



Innovation through collaboration

# The Knowledge Economy

Dr Joe Irvine – UHI Head of Knowledge Transfer



# What is the Knowledge Economy?

- **Knowledge** = key resource
  - An information society in a knowledge economy
  - A crucial factor in production
  - The fastest-growing sectors of all economies are knowledge-based



# Strategic priority

## – **EU**

To become "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-driven economy"

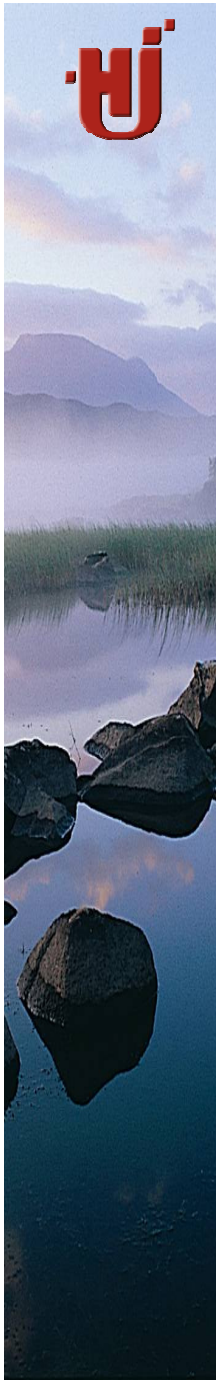
- Implementing the Lisbon agenda" (2007)

## – **UK**

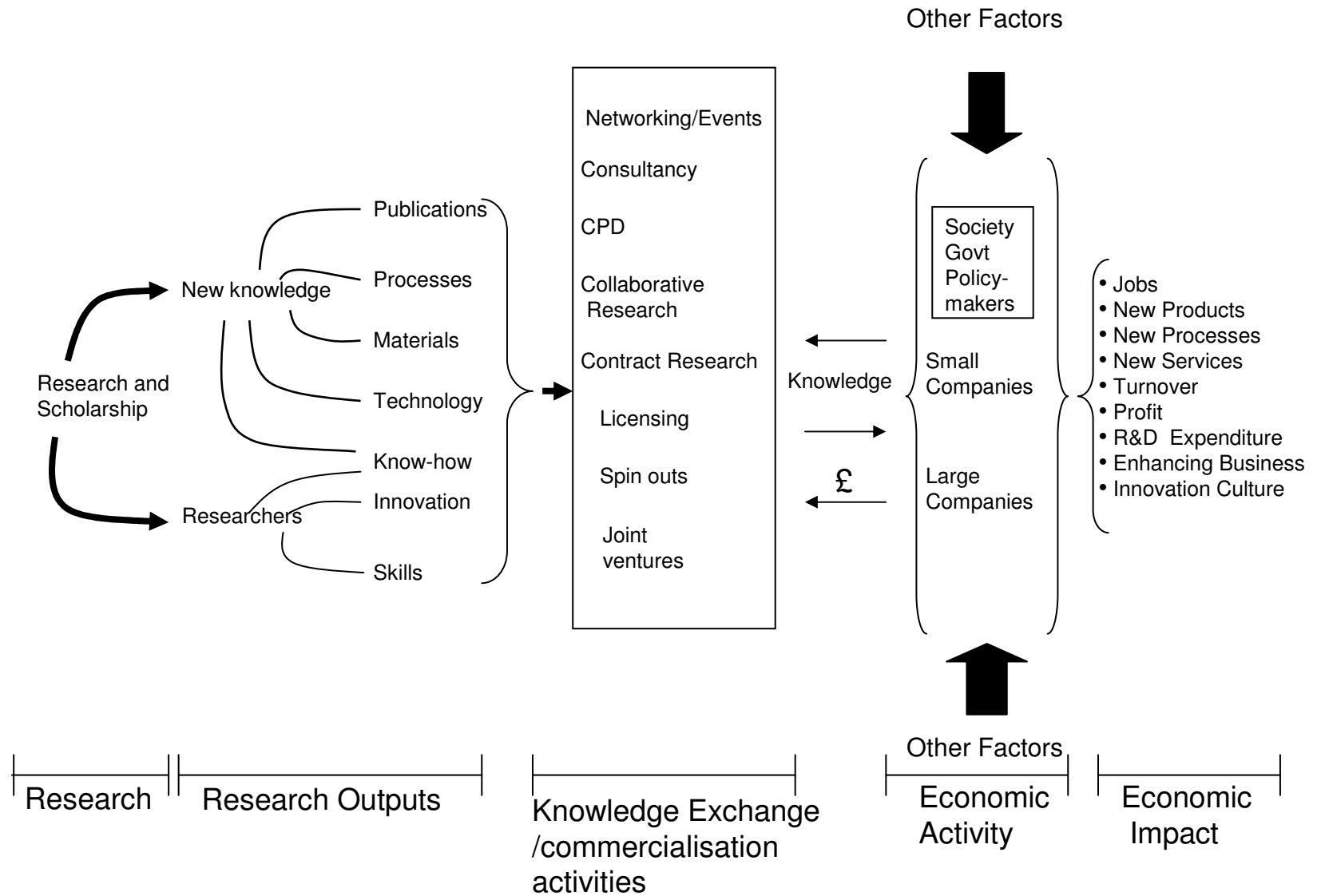
"We no longer have the choice in the globalised world to compete on low wages and low skills. We compete on knowledge – its creation, its acquisition, and its transformation into commercially successful uses. ....Institutions unable to meet such strategic needs can expect to see their funding reduced to provide resources for those who can." -Peter Mandelson Secretary of State (Dept of Business Innovation and Skills) Nov 2009

