



Cavendish Laboratory Industry Engagement Forum

Hauser Forum, Cambridge



"The most exciting collaborations arise as a result of like-minded people getting together - sometimes by chance - to address a problem." Richard Lambert, Lambert Review, 2003

Industry Engagement Forum

The aim of the Industry Engagement Forum is to encourage early career researchers to think more broadly about potential societal and economic benefits arising from their research interests and to understand how they may increase collaborations with industry. Companies are invited to join Cavendish researchers for a one-day session, exploring how to align research interests with real commercial problems.

For industry

Commercial companies gain access to the world-leading research expertise at the Cavendish, as well as insight into how Cambridge research may be able to provide solutions for their commercial problems.

For staff

Cavendish researchers gain an insight into the current research topics of interest to the company and how that company thinks through commercial issues. The forum provides an opportunity to identify areas of common interest that could lead to future research collaborations, studentships or secondments.

About the Cavendish Laboratory

Since it was founded in 1874, the Cavendish Laboratory has been at the forefront of discovery in physics. The core of the Laboratory's programme has been, and continues to be, experimental physics, supported by excellence in theory. The policy of the Department is to maintain a very powerful core of fundamental physics in all its diversity. Engagement with business and industry is becoming an increasingly important part of the Department's research strategy.



About Cambridge Enterprise

Cambridge Enterprise exists to help University of Cambridge inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs make their ideas and concepts more commercially successful for the benefit of society, the UK economy, the inventors and the University.



How does it work?

Attendees generally include a mix of PhD students, Post-Doctoral researchers and academics along with 6-8 company representatives from a cross-section of disciplines including R&D, manufacturing and business development.

Each Forum focuses on three or four broad themes in areas that will be important to the company's business over the next five to ten years.

A typical Forum is structured as follows:

9.00 - 9.15 9.15 - 10.15	Arrival and coffee Introduction of the themes put forward by the company (usually three or four themes)
10.15 - 12.15	Brainstorming sessions on selected themes in up to four groups. Each group will work on two themes
12.15 - 13.15	Verbal presentations of the results of the morning's sessions
13.15 - 14.00	Lunch. Representatives of the company and the Cavendish will select three to five specific problems arising from the morning's discussions
14.00 - 14.15 14.15 - 15.15	Overview of the afternoon agenda Discussion of the selected problems. Questions to answer: Is this a problem/issue that can be answered? Is it viable?
15.15 - 16.15	What are the limitations if it was to be taken forward as a project? Is there an identifiable project for collaboration? Where a project for potential collaboration has been identified, groups will address the following questions:
	Is this a short/long term project? What resources/equipment are needed? What would be the cost? What skills would be required on the team?
16.15 - 17.15	Verbal presentations from teams to highlight conclusions and key actions going forward
17.15 - 18.00	Networking and refreshments



How do I get involved?

If you'd like to take part in one of these events, please contact Michael Simmons, Enterprise Champion for the Cavendish Laboratory.

Contact us

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Sponsorship is welcome for future Forum events.