

FLC NEWS LINK

December 2003

Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer
The Only Government-wide Forum for Technology Transfer

T² Events

The O'Reilly Emerging Technology Conference
San Diego, Calif.
Feb. 9-12, 2004

Technology Transfer Conference and Expo
Chicago, Ill.
Feb. 23-26, 2004

Society of Automotive Engineers
Detroit, Mich.
March 8-11, 2004

World's Best Technology 2004
Arlington, Tex.
March 21-23

FLC National Meeting
Mission-Driven Partnerships
San Diego, Calif.
May 3-7, 2004

Bio 2004
San Francisco, Calif.
June 6-9, 2004

WorldFuture 2004
Creating the Future Now
Washington, D.C.
July 31-Aug. 2, 2004

Go to:
www.federallabs.org
for a complete calendar of events

2003, A Year of Boundless T² Progress

2003 was a year of technology transfer (T²) advancements, adjustments, and ideas.

From lucrative collaborations to changes in policy to efforts of a global nature, the face of federal T² continues to evolve.

FLC NewsLink reports this evolution as it happens. Common topics such as T² education and training, legislation, tools, services, collaborations, and successful transfers address the common thread of T² professionals and their partners.

By canvassing the issues of 2003, the FLC NewsLink team has compiled and brought you the major newsmakers and movers of



2003. This issue captures the stories of outstanding T² success; crucial policy changes; and various initiatives of the FLC, its agency representatives, and its academic

and industrial partners as they developed through 2003.

The FLC NewsLink staff is dedicated to reporting the news for and about you, the T² professional.

Your contributions to this publication are essential to its success, and we look forward to continuing this partnership as we enter another year of T² advancement, adjustment, and ideology.

Laboratory Directors Welcome Challenges at Federal Labs

April - Top officials at some of the nation's leading federal laboratories engaged in technology transfer activities admitted last week that they face challenges on several fronts—revised personnel structures, outsourcing, possible closure of military research facilities, as well as constrained federal budgets.

Tom Barton of Ames Laboratory, Brian Simmons of the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground, and Jim Zarzycki of the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center took part on a panel at the FLC's national meeting on May 6-8 in Tucson, Ariz.



Lab Directors Panel - From left: Jim Zarzycki of the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Brian Simmons of the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground, Tom Barton of Ames Laboratory, and FLC NAC Chair Ric Trotta.

Moderator and FLC National Advisory Council chair Ric Trotta asked how lab directors might become advocates for tech transfer.

"They're not going to spend much time on it, that's for sure," Barton said. "I really believe what you want are for lab directors to be knowledgeable about FLC and supporters of its [tech transfer] activities in their labs.

"Everybody is spending too much time chasing money," he said. "But that's probably always going to be true. Right now everyone is trying to figure out how the Department of Homeland Security might fund them!"

Funding for small science is in a decline, in part Barton believes, due to "a natural inclination" to fund research that uses big instruments like a collider or cyclotron.

"Since the anthrax incident after 9/11, our tech transfer program has exploded," said Zarzycki. "Sometimes it's just good to be lucky, and our organization was in

See Lab Directors, page 3

DC on T²

by Dave Appler
FLC Washington, DC Representative

As I have said in several of my columns and e-mails during the year, the balance of power between the two political parties in Congress (particularly the Senate) has made the passage of legislation very difficult.

The art of compromise and consensus causes 95% agreement, but the political benefits of disagreeing on a handful of issues are holding up a lot of legislation. As I write this column, only half of the FY 2004 appropriation bills have been passed.



Dave Appler

Senator Harry Reid, Senate Minority Whip, is quoted as saying he doubts that the remainder will be passed by the Senate until Congress reconvenes on January 20, 2004, although the House and Senate convene for one day on December 8 to try to pass an omnibus appropriation for agencies not funded for this fiscal year.

The big gainers so far this year are the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The

See DC on T², page 5

FLC Mid-Continent Region Fights Fire with Energetics

December - Wildfires hit a fever pitch in the summer of 2003 as more than 700,000 acres burned, at least 22 people were killed, and thousands of people were forced to evacuate their homes and livelihoods throughout California. Nearly 13,000 firefighters and support personnel battled the huge blazes that threatened areas from Los Angeles to San Diego.

