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Abstract:

This paper will present information about the New Business Research and Development and Innovation Survey (BRDIS). This survey has been developed by the National Science Foundation in collaboration with the Bureau of the Census and is both a major revision of the way the United States collects data on research and development in industry and the beginning of a process to systematically collect data on innovation in industry. BRDIS will be mailed to 40,000 US- and foreign-owned firms operating in the United States in January 2009.

The paper will discuss the background to the development of the survey. NSF undertook this initiative after commissioning a study by the Panel on R&D Statistics of the National Research Council. Their report, "Measuring R&D Expenditures in the U.S. Economy" (2005), emphasized that understanding the major changes taking place in business R&D and innovation was critical to the future of the U.S. economy and national well-being, confirming that it was time to implement a major redesign of the SIRD.

It will also discuss the implementation of the survey development: the extensive interactions with the respondent business community, including more than 100 visits to individual companies, as well as the advice from a Business Expert Panel comprised of VPs of Research at major R&D-performing companies.

The paper will also describe the data dissemination.

Finally the paper will discuss the major goals of the survey. This is the first nationally representative U.S. business survey to collect information on innovation activities: it will be the platform for future more extensive innovation-related questions. It is expected that the BRDIS results will provide government and business policymakers, researchers, and the media with information needed to measure and evaluate the nation's R&D enterprise and to assess how effective our R&D efforts are in keeping the United States competitive globally. This will occur in two ways. First, tables from the BRDIS survey will be published by NSF. Second, researchers will be able to do further analytical research by accessing the microdata file in the Center for Economic Studies at the Census.