among government, academia, and industry is undergoing important changes

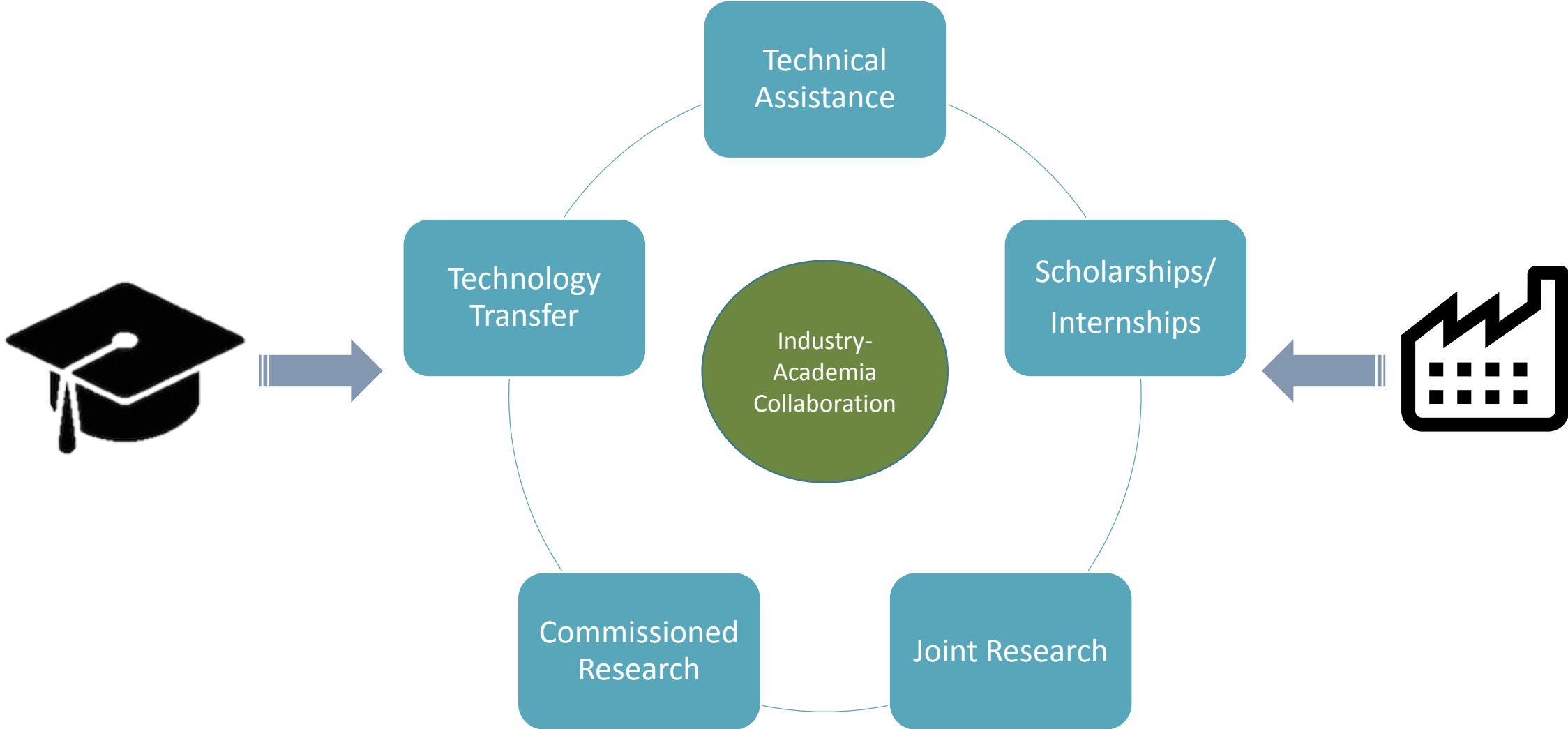
Academic R&D expenditures, by source of funding: FYs 1972–2016



# The Federal government is increasingly interested in technology transfer



# Business-academia collaboration takes many forms



# Federal support for academia-Industry collaborations is only a small part of a much larger R&D effort

- Limited funding available from multiple Federal agencies specifically targeting academia-industry collaboration
- State funding programs have a narrower focus on a state's assets and priorities, and direct funding provided from Federal sources accordingly
- Universities are central to the way funding is directed, whatever its source, and enjoy an important level of discretion in collaboration development



# The changing RDI environment has led to a growth in Federal programs that foster academia-industry collaboration

- Foster academia-industry collaboration not as an end in itself, but as a mechanism for meeting mission-based goals
- Generally support a broad variety of academia-industry interactions
- If successful, these programs should increase productivity in the private sector, but this goal is emphasized less than the narrower purpose of validating basic and applied science investments
- For political reasons, Federal government spending is broadly distributed and mission focused and does not target the general success of a particular business cluster



