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Title: Industry Partnerships Help Department of Energy's Building Technologies Office Scale Innovation

Abstract: How does a large research institution like the US Department of Energy use its influence and funding opportunities to scale innovation and technology adoption? For the Commercial Building Integration (CBI) program under the Building Technologies Office (BTO), the answer is through partnerships. CBI's research aims to advance a range of innovative building technologies and solutions, paving the way for high performing buildings that could use 50-75% less energy than typical commercial buildings. In order to develop and evaluate potential research ideas, CBI forms industry partnerships to gain perspective, disseminate its technical expertise, and scale adoption through collaboration and recognition of market leaders. This session will describe CBI's theory of change and detail its methods of partnerships with examples of how stakeholder engagement informs the different stages of technology development and adoption. The audience will hear about how the Better Buildings Initiative, a national public - private partnership, was conceived to challenge private organizations to set portfolio-wide energy reduction goals, and continues to push industry leaders to be held accountable for their energy, water, and sustainability goals. CBI partnerships with industry groups also enables the DOE and its National Labs to disseminate its wide array of technical expertise, assuring they are used to transform the market. Finally, federal recognition of market leaders through a variety of collaboration programs sets a standard for success that will motivate and encourage behavior change at scale.