Nanotechnology, Commercialization, and Innovation: The Case of North Carolina

Gary Gereffi

Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness, Duke University ggere@soc.duke.edu

Stacey Frederick

North Carolina State University sefreder@ncsu.edu

2008 AAAS Annual Meeting, "Global Science and Technology Boston, MA / February 17, 2008

Key Topics

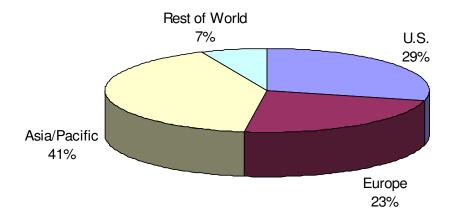
- I. U.S. Nanotechnology Industry
- II. NC Nanotechnology Industry
- III. Emergence of Nanotechnology in the U.S. South
- IV. Future Steps to Strengthen Nanotechnology Industry in North Carolina

Nanotechnology in the United States

• Firms:

 US firms capture approximately 30% of total global revenue in products incorporating emerging nanotechnology

Table 1: Emerging Nanotechnology Revenues by Region, 2004



– Strengths:

- Healthcare/life sciences
- Electronics/IT

– Key firms:

- Divisions of larger firms: GlaxoSmithKline, IBM, Kraft, BASF
- Smaller firms: Nano-Tex, Liquidia, Altair Nanotechnologies

Source: Lux Research (2004)

Nanotechnology in the United States

Financing:

- Federal government (National Nanotechnology Initiative/NNI): \$1.4 billion (2006), expanding to \$1.5 billion by 2008
- State/local government: \$430 million (2006)
- Private sector spending: \$1.9 billion (2006)

Patents/IP:

- 43,000 patents since 1995 (more than 18,000 patents ahead of second-place China).
- 6,801 international patents in 2006 (nearly 70% of the total)

NC Nanotechnology Industry Facts

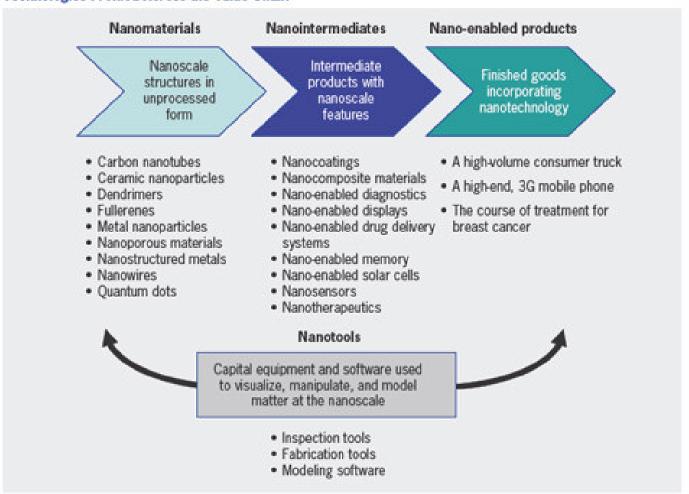
- Small Times (2005) ranked NC in the top 10 regions in the US for nanotech research
- NCSU & UNC-CH ranked in top 10 in industrial outreach in nanotechnology
- NCSU, UNC-CH, and Duke rank in top 100 institutions nationwide based on total funding awarded in nanotechnology
- Between 1995-2004, the NSF awarded 139 nanotechnology grants to NC researchers
 - Funding totaled more than \$53 million
- More than 250 nanotechnology patents were issued to NC assignees between 2003-2005

What is the nature of the nanotechnology industry in North Carolina?

What are firms actually doing?