Wildfires destroyed 6.7 million acres in 2002 and over 8 million in 2000. In May 2000, Los Alamos National Laboratory was in such danger that it had to be evacuated for several days.

The Center of Energetic Materials and Energetic Devices at New Mexico Tech and the FLC Mid-Continent Region will spearhead a project that will evaluate the use of energetic materials to fight forest fires. Energetic materials are explosives, propellants, and pyrotechnics that are commonly used to make such items as rockets and missile propulsion units, nuclear warheads, and mines.

Various means of control are used against wildfires, including starting fire breaks and controlled fires in an effort to slow down or reduce the intensity of the fires by decreasing the fuel source. The Center will be evaluating energetics for their usefulness in clearing

See FLC Fights Fire, page 3



Working with Los Alamos, Sandia, and the U.S. Forest Service, the FLC Mid-Continent Region is spearheading technology transfer efforts to fight forest fires.

T² Fact

In 1908, Jacques Edwin Brandenberger invented cellophane. While at a restaurant he noticed a customer spill wine onto a tablecloth. While watching the waiter clean up, Brandenberger decided to invent a clear film that could be applied to cloth, making it waterproof.

Inside

2 Fed Labs Flash
2 Lab Work
3 Collaboration
5 FLC on Tour

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Fed Labs Flash

Technology Transfer Notes from Within the Federal Laboratory Community

Small Business T² on the Rise

by Neil MacDonald

Technology Commercialization

September - More federal agencies are expected to operate Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, according to a top Small Business Administration official.

These additions could boost the program's annual budget to over \$2 billion in FY 2004.

SBA Assistant Administrator for Technology Maurice Swinton told *Technology Commercialization* that the Department of Housing & Urban Development, the General Services Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security could start SBIR and/or STTR programs during the next 12 months.

The SBIR program is presently awarding about \$1.5 billion a year, and the STTR program about \$95 million annually, Swinton said. Reauthorization of STTR will increase the agencies' set aside to 0.30% from 0.15% with effect from October 1, 2003, and double the annual amount for the program to over \$200 million for FY 2004.

ORNL Grants National Access

October - Researchers from around the nation will have access to some of the world's finest scientific tools because of a \$3.9-million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to the Center for Computational Sciences at **Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)**.

The grant, announced today by NSF, is to establish a network hub and high-performance network connections to support access to ORNL's neutron science instruments across the TeraGrid. The TeraGrid is part of a high-speed network that will provide scientists with extraordinary amounts

of data from ORNL's high flux isotope reactor and the \$1.4-billion spallation neutron source.

"This award is a wonderful illustration of the continuing partnership between NSF and the Department of Energy's Office of Science on the TeraGrid," said Raymond Orbach, director of the DOE office. "ORNL's Center for Computational Sciences will now be able to provide the nation's research community with expanded access to ORNL's extraordinary neutron science facilities."

NNSA Doubles Funding to TVC

March - The National Nuclear Society Administration (NNSA) will double its funding to \$3 million for Technology Venture Corporation (TVC) to further implement technology commercialization at national laboratories in California, Nevada and New Mexico. The funding is part of the \$400-billion omnibus package signed by President George W. Bush.

"This additional funding is extremely important," said Senator Pete Domenici, R-NM. "TVC has emerged over the years as a national model of a public-private partnership that is spinning off new companies and creating good jobs."

The additional funds make it possible for TVC to expand its efforts of establishing public-private partnerships to commercialize technology originating at **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**, the **Nevada Test Site**, and **Los Alamos National Laboratory**.

More info: TVC's Randy Wilson, 505-843-4287

PNNL Expands Blood Serum Library

January - In a significant scientific advance, researchers at the **DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)** have identified or confirmed 490 proteins in human blood serum —



Using liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry instrumentation, PNNL scientists identified and characterized nearly twice as many proteins in blood serum than previously noted.

nearly doubling the number of known serum proteins, according to a paper accepted for publication in the December issue of *Molecular and Cellular Proteomics*.

