

2021 Virtual Fall Networks Conference

September 13-17

Monday, September 13

8:30am – 5:00pm <i>Shindig</i>	Networking Lounge Operating Hours <i>The lounge will be open all day for conference attendees to use for networking and private meetings.</i>
9:00am – 9:25am <i>Shindig</i>	Welcome and Introduction to the IRI Networks Conference
9:30am – 10:30am Network Host: Innovation Leaders	Roundtable: Hot Topics in Innovation Leadership <i>Facilitators: Michael Blades (National Gypsum Company), Marty Waszak (NASA Langley Research Center)</i> <i>Attendees should come prepared to share a particular challenge or success they have recently experienced in their company. This is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about each other as well as share insight and brainstorm solutions.</i> <i>Participants can submit and/or vote on additional topics a week prior to session. Please submit and/or vote on the conference platform by Saturday, Sept 11.</i> <i>Topics include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to improve the design of your digital customer experience? - Encouraging employee creativity in decentralized teams - Improving speed and efficiency in New Product Development -
10:45am – 11:45am Network Host: Innovation Leaders	Roundtable: Changing Your Virtual Collaboration Strategy <i>Facilitators: Michael Blades (National Gypsum Company), Marty Waszak (NASA Langley Research Center)</i> <i>There is a tendency among organizations to try recreating an in-person strategy meeting in a virtual or hybrid format, which relies on all members of the team to participate at the same pre-selected time. With more and more team members working remotely part- or full-time, developing a successful model to collaborate virtually is essential. A model and/or tool that enables participants to submit their ideas on their own time – think of a virtual “whiteboard war room” with multiple different threads around brainstorming, pitch, prototyping, etc. – would make it</i>

	possible for teams to add their ideas to the ongoing discussion even outside of the meeting time.
12:00pm – 1:00pm <i>Shindig</i>	Open Networking
12:45pm – 1:45pm Network Host: New Business Development	<p>Roundtable: New Business Development Hot Topics <i>Facilitators: Pete Hunderup (INVISTA), Mike Marchand (Michelin America Research Company)</i></p> <p><i>Attendees should come prepared to share a particular challenge or success they have recently experienced in their company. This is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about each other as well as share insight and brainstorm solutions.</i></p> <p><i>Participants can submit and/or vote on additional topics a week prior to session. Please submit and/or vote on the conference platform by Saturday, Sept 11.</i></p> <p><i>Topics include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finding the “next generation” in your current market and connecting with opportunities - What is the most efficient way to streamline collaboration? - Agile methodology - Breaking down team silos
2:00pm – 2:50pm Network Host: New Business Development	<p>Roundtable: Partnership Development <i>Facilitators: Pete Hunderup (INVISTA), Mike Marchand (Michelin America Research Company)</i></p>
3:00pm – 3:50pm Network Host: New Business Development	<p>Roundtable: Organizational Interdependence <i>Facilitators: Pete Hunderup (INVISTA), Mike Marchand (Michelin America Research Company)</i></p> <p>A successful New Business Development team is a blended group that includes both sales and R&D managers. Siloes can develop as a result of this team dynamic and breaking them down can be a challenge. How do you break down these barriers? What strategies can help you identify the key stakeholders in a project?</p>
4:00pm – 4:50pm Network Host: Innovation Leaders and New Business Development	<p>Webinar: The Work of Innovation Storytelling - A Concept Workshop for Integrating Storytelling Processes Among Innovation Teams <i>Speaker: Katie Trauth Taylor (Untold Content)</i></p> <p>Innovators spend 25% of their work week writing and sharing innovation stories. From project proposals to concept pitches, innovators are constantly being asked to communicate their ideas and progress with their colleagues, customers, leaders, and stakeholders. In this workshop, we will explore and ideate on the work of innovation storytelling: Who touches innovation stories? How are they crafted? When are they shared? What templates and processes give it definition? We'll compare insights across organizations in a dynamic workshop experience, where we'll ask innovators to share feedback on updated research insights, a draft maturity model for innovation storytelling, and a concept pitch for a tech-enabled platform to support innovation storytelling across the enterprise.</p>

