

Pitfalls to watch out for in Industry – Institute R&D collaboration

If you are a company or an institution intending to get into an R&D collaboration project, these are the pitfalls to watch out for.

- ◆ Poorly thought out or laid out specifications of the end requirement may result in frequent changes mid-way through the project, delaying its completion.
- ◆ Inadequate communication and identification of risks in the project before commencement.
- ◆ Selecting the wrong R&D collaborator with inadequate expertise and/or equipment.
- ◆ Too much dependence on one R&D collaborator.
- ◆ Institute team gets disbanded mid-way through the project – team members leave the institute, get transferred.
- ◆ Industry team gets disbanded mid-way through the project – team members leave, get transferred.
- ◆ Industry collaborator decides that the project is no longer necessary, mid-way.
- ◆ Inadequate periodic reporting procedures may delay the project or take it on a wrong track.
- ◆ Inadequate periodic meetings to ensure that budgets, timetables and quality requirements are adhered to.
- ◆ Project is done by students who have limited time and who leave the institute at the end of their course, mid-way through the project.
- ◆ Inadequate clarity on non-disclosure of proprietary information owned by industry.
- ◆ Poorly specified quality requirements, with possibility of the end result being of poor quality – prototype poorly tested, inadequate documentation, etc.