

The CSIR: A Few Introductory Comments

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ResIST

- One sentence summary from Peter Healey
 - “the role of S&T in the reproduction of social inequality”
- Reproduction of inequality determined by
 - What you do (relevance of content)
 - How you do it (process, especially knowledge transfer)
- CSIR has attempted to address both aspects

Some Descriptors of the CSIR

- The CSIR is a public research institution
- CSIR research portfolio is highly diverse
 - defence, bioscience, natural environment, mining, built environment, space, ICT, manufacturing and materials
- CSIR spans the RDI value chain
- 60% contract research income; 40% performance-based block (grant) funding
- Total turnover about EU 120 million

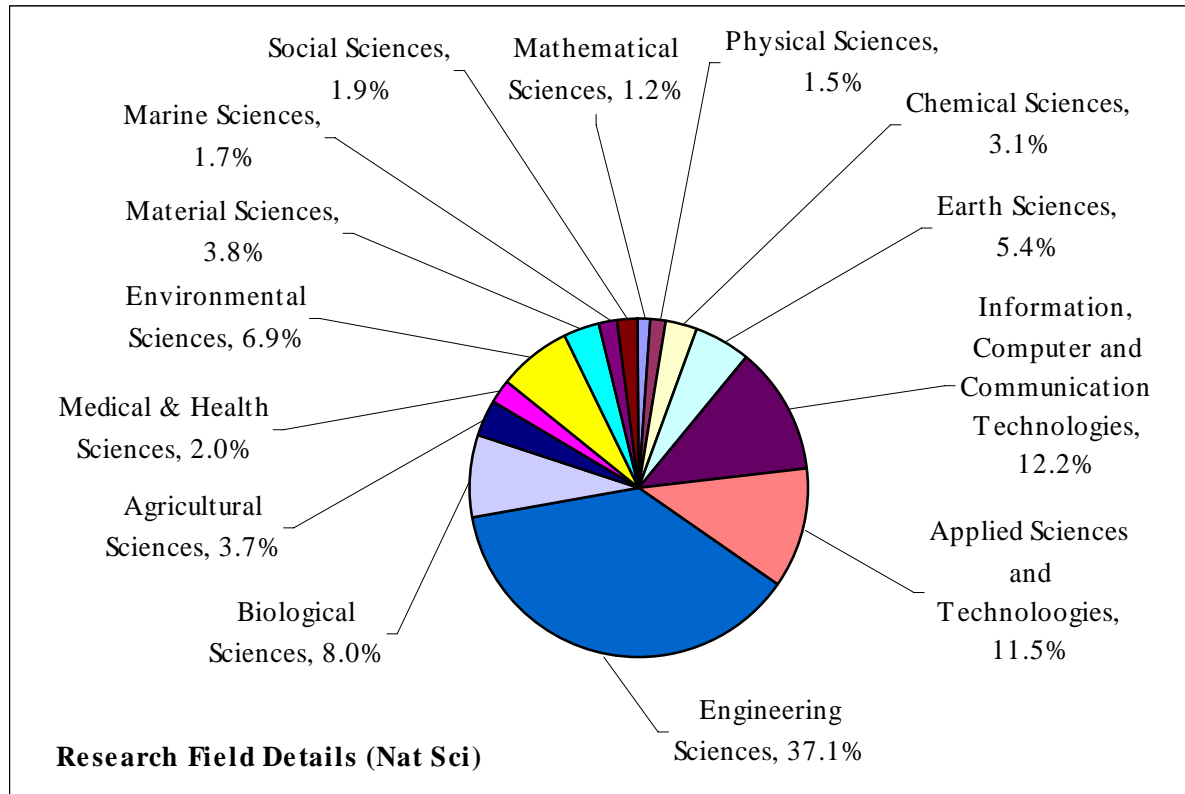
The CSIR Mandate

“The objects of the CSIR are, through directed and particularly multidisciplinary research and technological innovation, to foster, in the national interest and in fields which in its opinion should receive preference, industrial and scientific development, either by itself or in co-operation with principals from the private or public sectors, and thereby to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of the Republic.”