"We have performed the most extensive identification of proteins in serum to date," said **Joel Pounds**, corresponding author and a PNNL staff scientist. "We studied blood serum because it holds clues to all the major processes in our bodies. We need to know what proteins exist in that serum to know how they might be used to predict disease susceptibility, monitor disease progression or diagnose disease."

Bush Extends PCAST, PITAC

by Neil MacDonald

Federal Technology Watch

June - In a little noticed bureaucratic act May 28, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13305, extending by two years the life of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC) and the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). The president's action allows PITAC to continue to offer advice. Without the extension, the Executive Order would have expired this past weekend. PITAC's and PCAST's terms have now been extended to June 1, 2005.

Lab Work

For NASA Technology, Seeing is Believing

December - Two **NASA Marshall Space Flight Center** researchers, using their expertise and equipment for analyzing satellite video, have created technology that can dramatically improve video images. The scientists' invention, called Video Image Stabilization and Registration (VISAR), stabilizes camera motion in the horizontal and vertical, produces clearer images of moving objects, smoothes jagged edges, enhances still



NASA inventors Dr. Paul Meyer (left) and Dr. David Hathaway view a license plate number revealed by using the Video Image Stabilization and Registration — VISAR — software to improve poor quality footage. Meyer and Hathaway invented the software at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

As VISAR has been incorporated into a video tracking and enhancement system, VideoAnalyst™, developed by Intergraph Government Solutions.

The technology is a comprehensive, effective, and affordable solution for advanced video analysis and enhancement. It combines capabilities previously found only in high-end broadcast-quality systems with the tools necessary to capture, analyze, enhance, and edit almost any type of video. Intergraph now has more than 60 sites of VideoAnalyst systems.

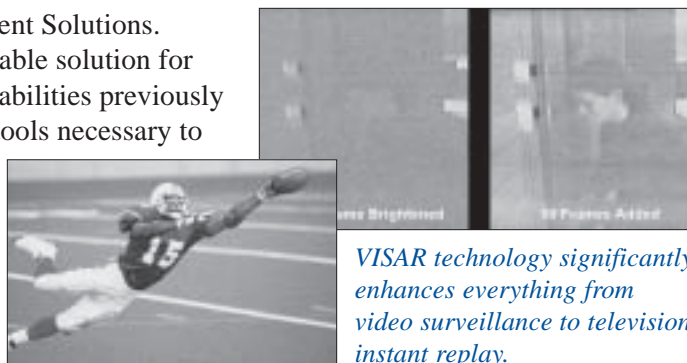
Skylark, LLC, a small Montana startup company, has requested two nonexclusive licenses in the areas of 3D video-editing special effects software and amateur personal home computer use for video-editing.

images, and reduces "snow."

The development of VISAR began when the FBI approached NASA scientists for help. The FBI had acquired blurry, unclear home video footage of the bombing at the 1996 Olympic Summer Games in Atlanta. Currently available technology was inadequate to sufficiently improve the video. The scientists put their expertise and equipment to work. The footage that the scientists produced was impressive and revealed telling detail.

The VISAR technology has matured dramatically since this initial case. VISAR has far-reaching applications in the post-processing of video or digital sequences. Some of the many applications post-processing include law enforcement and security videos, automobile cameras, home videotapes, instant replays of sporting events, and medical and scientific imaging.

a result of a license agreement signed in 2000,



VISAR technology significantly enhances everything from video surveillance to television instant replay.

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FLC Management Support Office
950 North Kings Highway
Suite 208
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Phone: (856) 667-7727
Fax: (856) 667-8009

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Editor: Tom Grayson

Online subscriptions:
tgrayson@utrsmail.com

Electronic article submissions:
tgrayson@utrsmail.com

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Lab Directors, From page 1

the right place to meet the surging demand. In my opinion, there's a benefit to the lab director if the lab is in tech transfer because you really can prove the value of your organization all the time," he said.