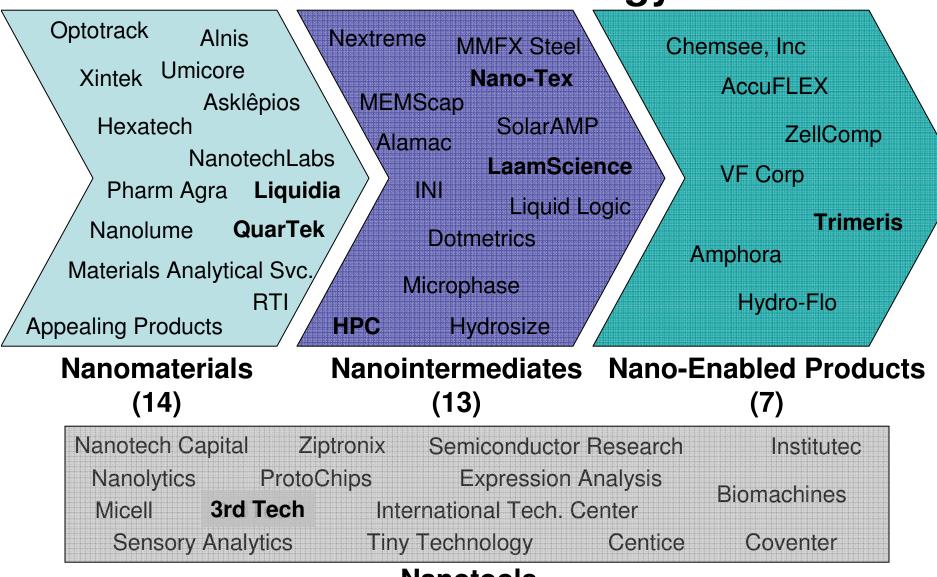
Nanotechnology Value Chain

Technologies Profiled Across the Value Chain



Source: Lux Research (2006)

North Carolina Nanotechnology Value Chain

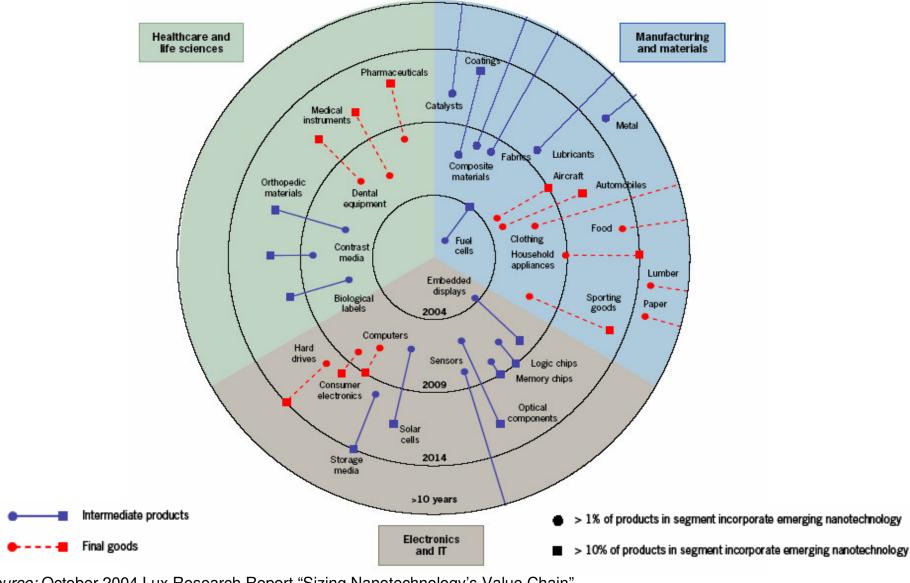


Nanotools

(15)

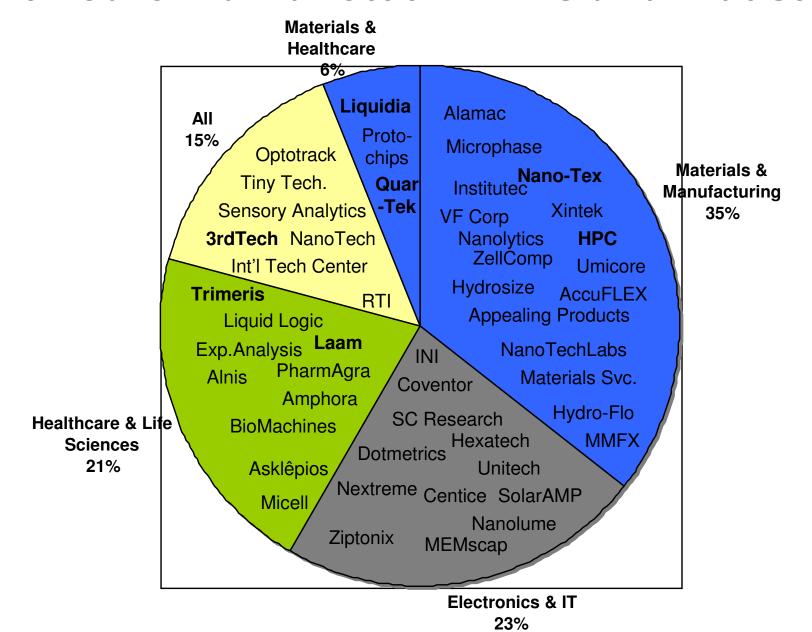
Source: Gereffi, Frederick, & Ong (2007). Nanotechnology In North Carolina Presentation

Time Horizons for Major Nanotech Industries



Source: October 2004 Lux Research Report "Sizing Nanotechnology's Value Chain"

North Carolina Nanotech Firms and Industries



Source: Gereffi, Frederick, & Ong (2007). Nanotechnology In North Carolina Presentation