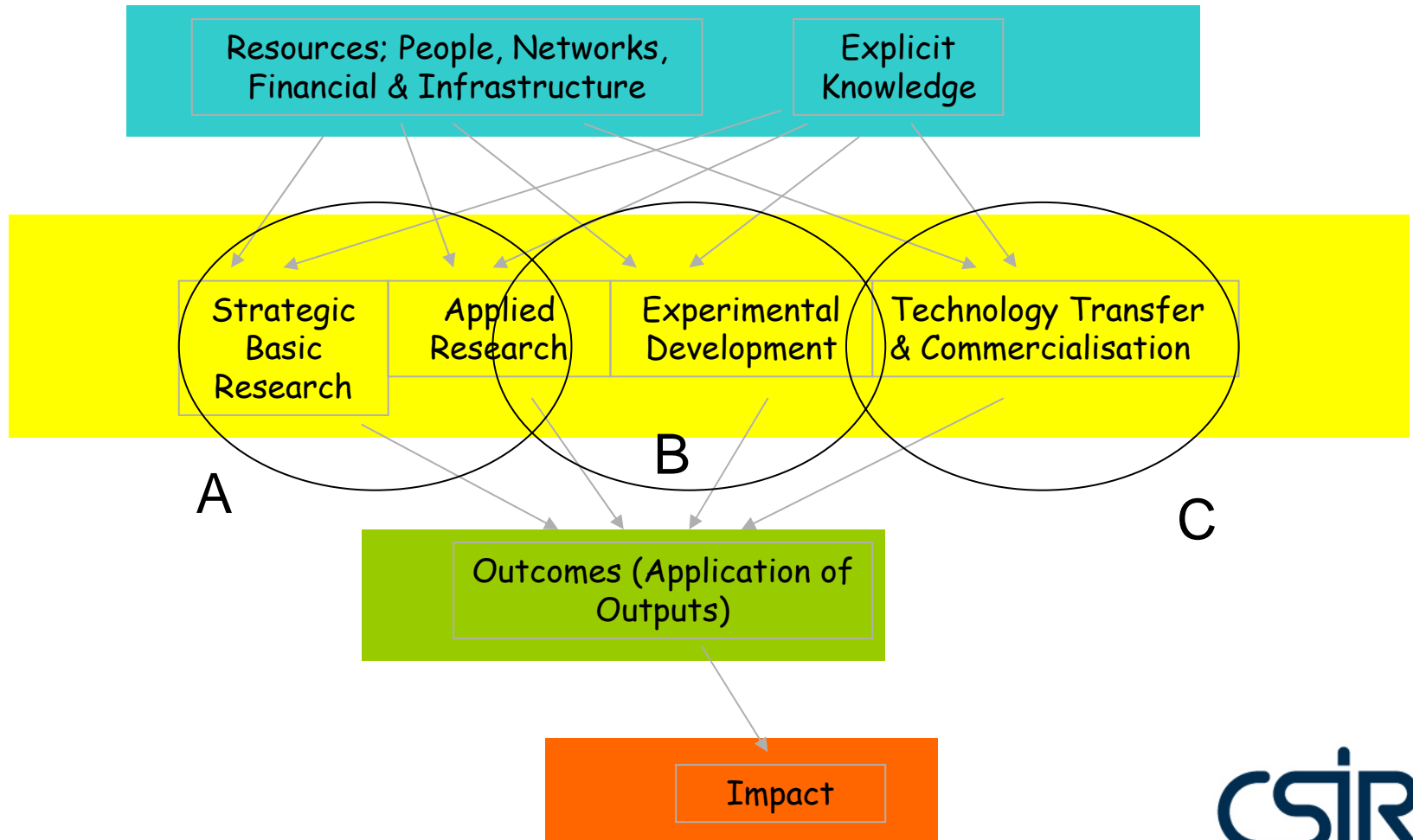
(Scientific Research Council Act 46 of 1988,
amended by Act 71 of 1990)

CSIR has a Diverse Portfolio

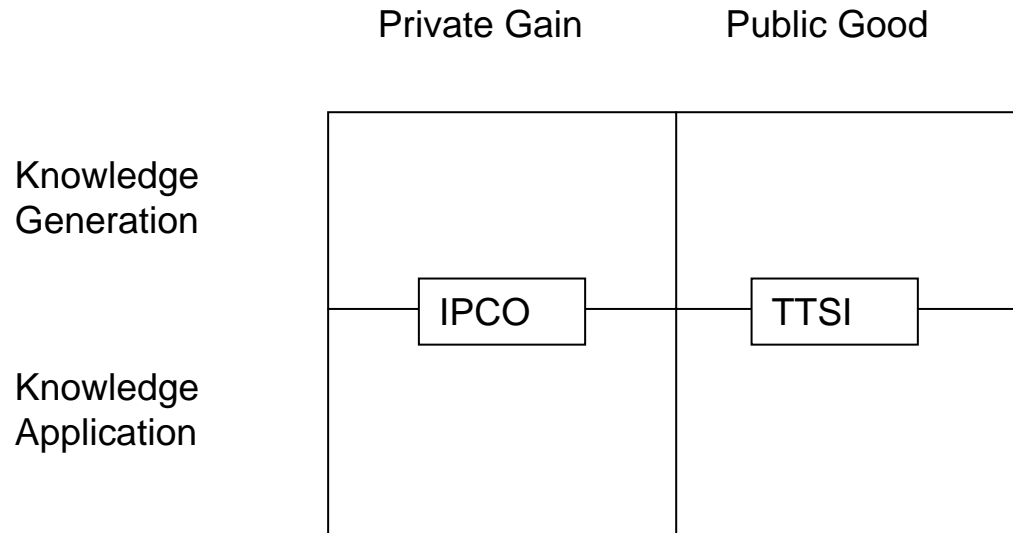
- Large number of research fields
 - Harder to manage from a core competence perspective
 - Easier to do multi-disciplinary research



R&I Value Chain



Dealing with R&D Outcomes



R&D Outcomes Structure

- **Intellectual property and commercialisation office**
 - Technology transfer for commercial gain
 - IP licensing, spin-outs, sale of technology packages/service-based businesses, joint ventures
 - First economy
- **Technology transfer for social impact**
 - Mainly transfer of CSIR technologies, but also able to source relevant technologies from other areas in order to solve community level problems
 - Public outreach and understanding
 - Second economy
- **Examples of projects**
 - First mile, first inch and Cantenna (low cost connectivity)
 - Essential oils (mosquito repellent) and hydroponics
 - Community-based road construction
 - Water treatment and access (amadrum-drum)
 - Super sorghum

Some Observations

- R&D Outcomes as important as R&D; requires resource allocation to make it happen
- Must balance TTSI and IPCO (poverty alleviation vs industrial development)
- ‘Confronting with the reality’ is important; but researchers are in general not good at implementation
- Watch out for mandate drift; need strong partnerships with NGOs and organisations with strong community roots and understanding

The End