"Edgewood is just completing celebration of its 85th anniversary," Zarzycki explained. "We've been active since World War I and, as a result, our troops are the best protected in the world to fight, survive, and win in a chemical or biological conflict." The lab works on nonmedical CBW (chemical and biological warfare) defense, such as detectors and protective equipment. "An important part of my role is supporting people who destroy chemical stockpiles," Zarzycki said, "including Iraqi chemical weapons that were found in the early 1990s. With tremendous awareness now of chemical and biological threats, the lab has been much more engaged in tech transfer because of that."

"We did a couple of smart things a few years ago, one being an [organizational] commitment to become a bigger player in tech transfer. We organized ourselves to do that and have become pretty aggressive," he said. "We're now showing some significant successes with increased cooperative R&D agreements (CRADAs), patent license agreements, and test support agreements.

"We're all under pressure from things like BRAC, all kinds of realignment or downsizing of the infrastructure.

"The question is always asked, 'What have you done?' I think as lab director I'm better served by being able to stand up and not just talk about my specific mission, but be able to make the case that I'm doing some very important things for the overall national good and that largely applies to tech transfer," Zarzycki explained.

Barton and Zarzycki both received FLC awards for T² achievements at their labs, and Simmons received one in 2002.

Reducing Dependence Through Collaboration

January - Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) of Oakridge, Tenn., and USEC, Inc., a global energy company headquartered in Bethesda, Md., have signed an agreement worth \$121 million to develop and demonstrate a highly efficient uranium enrichment technology that could greatly reduce U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources.

The CRADA with USEC, a supplier of enriched uranium fuel for commercial nuclear power plants, is the largest ever for ORNL. The agreement extends through 2007 and will be funded entirely by USEC. Lab officials note, however, that the significance of the agreement extends beyond the funding.

"This represents a commitment to a proven technology that was developed by the Department of Energy over more than two decades," said **Gil Gilliland**, ORNL associate director for Energy and Engineering Sciences. "This also represents a commitment to support the growth of nuclear energy, a clean power source that is not dependent on foreign suppliers."

USEC employees and technical personnel from ORNL will work to deploy USEC's lead cascade test facility, which will showcase improvements to DOE's proven centrifuge technology. The gas centrifuge process produces a uranium stream concentrated in uranium-235, a radioisotope suitable for making fuel for nuclear power plants.

Over the next few years, ORNL will receive \$28.5 million for specific design, testing and analysis work. By 2005, USEC plans to be operating a commercial-

*FLC Fights Fire, From page 1*

fire breaks in front of a wildfire, as well as for removing tops of trees to prevent crowning, thus slowing the fire from spreading. Other projects call for investigating the delivery of slurry, a fire retardant liquid, by using energetics.

The Mid-Continent Region will be seeking technologies from federal labs that can be used for this application safely and with minimal training of firefighters. The region will also be seeking experts in fire fighting and customers in need of this technology. So far, interest has been expressed by Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, U.S.

Forest Service's Missoula Technology Development Center, National Interagency Fire Center, DOE Idaho, Pantex Plant, Surface Warfare Center-Indian Head, as well as an Australian firm. A meeting is planned for sometime in February or March 2004.

The FLC Executive Board will facilitate bringing the right people and technologies together. **More info:** Ann Kerksieck at 870-241-3382 or <ann@zyn.com>

FLC Leads Assistive Technology

by Joseph P. Lane

March - The FLC identified "assistive technology" as a strategic technology focus area in the mid-1990s. At the time, few people knew that the term represented devices and services that maintain or restore functional capabilities for people with disabilities.

The FLC's management foresaw the growing importance of this field to our workforce, our citizens, and our nation.

Now that Baby Boomers are nearly a decade older, this most experienced segment of the workforce is aging—with

sensory, physical and cognitive impairments. People with disabilities are living longer than ever before and fighting to maintain their independence by living in the least restrictive environment possible.

Families are striving to simultaneously maximize the quality of life for their children and their parents, despite the presence of congenital or acquired functional impairments. Now, as then, assistive technology matters to the FLC. While the Americans with Disabilities Act is nearly 15 years old, it still is not fully implemented for government employees.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act is relatively new, but dramatically restricts government procurement to those devices and services that are fully accessible to people with disabilities. The concept of "dual use" technologies—which has lain dormant for the past decade—is being revived through the New Freedom Initiative.