## – **Scotland**

"Innovation - developing new processes, products and markets, often through incremental change - is vital across all sectors. Increasing the level of research & development (R&D) activity and knowledge transfer between the research community and industry are key drivers of innovative activity, particularly in science and technology related sectors, helping to boost productivity and sustainable growth." -Scottish Economic Strategy 2007



# HEI/University Innovation



(Modified from Cullen 2007)



# Value to the Highland economy?

- New products, processes, services, business systems
- Diversity
- Competitiveness
- Sustainability
- High quality knowledge based jobs



# FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER



Help overcome challenges when looking for university R&D expertise and capabilities

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?  
WHO TO CONTACT?

Introductions to academic experts with relevant expertise matched to business needs.

NEW or EXISTING BUSINESSES



UHI MILLENNIUM INSTITUTE

26 UNIVERSITIES & RESEARCH INSTITUTES

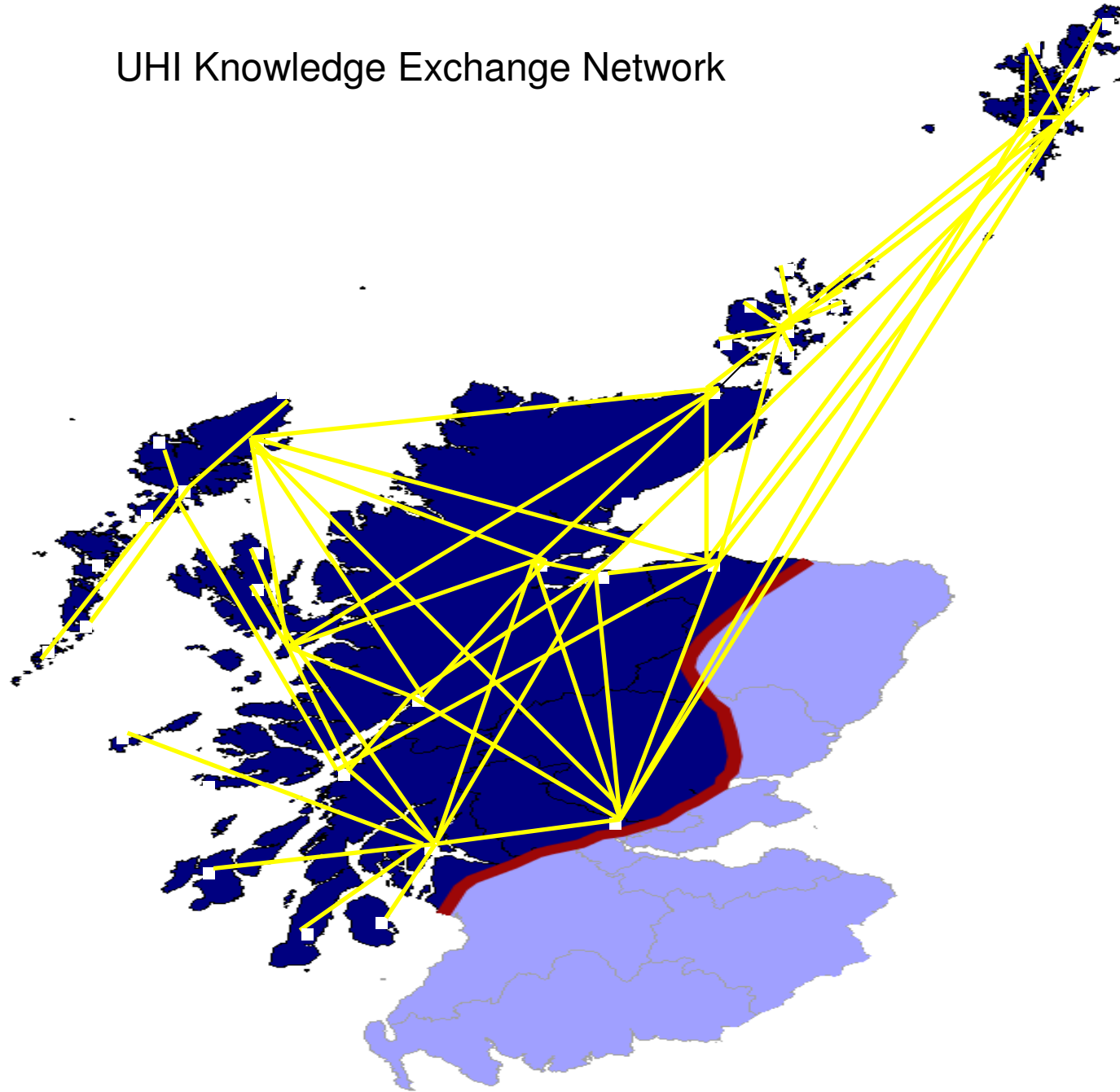
Focus on business needs. "market needs" / "business pull"

Sustained and supported collaborations between Academia and Industry





# UHI Knowledge Exchange Network



# Future possibility: A KE Regional Hub

