

P37 - The Technology Dimension of R&D Management

15. ORGANIZING R&D

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Track summary: Building on similar tracks at the 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 R&D Management Conferences, this track highlights the technology dimension of R&D management theory and practice. The search for general-purpose R&D management concepts and frameworks – analogous to general-purpose technologies – has dominated the R&D management field. Yet, with their own characteristics and internal logics, individual technologies set the context for innovation and influence many dimensions of the innovation process, for example: timescales, research methods, skills requirements, capital intensity, IP strategy, financing requirements, risks, international topologies and information flows. So, the intention of this theme is to promote discussion about the role of technologies in the formation of R&D management practices and theories.

An emergent theme in this track is the central role of ‘projects’ in real-world R&D, particularly where they are shaped by the technologies involved. For example, the debates around the applicability of Agile project management outside software have been covered in this track. While R&D activity is almost always conducted through projects, there is relatively little contemporary analysis at project level. Thus the track welcomes original contributions in this area.