## State governments and state level institutions also support activities that foster academia-industry collaboration

- Institutions include universities and regional development organizations
- The goals of these programs are clearly focused on economic development, including growth and development in terms of income and employment of the region or state in question
- States also use a “mission” based economic development approach, with academia-industry collaboration just one piece of an overall strategy
- State and regional efforts very often privilege locally represented economic sectors or clusters

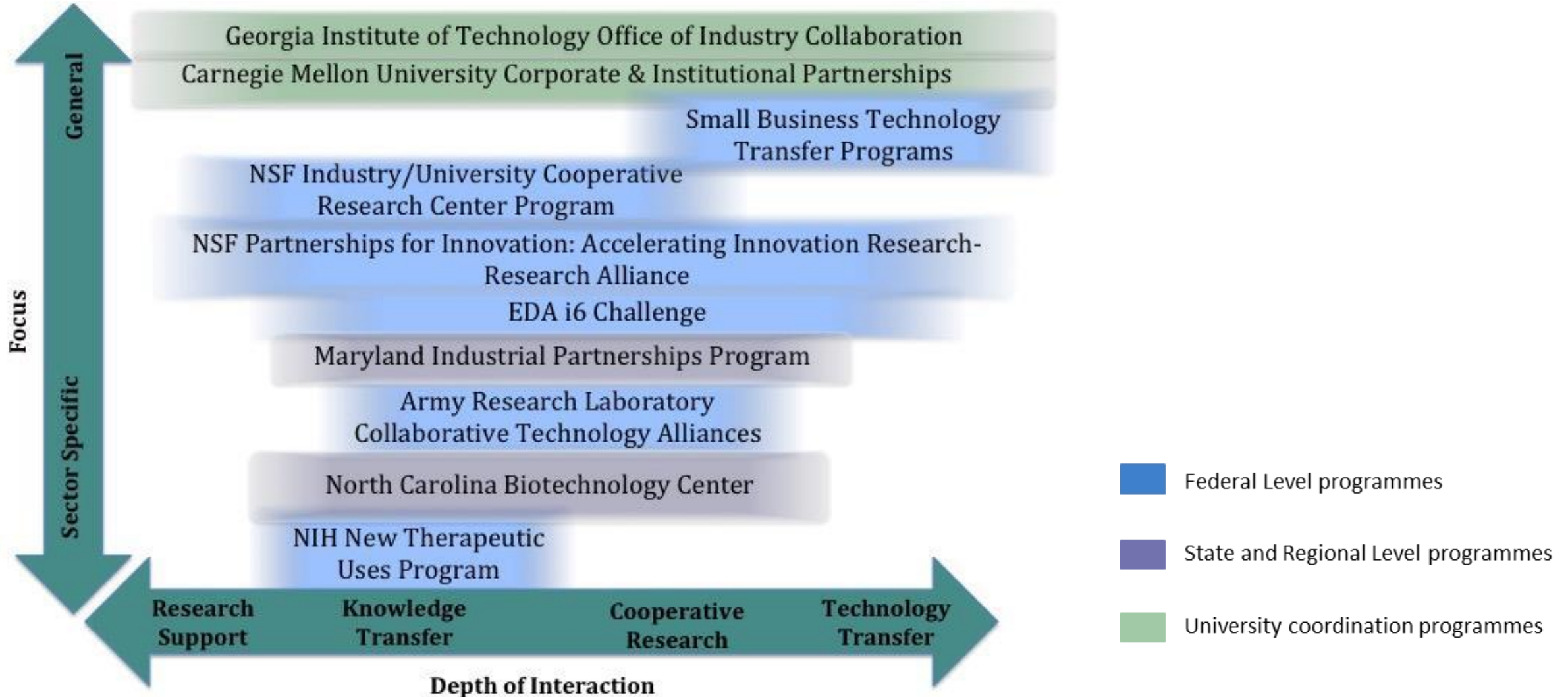
# Key initiatives in academia-industry collaboration are developed and executed at the individual institution level

- Leading RDI institutions in the US seek out, engage, and collaborate with businesses largely through their own initiatives
- Businesses search for, and negotiate with on a one-on-one basis, those academic institutions with the mix of technology and talent that best meet their needs

# US academic institutions have experience collaborating with foreign companies

- Large multi-national businesses are well represented in university partnerships
  - Their experience with the legal and administrative challenges of working across borders makes industry-academia collaboration relatively easy
- Small foreign firms face some hurdles when setting up collaborations with US firms
  - Often unfamiliar with the Bayh-Dole Act and standard university IP processes
  - US and EU universities are similar in their corporate partnership processes, making it easier for EU companies to establish relationships with US universities

# Examples of federal, state, and university programs supporting academia-industry collaboration



The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of two hands reaching towards each other, with their fingers just inches apart. The lighting is soft and focused on the hands, creating a sense of connection and care. The overall color palette is muted, with shades of blue and grey.

Q & A

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