5:00pm – 5:45pm	Happy Hour Networking and Team Trivia
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Tuesday, September 14

8:30am – 5:00pm <i>Shindig</i>	Networking Lounge Operating Hours <i>The lounge will be open all day for conference attendees to use for networking and private meetings.</i>
9:00am – 9:50am Network Host: Innovation Leaders	Roundtable: Developing Talent Streams for Stages of Innovation
10:00am – 10:55am Network Host: Innovation Leaders	Webinar: The Hybrid Model Matrix - Enhancing Stage-Gate with Design Thinking, Lean Startup, and Agile <i>Speakers: Nicolò Cocchi, Clio Dosi, and Matteo Vignoli (University of Bologna)</i> The Hybrid Model Matrix, based on research conducted in a multinational manufacturing company, supports managers' decision-making regarding which new product development (NPD) processes to activate for a specific project. Stage-Gate is the backbone process of the matrix, and design thinking, Lean Startup, and Agile are plugged in to create three different hybrid models. The matrix also provides guidance regarding when R&D managers might use each model. The Hybrid Matrix Model outlines four approaches--linear Stage-Gate and the three hybrid models--that R&D managers may activate selectively based on company knowledge of users and categories. R&D managers can use the Hybrid Model Matrix to guide NPD projects better since they can determine the most suitable model given each opportunity's specific context.
11:00am – 12:00pm	Webinar: Establishing a Mentoring Program in Your Company (Monthly Innovation Leader Coffee House) <i>Presenter: Phillip Spencer (Entegris)</i> With increasing market demands and changing workforce needs, organizations are confronted with growing and retaining top talented employees. Corporate mentorship programs can confront these challenges by providing employees opportunities to enhance knowledge bases, develop skills, grow professional networks, and feel part of the company. This session explores the necessity of mentorship programs and ways they enhance inclusive workspaces while provide tips to starting and growing a corporate mentorship program.
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Open Networking
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Network Host:	Roundtable: Hot Topics in Human Resources <i>Attendees should come prepared to share a particular challenge or success they have</i>

Human Resources Network	<p>recently experienced in their company. This is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about each other as well as share insight and brainstorm solutions.</p> <p>Participants can submit and/or vote on additional topics a week prior to session. Please submit and/or vote on the conference platform by Saturday, Sept 11.</p>
<p>2:10pm – 3:00pm</p> Network Host: Human Resources Network	<p>Roundtable: Organizational Behavior Considerations in Hybrid Workforce</p> <p>The global pandemic forced organizations to pivot to Work From Home (WFH) and hybrid work models. Many organizations made this change as a reaction to the current crisis and are opting to continue the new model going forward. Making this part of your “new normal” should include considering the long-term impact on organizational behavior.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employee Empowerment Vs. Monitoring and attitudes towards privacy - Dynamics between on-site and WFH employees – how to manage employee resentment over on-site requirements? - Addressing income inequality among hybrid teams - How to make both on-site and WFH employees feel equally included and valued
<p>3:15pm – 4:15pm</p>	<p>The Box Exercise: Tapping into Your Peers’ Expertise</p> <p>This interactive session gives attendees a chance to seek insight from a small group of peers on how to address a particular innovation-related challenge. Attendees should determine their challenge for this exercise ahead of time. Take a few moments to think of and write down a challenge you are currently facing in your company, department, team, project, role, etc. Think of one that you would like to share and are curious how others would address that challenge.</p> <p>You will be preassigned a breakout group of 4-5 people. It is important that you register for this session before 9am ET on Tuesday, September 17 so we can assign groups. IRI will send a message to each breakout group’s participants via Swapcard by 12pm ET on September 17. We will display the assignments at the start of the session so attendees can move into their groups quickly.</p> <p>Participants will take turns (in alphabetical order by company name) spending no more than 2 minutes explaining their challenges and may answer clarifying questions. The person will then mute themselves and turn off their cameras. The other group members will spend 5 minutes discussing the challenge amongst themselves and outlining advice or suggestions on how to address it.</p>
<p>4:15pm – 5:00pm</p> Shindig	<p>Happy Hour Networking</p>

