



US EPA Federal Technology Transfer Program

Cooperative Research and Development

The Federal Technology Transfer Act (FTTA), enacted by Congress in 1986 and building on previous legislation, improves access to federal laboratories by non-federal organizations for research and development opportunities. It allows for inventors to patent their technologies and share in any royalties received from licensing of the patents. The goal of this legislation is to more efficiently and effectively put federally funded technology to use in real-world applications.

Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) are the primary mechanism for these partnerships. CRADAs are established between the EPA and research partners to exchange personnel, equipment, services, and expertise for a specific research project. The CRADA allows non-federal partners to work directly with federal laboratories in collaborative research and development projects, while also protecting intellectual property that may be developed. Licensing Agreements can also be established so that outside entities can license EPA patented products and methods to make them available to the public in the shortest possible time.

Who Can Participate?

Non-federal partners of all sizes are experiencing the benefits of utilizing EPA's resources to conduct joint research and technology commercialization, and include private industry, consortia, academia, trade associations, and state and local governments. The majority of these businesses are considered small or medium-sized, providing them with opportunities to make significant and positive impacts on the environment. There are also a number of large corporations and universities, such as Ford Motor Company and Duke University, that have taken advantage of the program. Other participants include consortia (for CRADAs involving multiple parties), trade associations, and state and local governments.

Benefits of Participation

The FTFTA program is a win-win program for all. For example, private industry can use EPA's high-quality research to develop products for the marketplace, and has opportunities to collaborate on further research. The EPA benefits from external expertise, product development, and funding. Through these agreements, research outcomes can reach the field quickly, resulting in efforts that further the goal of a cleaner, healthier environment.

For More Information

For more information and examples of recent CRADAs and Licensing Agreements, visit our website at: www.epa.gov/ftta, or contact the FTFTA Coordinator: Kathleen Graham, (303) 312-6137, graham.kathleen@epa.gov.