Predicting skill needs in Australia's emerging industries and mechanisms for response by VET systems

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This paper reports on research in progress for which the primary research questions are:

1. How can skill needs be predicted for Australia's emerging industries?
2. How can VET systems respond to these emerging skill needs?

The following will also be considered:

*   Which research and development areas are the most likely to create a demand for training in Australia?
*   What forms of industries will be likely to arise from this R&D?
*   Are there common factors across emerging industries, which will have a bearing on the forecasting of training need and demand (likely number of training places)?
*   Do emerging technology companies have skill needs which are similar to those required in established industries or is there (will there be) a requirement for a new type of knowledge/technician worker?
*   What approaches to training are taken by emerging technology companies? For example, do they prefer to liaise with local colleges or training funding bodies or to train in-house or to recruit skilled labour outside the firm? What (if any) reasons/benefits do they identify for early investment in training.
*   How (if at all) does the VET education sector currently intersect with the Australian government funded R&D sector in order to determine skill need in emerging industries?
*   What does the R&D sector believe are effective strategies to enable VET practitioners to make the essential connections and meet training need and demand in a timely fashion?
*   What models of collaboration or partnership between R&D and the education sectors will be required to ensure the supply of skilled knowledge workers for emerging industries?