Wednesday, September 15

8:30am – 5:00pm <i>Shindig</i>	Networking Lounge Operating Hours <i>The lounge will be open all day for conference attendees to use for networking and private meetings.</i>
9:00am – 10:00am Network Host: External Technology	Roundtable: Hot Topics in External Technology Management <i>Facilitator: Ben Haskell (Lam Research) and Steve Perri (Eastman Chemical Company)</i> <i>Attendees should come prepared to share a particular challenge or success they have recently experienced in their company. This is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about each other as well as share insight and brainstorm solutions.</i> <i>Participants can submit and/or vote on additional topics a week prior to session. Please submit and/or vote on the conference platform by 12:00pm ET on Monday, September 13.</i>
10:10am – 11:00am Network Host: External Technology and New Business Development	Roundtable: From Virtual to Personal - How to Reengage with Customers and Partners <i>Facilitators: Ben Haskell (Lam Research), Pete Hunderup (INVISTA), Mike Marchand (Michelin Americas Research Company), Steve Perri (Eastman Chemical Company)</i> <i>As we begin allowing in-person meetings and business relationships to resume in the post-pandemic world, professionals have to learn how to reengage with their customers at the face-to-face level. With so many relationships being confined to virtual formats over the last 18 months, it will require some trial and error to determine what balance works best going forward. What kinds of tools are you using to reconnect with customers? What topics and projects will be handled through in-person customer meetings, and what will remain virtual? What are the drawbacks to these approaches?</i>
11:10am – 12:00pm Network Host: External Technology and Information Services/Information Technology	Webinar: Wearable Technologies <i>Presenter: Mark Vitalbo (PPG Industries)</i> <i>This presentation will provide an overview of two wearable technologies of Microsoft HoloLens 2 and RealWear HMT-1 Devices that are ready to use at PPG. We'll provide an overview of both devices and share demonstration videos of both, outline the pros and cons of each device and discuss potential use cases.</i>
12:00pm – 12:50pm	Lunch and Learn Webinar: Improving R&D Response in a Future Crisis <i>Presenter: Shah Karim (Saferock)</i> <i>This project was formed in response to recent crises that have had a crippling impact on many sectors at the national and international level. These events include health, economic, and natural disasters such as the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ever Given blockage of the Suez Canal, extreme flooding in Louisiana, Fukushima earthquake in Japan, and power crisis in Texas. As a result, investors and corporate leaders are urgently looking for ways reduce risk and improve response in a future crisis. The goal of this study is to help R&D teams and leaders anticipate and respond more effectively in a future crisis. The team intends to compile and share key lessons learned from these recent disruptions in order to improve preparedness and</i>

	response at scale in a future crisis at both executive and operational levels. Join this session for an update on project learnings so far.
12:00pm - 1:00pm <i>Shindig</i>	Open Networking
1:00pm - 2:00pm Network Host: Information Services/Information Technology	Roundtable: Hot Topics in IT and Information Services <i>Facilitators: Denise Callihan (PPG Industries), Amy Watson (PPG Industries)</i> Attendees should come prepared to share a particular challenge or success they have recently experienced in their company. This is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about each other as well as share insight and brainstorm solutions. Participants can submit and/or vote on additional topics a week prior to session. Please submit and/or vote on the conference platform by 12:00pm ET on Monday, September 13. Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cybersecurity concerns in hybrid/decentralized teams - Electronic Laboratory Notebooks - Digital tools
2:10pm - 3:00pm Network Host: Information Services/Information Technology	Roundtable: Integrated Data Strategies <i>Facilitators: Denise Callihan (PPG Industries), Amy Watson (PPG Industries)</i>
3:20pm - 4:20pm Network Host: Innovation Leaders and Information Services/Information Technology	Webinar: Rethinking Innovation Investment: Five Tips for Making Your Customers More Valuable <i>Speaker: Michael Schrage (Visiting Fellow, MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy)</i> Successful digital transformations successfully transform customers, not just the firm. How does - how should - your digital transformation make your customers more valuable? How will you know? Drawing extensively from academic research and real-world deployments. This seminar suggests specific heuristics for aligning digital transformation investment with desired customer transformation outcomes. These framework work as well for legacy firms as born-digital innovators.

