

# STRATEGIC ISSUES AND TRENDS

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## ASME Explores Collaborative Learning And Technology Innovation

ASME is exploring the role of communities and networks in learning and technology innovation.

**Collaborative learning communities** are individuals joining together to accelerate new knowledge through the dynamic use of social networking and collaboration technologies. Here are some present examples:

- Communities of practice
- List servers and chats
- Standards and technical committees
- Action learning
- Wikipedia and interactive blogs
- Blended learning (virtual combined with face-to-face experiences)

ASME has already invested in new technologies like communities of practices and online learning. These steps are setting the stage for the next generation of possibilities.

**Technology Innovation Networks** are interrelated systems of organizations that share technical knowledge and skills across geographic, disciplinary and corporate boundaries to create new products and processes. Here are some current examples:

- International Research Projects
- Research Joint Ventures
- Strategic Research Alliances
- Standard Setting Organizations
- Co-development Arrangements
- Supplier & Consumer Networks

Technology Innovation Networks take a variety of forms, but are vital to the process of innovation, especially in complex, high technology fields. The Human Genome Project, the Joint Strike Fighter and Linux are examples of technology innovation networks.

The [Collaborative Learning Communities and Technology Innovation Networks](http://www.asme.org) web pages on asme.org\* have a wealth of information on the drivers that are making these new approaches to learning and innovation a priority and the best practices that are emerging in these areas. The ASME Strategic Issues, Opportunities and Knowledge Committee invites you to review the research and complete the brief survey on the website to help evaluate whether ASME should pursue these strategic opportunities.

### **ASME Implications**

The Institute for Alternative Futures (IAF) identified collaborative learning communities and technology innovation networks as two of six strategic issues important to the future of mechanical engineering in the ASME 2005 environmental scan. In 2006, IAF is assisting ASME in assessing collaborative learning and networks, and how they may transform how innovation occurs globally and in the organizations of ASME members.

- Enhance relevance to industry (C3)
- Identify and Address Future Markets and Applications (C5)
- Grow revenue through new products and global growth (F1)
- Enable self-forming communities of interest to develop (I1)
- Increase/Expand market-relevant content (I3)
- Improve coordination and effectiveness of communications (I7)
- Develop new product and business development capabilities through a culture that is adaptive, continually evolving (risk taking), entrepreneurial and agile (L1)

\*[http://www.asme.org/Governance/StrategicManagement/Environmental\\_Scanning.cfm](http://www.asme.org/Governance/StrategicManagement/Environmental_Scanning.cfm)