



Technology Transfer Opportunities

Partnership Opportunities for States:

U.S. Geological Survey Assistance to State Business Economy

Introduction

As a research and information laboratory of the Federal government, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is committed to making its developments readily available to customers within the private sector. The USGS is the Nation's premier earth science agency, providing unique scientific data and technology in the areas of natural hazards, environment, resources, and information. Often USGS research and information activities lead to developments that have significant commercial applications and that can help increase the global competitiveness of our domestic economy. The agency uses a proactive technology transfer program to encourage the adoption and use of these developments. In addition, the agency welcomes collaborative opportunities with private industry.

State Business Assistance

Providing assistance to state businesses is important to the USGS. Many of its new developments and technologies can help enhance private industries within states, giving a boost to local economies. One technology transfer strategy used by the USGS to stay in touch with state businesses is to form Cooperative Research and Development Agreements or CRADAs with organizations whose missions include providing business development opportunities to companies within their states. CRADAs enable the Federal government and a collaborating partner to work together toward a common goal

including research, the development of new technology, and technology transfer. As of this writing, the USGS has formed CRADA partnerships with two state organizations and is working on several others. The two completed CRADAs are with: the Virginia Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) and the University of Maryland at College Park.

Both the CIT and the University of Maryland are interested in enhancing their state's technological competitiveness and developing new businesses. Under the CRADA effort with the USGS, both organizations help promote economic growth by identifying new USGS technology of potential interest for new and existing state businesses and introducing these developments to companies in Virginia and Maryland. Since 1987, the CIT has had a Technology Assistance and Transfer Program with 11 Technology Transfer Directors located at community colleges throughout the State, who work directly with the local business community to help solve technology related problems. Specialized programs include information technology and telecommunications, biotechnology, aerospace and transportation, energy and environmental technology, and electronics. The CIT also maintains technology development centers at several Virginia universities.

Purpose of the CRADA Partnerships

Both CRADAs are designed to provide

outreach to businesses within Virginia and Maryland by publicizing available USGS technology through newsletters, briefings, training and other media. The partnership effort will also help pre-qualifying potential requests from Maryland and Virginia businesses for technical assistance and partnerships with the USGS. The CRADAs are designed to proactively match the interests of these state businesses, particularly small businesses, with new developments of the USGS.

For More Information

For further information on how your company might benefit from this service, contact:

Center for Innovative Technology
Director, Technology Assistance Services
CIT Tower, Suite 600
2214 Rock Hill Road
Herndon, VA 22070-4005
Tel: (703) 689-3064
Fax: (703) 689-3041

University of Maryland
Director, Office of Research
Lee Building
College Park, MD 20742
Tel: (301) 405-3883

The USGS welcomes discussions with anyone who would like to explore potential CRADA opportunities. For further information, contact:

U.S. Geological Survey
Technology Transfer Office
104 National Center
Reston, Virginia 20192
703-648-4450; Fax 703-648-5470
E-mail: tto@www.usgs.gov