Thursday, September 16

8:30am - 4:00pm <i>Shindig</i>	Networking Lounge Operating Hours <i>The lounge will be open all day for conference attendees to use for networking and private meetings.</i>
9:00am - 10:00am	Panel and Roundtable: Best Practices for Developing Effective Technology Partnerships <i>Panelists: Michael Holman (Lux Research), Corey Ritter (Arch Venture Partners), Samir Saini (What's Next Global)</i>

Network Host: External Technology	
10:10am – 11:00am Network Host: External Technology and Intellectual Assets Management	Webinar: Effectiveness of University Engagements <i>Presenters: Rhonda Crate (The Boeing Company); Saurabh Sircar (The Boeing Company)</i> Research and Development activities in the industries have had partnerships with the academia over many decades. However, this trend has now seen considerable growth not just domestically but also internationally. It is a recognition of the fact that new and innovative ideas in product and services can emerge from anywhere in the world and companies can benefit from this by distributing their R&D investments across multiple geographical regions. The objective of this project is to examine the effectiveness of university research engagements. The approach consists of collecting data from companies through interviews and survey questionnaires about their experience in partnering with the academia for R&D. These answers reveal essential gaps that companies feel in harnessing the research artifacts from universities towards product and service development. By analyzing this data and other publicly available sources on industrial research partnerships, we try to determine the principal factors that lead to gaps in fruitful experiences companies have in engaging with the universities. The project team will develop qualitative and quantitative metrics pertaining to these gaps to provide comparisons across different industries and at different times.
11:10am – 12:00pm Network Host: External Technology	Roundtable and Case Study: Eastman Chemical Company Circular Economy Initiatives <i>Speaker: Steve Perri (Eastman Chemical Company)</i>
12:00pm – 1:00pm <i>Shindig</i>	Open Networking
1:00pm – 2:00pm Network Host: Intellectual Assets Management	Roundtable: Intellectual Assets Management Hot Topics <i>Attendees should come prepared to share a particular challenge or success they have recently experienced in their company. This is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about each other as well as share insight and brainstorm solutions.</i>
2:10pm – 3:00pm Network Host: Intellectual Assets Management	Roundtable: Green Innovation and the Impact on Protecting and Managing Your IP
3:15pm – 4:30pm	Roundtable: Improving Cross-Functional Communication - What I Wish __ Knew About My Role in Innovation <i>Many organizations having a dedicated staff committed to innovation can struggle to achieve the level of innovation they desire. Many things can contribute to those gaps, some obvious and some not so obvious, particularly given the different types of organizations, culture, strategic goals, etc. Everyone who participates in innovation</i>

	<p><i>efforts can share examples of these gaps and root causes, but sometimes these are not talked about, may be taboo, or sit in an organization's blind spots. Do you sometimes wish there was a way to help other departments in your R&D organization better understand your goals and limitations? If so, join us! The goal of this open session isn't to create a list of complaints per se, but rather help open communication and understanding across different teams.</i></p> <p><i>This session is not part of a specific Network - this is designed to bring all of our conference attendees to together to discuss communication and strategic challenges. This will be the first time we have applied this type of session to the broader Networks community (our first one was limited to the Innovation Leaders Networks).</i></p>
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Friday, September 17

9:30am - 11:30am	<p>Roundtable: Tackling Key Operational Sustainability Challenges</p> <p>The session will focus on three themes and follow a small-group breakout format with each lasting 30 minutes and concluding with a general report-out and open discussion.</p> <p>Groups will be preassigned and will rotate after each discussion topic is complete. Attendees must register for this session in the conference platform before Thursday, Sept 16. All group notes will be collected and used to write a summary of the session.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating Greener Workplaces and Facilities 2. Social Responsibility Along Value Chain 3. Adapting Business and Innovation Processes