Emergence of Nanotechnology in the U.S. South

- Study focused on the potential of the U.S. South (13 states) to develop a viable nanotechnology industry
- Ten indicators in four areas:
 - Knowledge generation
 - Human capital
 - R&D funding
 - Patenting

Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, & West Virginia

Source: Youtie & Shapira (2008). Forthcoming in The Journal of Technology Transfer

Findings:

- Overall findings: U.S. South has little potential to develop nanotechnology industry except for a few clusters:
 - Research Triangle Park, NC
 - Atlanta, Ga
 - Oak Ridge, TN
 - Virginia
- North Carolina, driven by RTP region, ranked the highest on all 10 indicators

	South (% of US)	NC	Ga	TN	Va
1. Nano Publications	5,604 (20.2%)	1,134	836	826	797
2. Institutions with 3+ primary researchers	67	10	6	6	11
3. Co-authorship linkages	33% (in U.S.) 18% (world)				
4. Highly-cited researchers	111 (18.2%)	30	24	14	11
5. Editors of nano- related journals	21 (10.3%)	5	4	1	7
6. Doctoral dissertations	577 (15.9%)	125	95	39	72
7. Prize winners in nanotechnology areas	9 (8%)	4	4	0	1
8. NSF awards	\$337.4 million (17%)	\$53.4	\$33.8	\$26.1	\$36.8
9. SBIR/STR awards	\$77.9 million (15.6%)	\$6.8	\$6.5	\$5.4	\$41.7
10. Patents	1,015 (8.5%)	214	145	120	182

Challenges and Opportunities for Nanotechnology in North Carolina

Strengths & Weaknesses of NC to form Nanotechnology Industry

Strengths

- An established emphasis on enabling technology industries: biotechnology & information technology
- An existing manufacturing base
- 3) Strong university infrastructure
- 4) Local support (government)

Weaknesses

- Lack of strong linkages to critical US centers in California and the Northeast
- 2) Relatively weak in patenting
- Not fully capitalizing access to strong research universities and centers
- Smaller regional capital pools and private R&D are also limiting factors in the South

Challenges & Opportunities

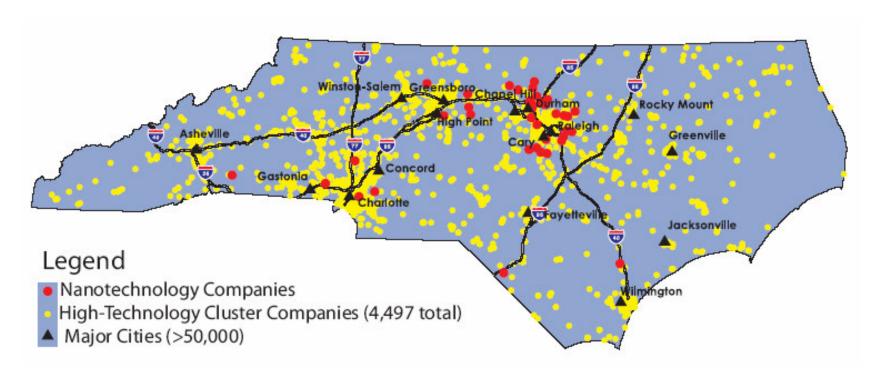
- 1) Lack of access to early-stage capital, especially for companies in the research phase
 - State government could act as venture capitalists to overcome market failure in capital market
- 2) Lack of access to university equipment & facilities
 - State could provide incentives to universities through public/private centers for excellence for sharing capital equipment and facilities with nano companies
- 3) NC university nanotechnology programs do not have significant industry collaborations
 - NC A&T and nCoat, Inc. have established a technical collaboration agreement for nano-based materials

Challenges & Opportunities (cont'd)

- Develop guidelines to manage potential risks of nanotechnologies
 - Ideal research agenda for NC universities due to diversity of programs
 - DuPont and Environmental Defense have already established useful guidelines
- Build on unique combination of research universities, existing technologies, and historical dominance in manufacturing

Importance of Existing Technology Emphasis: Existing Technology Firms

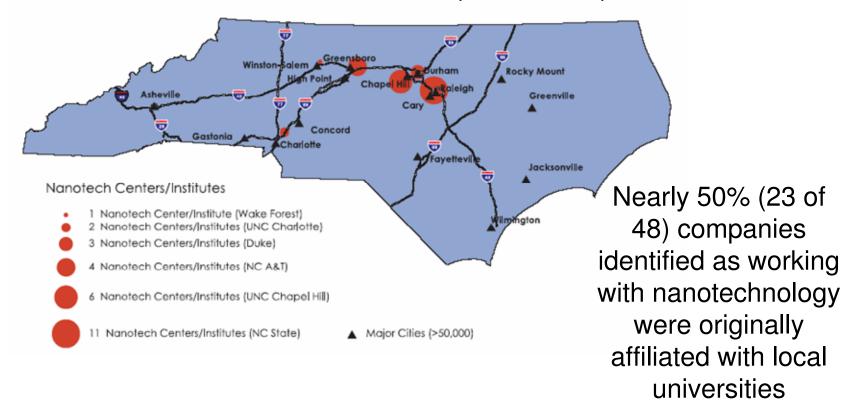
Nanotechnology Companies and High-Technology Companies