Fortune 500 companies are turning their attention to this field as the age wave begins to intersect their product planning horizons. What are now niche markets subsidized through third-party payment will soon be mainstream markets viewed as consumer products.

sized module of hundreds of next-generation gas centrifuge uranium enrichment machines.

According to Gilliland, the USEC/ORNL gas centrifuge uranium enrichment machines boast efficiencies four to six times better than those possible with competing technologies.

USEC will announce later this year a location in either Kentucky or Ohio for the test facility. The commercial plant would provide about 500 jobs



According to the National Interagency Fire Center, 88,458 fires damaged 6,937,584 acres of land in 2002, at a cost of \$1.6 billion for suppression.



Assistive technology resources include Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers, the Assistive Technology Industry Association, and the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America.

A host of resources exists for technology transfer professionals to learn more about assistive technology research, regulations, and opportunities.

For information on current research programs, industry activity, peer-reviewed publications and professional practices, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) is the field's premier professional society (www.resna.org).

Also refer to the Assistive Technology Industry Association (www.atia.org).

The **Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology Transfer** at the University at Buffalo lists problem statements for which solutions are being sought at <<http://cosmos.buffalo.edu/t2rerc/programs/demandpull/index.html>>.

For help with workplace accommodations, the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Network (CAP) offers free assessment services and required technologies free of charge to most government employees (www.tricare.osd.mil/cap).

For information on the variety of commercially available assistive devices, check <www.abledata.com> and <www.assistivetech.net>, both funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education, which provides the latest information on federally funded research, development, training and dissemination programs at <www.ncddr.org>.

The National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research at the National Institutes of Health is also full of information on technology and research dedicated to assistive technology at <www.nichd.nih.gov/about/ncmrr>.

when construction is complete. Construction is expected to create several hundred jobs as well.

"USEC's deployment of U.S. centrifuge technology will meet future worldwide demand for nuclear fuel, ensure domestic energy security, better serve customers, and ensure USEC's long-term competitive position," said Dennis Spurgeon, USEC executive vice president and chief operation officer.

U.S., Japan Technology Team Expands Cooperation

January - A program developed to enhance the transfer of research and capabilities between the U.S. and Japan continues to foster technological progress.

Formed in 1990, the JAPAN-US Science, Technology, and Space Applications Program (JUSTSAP) is a unique collaboration between the U.S. and Japan to promote and facilitate cooperative studies, research and development in space systems and related applications.

The initiative sprang from a collaborative effort among **Dr. Burton I. Edelson**, then at **Johns Hopkins University**, **Professor Jun Nishimura**, then Director-General of the **Institute of Space and Astronautical Sciences of Japan**, and **Takaji Kuroda**, Corporate Chief Engineer of **NEC Corporation**.

The group sought the collaboration to benefit the space programs of both countries while conversely enhancing science, technology, and economics in the Pacific region and the world.

The association meets annually, usually in Hawaii, and supports ongoing projects in satellite communications, disaster management, microgravity research, small satellite development, and other cutting-edge R&D areas.

JUSTSAP's influence and interests are vast and can be felt in many ways. The program coordinated the first trans-Pacific high data rate (Ka-band)

satellite link between mainland U.S. and Japan. It has prepared a series of microgravity experiments for launch aboard the U.S. space shuttle.

It created JUSTSAP STARS, a mentoring program for high school and college students that provides access to scientists and resources, as well as supports student-designed space experiments. JUSTSAP coordinates its activities and initiatives with government agencies—in particular, **NASA** and the Japanese space agencies, **NASDA** and **ISAS**.

