



Technology Transfer Opportunities: How to Enter Into a CRADA With the USGS

What is a CRADA?

A CRADA is a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement. It is a written agreement between a private company and a government agency to work together on a project. By entering into a CRADA, the Federal government and non-Federal partners can optimize their resources and cost-effectively perform research by sharing the costs of this research. The collaborating partner agrees to provide funds, personnel, services, facilities, equipment or other resources needed to conduct a specific research or development effort while the Federal government agrees to provide similar resources **but not funds** directly to the partner.

The CRADA vehicle provides incentives that can help speed the commercialization of Federally-developed technology, making it an excellent technology transfer tool. The Government protects any proprietary information brought to the CRADA effort by the partner. This provides a true collaborative opportunity. Federal scientists can work closely with their non-Federal counterparts, exchanging ideas and information while protecting company secrets. Also, all parties can mutually agree, if they so desire, to keep research results emerging from the CRADA confidential and free from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act for up to 5 years. CRADAs also allow flexibility in patenting and patent licensing, enabling the government and the collaborating partner to share patents and patent licenses or permitting one partner to

retain exclusive rights to a patent or patent license.

Benefits of a CRADA

To summarize, CRADAs offer the following benefits:

- o Enable both partners to stretch their research budgets and optimize resources.
- o Provides a means for sharing technical expertise, ideas, and information in a protected environment. The Federal government can protect from disclosure any proprietary information brought to the CRADA effort by the partner(s).
- o Permit Federal and non-Federal scientists to work closely and offer non-Federal partners access to a wide range of expertise in many disciplines within the Federal government.
- o Allow the partners to agree to share intellectual property emerging from the effort or to agree that one partner may retain exclusive license to patentable research.
- o Permit the Federal government to protect information emerging from the CRADA from disclosure for up to 5 years, if this is desirable.

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CRADA partnerships are open to any non-federal party that is interested in taking advantage of it. CRADAs must fall within certain criteria from the Federal government's perspective. For example, the CRADA effort must be consistent with the mission of the specific agency initiating the CRADA. CRADAs cannot adversely affect the scientific integrity of the agency and must be performed in the public interest. Agencies must also ensure that CRADA partners are fairly selected and that others interested in the effort have an opportunity to participate. This is often accomplished by placing notices of the CRADA opportunity in the Federal Register.

To enter into a CRADA with the USGS, a prospective partner should contact the principal researchers involved in the USGS research opportunity or the USGS Technology Transfer Office. The CRADA opportunity will be discussed in terms of the work to be done and a written Statement of Work will be drafted by the USGS in close coordination with a partner. The Statement of Work outlines the tasks to be performed in the CRADA, contributions of the parties involved, the duration of the effort, and anticipated outcomes or accomplishments.

The USGS has a standard, written CRADA document that accompanies the Statement of Work. This agreement contains the General Provisions of the CRADA which describe the legal responsibilities of each partner. Although the document is flexible to some extent, Government regulations prohibit the USGS from altering certain portions. Changes are discussed as part of the formal negotiation process.

Once a CRADA has been negotiated between both parties and an agreement has been made concerning the final document and Statement of Work, the document must be signed by authorized signatories of both parties. Once signed, the agreement is executed and the CRADA effort may begin.

For More Information

Additional information about CRADAs or partnership opportunities currently available can be obtained by contacting:

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