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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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**SCHEDULE 14A**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a)  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

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Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only** (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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- No fee required.
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**TITLE: Parallel Research: Accelerating Innovation**

Collaboration is an essential part of good research. However many brilliant minds a single organization has, the way that knowledge is exchanged with other experts is a key element of developing new ideas.

But what does that mean in practice? Here's where the concept of "parallel research" plays a pivotal role. To make sense of what parallel research is, we have to look at how scientific research works – a process we call the 'innovation value chain'. That's the path an idea follows to go from a concept in a lab to a fruitful pilot project.

**The Innovation Value Chain**

Powerful ideas and progress can come from anywhere – academia, start-ups, national laboratories, and established companies. Each of these organizations occupy a niche role in innovation, bringing different skillsets and resources to the process.

Among these organizations, academia has often been the place of genesis for novel concepts that can transform the energy industry. A university would normally conduct tests to establish 'proof of principle'. That means they will attempt to show that an idea for a new technology would work, in terms of fundamental science. Theoretical research in fuel cells at the University of Genoa in Italy, a project with the potential to accelerate carbon capture technologies for industrial facilities, is a good example.

With a proof of principle established, a national research institute – such as, in the US, one of the national laboratories – might create a small-scale demonstration. Bringing in decades of expertise in process optimization and feasibility analysis, the national labs take the idea from a 'scientifically possible in theory' scale, to a 'working in reality' scale. From micro, to macro.

With promising findings from laboratory and pilot studies, novel technologies will require an initial deployment at scale. Often, start-up companies specializing in that field of technology play a crucial role at this stage.

Ultimately, to bring a new technology to commercialization, a global energy company like ExxonMobil – with the capabilities, capital and experience of managing large projects around the world – joins the innovation value chain and searches for pathways to scale up deployment.

However, while this innovation value chain may sound like a linear process, when it comes to tackling pressing challenges in energy and the environment, it is everything but.

‘We don’t have time to be linear’, says Dr Vijay Swarup, vice president of R&D at ExxonMobil. ‘How do you speed up this process? You do things in parallel.’

### **Working in Parallel**

ExxonMobil is doing what we can to speed up the research and development of new energy technologies by working in parallel. This means that we are instigating research ourselves, bringing ideas to the lab and working alongside the institutions we need to bring them to fruition, researching fundamental science in parallel with the practical engineering. This enables us to collaborate to develop the ideas which we can see have the greatest potential to be scaled up.

Vijay recently explained the benefits of parallel research in February at the IP Week Conference in a session titled “Innovation for the Energy Transition: Challenges and Opportunities for Research, Innovation and Development” ([link to IP Week speech – previously filed with SEC](#))

To advance emerging energy technologies, ExxonMobil is collaborating with over 80 universities around the world, five energy centres and U.S national laboratories. Universities in Europe include the University of Genoa as well as Imperial College London.

We have built many relationships with smaller specialist firms to deploy pilot demonstrations. As an example, when we wanted to develop a direct air carbon capture system using a materials technology, [we engaged with Mosaic Materials](#). But to develop an engineering-led carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology [we are working with Global Thermostat](#).

The ExxonMobil R&D team are working on many new technologies, as we search for solutions to the dual challenge of how to provide the energy people need whilst managing environmental impacts and the risks of climate change.

Collaborating in parallel means that every step of the way, we are exchanging knowledge with external experts – and that we can make progress faster on this critical endeavour.

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Associated social media posts (various character restrictions):

*‘ExxonMobil is finding innovative ways to progress energy solutions from laboratory to scale’*

*‘By innovating in parallel, ExxonMobil is helping accelerate the search for solutions to the dual challenge of providing energy while managing environment impacts’*

*‘ExxonMobil’s R&D team asked themselves: How can we collaborate more effectively in helping solve today’s energy challenges? Find out how we strengthened our approach’*

*‘ExxonMobil believes parallel research can lead to better innovation’*

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**Important Additional Information Regarding Proxy Solicitation**

Exxon Mobil Corporation (“ExxonMobil”) has filed a definitive proxy statement and form of associated BLUE proxy card with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) in connection with the solicitation of proxies for ExxonMobil’s 2021 Annual Meeting (the “Proxy Statement”). ExxonMobil, its directors and certain of its executive officers will be participants in the solicitation of proxies from shareholders in respect of the 2021 Annual Meeting. Information regarding the names of ExxonMobil’s directors and executive officers and their respective interests in ExxonMobil by security holdings or otherwise is set forth in the Proxy Statement. To the extent holdings of such participants in ExxonMobil’s securities are not reported, or have changed since the amounts described, in the Proxy Statement, such changes have been reflected on Initial Statements of Beneficial Ownership on Form 3 or Statements of Change in Ownership on Form 4 filed with the SEC. Details concerning the nominees of ExxonMobil’s Board of Directors for election at the 2021 Annual Meeting are included in the Proxy Statement. BEFORE MAKING ANY VOTING DECISION, INVESTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY ARE URGED TO READ ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED WITH OR FURNISHED TO THE SEC, INCLUDING THE COMPANY’S DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT AND ANY SUPPLEMENTS THERETO AND ACCOMPANYING BLUE PROXY CARD, BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Investors and shareholders can obtain a copy of the Proxy Statement and other relevant documents filed by ExxonMobil free of charge from the SEC’s website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). ExxonMobil’s shareholders can also obtain, without charge, a copy of the Proxy Statement and other relevant filed documents by directing a request by mail to ExxonMobil Shareholder Services at 5959 Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, Texas, 75039-2298 or at [shareholderrelations@exxonmobil.com](mailto:shareholderrelations@exxonmobil.com) or from the investor relations section of ExxonMobil’s website, [www.exxonmobil.com/investor](http://www.exxonmobil.com/investor).