

Entrepreneurship and Economic Policy Making

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ABSTRACT

The relatively recent technology – driven collapse of product and process life cycles, from decades to just a few years, in many industries, has seen the unnecessary demise of many famous corporate names. Survival now depends upon both continuous annual improvement of existing operations, as well as upon substantial investments in higher-risks, next-generation technologies.

Moreover, the annual \$25 billion US investments in basic research, far exceed those of any other nation, and have recently generated several dozen “critical technologies,” which likely will restructure most industries over the next several decades, and dominate the 21st century. Potentially, they provide a unique competitive advantage for US companies in a hyper-competitive global marketplace.

However, the innovation process, which is needed to translate basic discoveries into useful products, processes and services, is an inherently high-risk process, heavily dependent upon the sustained availability of low cost capital. Unfortunately, a sadly incoherent set of fiscal, monetary, and bureaucratically administered regulatory policies and tort laws, have not provided the needed environment conducive to risk investments.

A much more enlightened understanding now is needed both of the extraordinary unrealized potential that now exists to advance the human condition world wide, as well as of the fragile nature of the high-risk innovation process which must be incentivized to realize that potential.

Due to technical difficulties, the full text of this paper is not available at this time. Please contact the author for a copy of the paper.