Source: Board of Science and Technology: A Roadmap for Nanotechnology in North Carolina's 21st Century Economy, 2005

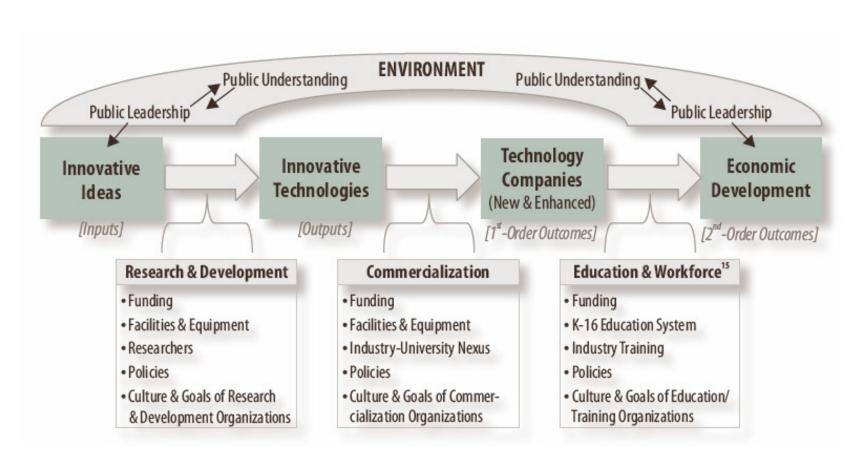
Importance of Universities/Research Centers

University Centers/Institutes Focusing on Nanotechnology in North Carolina (30 known)



Source: Board of Science and Technology: A Roadmap for Nanotechnology in North Carolina's 21st Century Economy, 2005

Policy Framework - Outlined in Roadmap: NC's Technology-Based Economic Development Approach



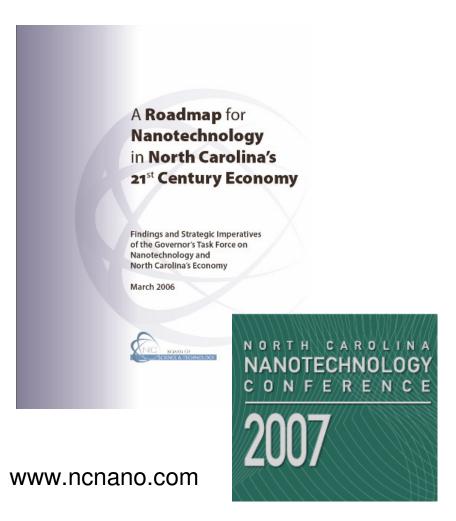
Source: Board of Science and Technology: A Roadmap for Nanotechnology in North Carolina's 21st Century Economy, 2005

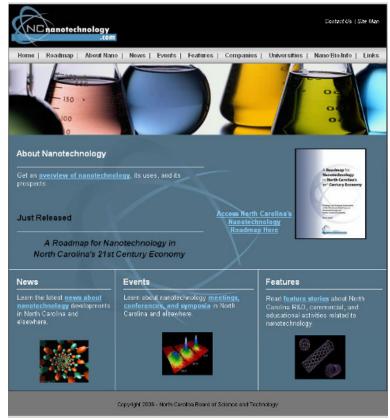
Key Elements Directed Toward Mobilizing & Equipping NC to Advance the State's Nanotechnology Economy

- 1) Establish NC Nanotechnology Alliance
- Establish multiple centers of nanotechnology excellence at NC's universities based on strengths of universities
- 3) Establish a not-for-profit nanotechnology "imagineering" group staffed to identify emerging nano opportunities
- 4) Create website
- 5) Convene an annual NC Symposium on nanotechnology

- Ensure nanotechnology is explicitly considered in education and workforce development
- Strengthen teacher knowledge of advances in nanoscale science
- 8) Integrate info about nano into the NC Biomanufacturing and Pharmaceutical Training Consortium
- Explicitly integrate the environmental, ethical, health, legal, safety, and other societal implications of nanotechnology into the public discourse
- 10) Emphasize education of policy makers, the public, the business community, and the scientific community on issues related to nanotechnology

Importance of State/Local Support





www.ncnanotechnology.com

Thank you for your attention!