

# **Business and University Relationships**

**The nature and extent of advanced manufacturing links and  
university-industry linkages**

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This thesis is submitted in total fulfilment of the requirements for the research degree  
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# Summary

Knowledge is now being viewed as the key for the competitiveness of both a region and a business. It plays a critical part in the innovation process, national economic growth and regional economic development. This thesis involves two interrelated components investigating the nature of business links in different advanced manufacturing regions in Adelaide and the nature of university-industry links for three South Australian universities.

The study focuses on two case studies, with the first case study based around Flinders University and the University of Adelaide. The second case study involves two advanced manufacturing regions, north and south of the Adelaide Central Business District. The primary aims of the study is to understand the range of university-industry links and how university academics interact with different industry partners, and understanding the scope of small advanced manufacturing clusters and how businesses within these clusters interact with other businesses and organisation.

This study has reviewed the literature on clusters and university-industry links to develop and apply a framework to investigate the different relationships. Through a process of identifying and understanding the characteristics of university-industry links, the type of links, nature of collaborating partners and benefits can be analysed to determine if there is difference in these due to the different alignment of universities. By determining the different relationships in a cluster, the effect of location can be determined which then allows for classification of the cluster. Finally, this study has contributed knowledge to research areas of clusters and university-industry links.



# Declaration

I certify that this thesis does not include any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university without acknowledgment. To the best of my knowledge and belief this thesis does not contain any material previously published or written by another person without due acknowledgment in the main text and bibliography of the thesis.

.....

Paul Felici

.....

Date

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## Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industry Classification
ARC	Australian Research Council
ATN	Australian Technology Network
BERD	Business Expenditure on R&D
COA	Commonwealth of Australia
CBD	Central Business District
CRC	Co-operative Research Centre
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Technology
DSTO	Defence Science and Technology Organisation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERD	General Expenditure on R&D
Go8	Group of Eight Universities
HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme
HERD	Higher Education Expenditure on R&D
IRU	Innovative Research Universities Australia
NIS	National Innovation System
NGU	New Generation Universities
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
R&D	Research and Development
SME	Small to Medium Enterprise
USA	United States of America