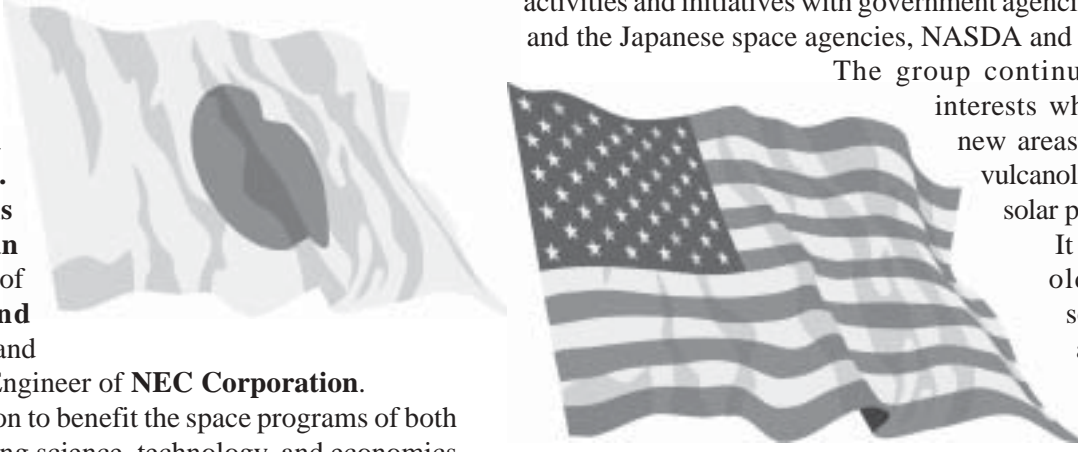
The group continues to expand current interests while branching out into new areas such as oceanography, vulcanology, telemedicine, space solar power, and fuel cells.

It also strives to address old problems with new solutions. In one of its key areas, disaster management, JUSTSAP is working to identify new

information systems that will predict and communicate disasters so teams can respond and world resources can be put into action without delay.

In order to locate these technologies and resources, the group is interested in forming liaisons with other federal laboratories within the FLC.

More info: Jim Crisafulli, Research & Development Coordinator, Energy, Resources & Technology Division, DBEDT/State of Hawaii, 808-586-2388, <jcrisafu@dbedt.hawaii.gov>



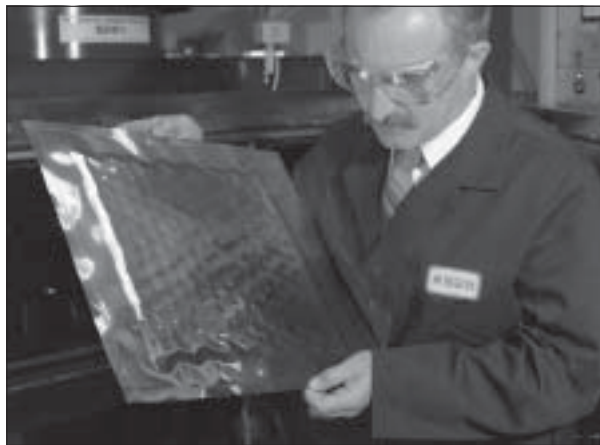
Renewable Energy Lab Warms Cold Starts

October - While today's passenger cars emit 95% less pollution than similar cars 25 years ago (before the catalytic converter was introduced), this is not so for typical sport utility vehicles (SUVs), minivans, or light trucks. Because they are not subject to the same emissions regulations, these vehicles can legally produce up to five times more pollutants than a passenger car. Beginning in 2004, however, SUVs, minivans, and light trucks will have to meet the same standards that cars must meet—and they are tougher than the ones for today's automobiles.

This is good news for the environment. But not as good as it could be, because EPA standards primarily address pollutants that are emitted while a car is warmed up and running. They do not address the warmup, or "cold-start," period, when today's cars and small trucks produce more than 50% of their emissions. The reason for so many emissions during the cold-start period is because current technology catalytic converters do not start to work until they reach a temperature of about 300°C (572°F).

To reach this temperature, it typically takes about two minutes of operation. During those two minutes, the vehicle produces 60%-80% of its

pollutants. Of all vehicle trips taken, 98% are within 24 hours of the previous trip. Conventional catalytic converters cool down within half an hour



The CVI is a crucial technology incorporated into the catalytic converter. CVI is not only essential for minimizing cold-start emissions, it also has many other applications that range from refrigeration to cooking utensils.

after the vehicle is turned off, which means for the great majority of trips, cold-start pollution raises its ugly specter.

This specter soon may dissipate, thanks to **National Renewable Energy Laboratory**

(NREL) scientists. They helped develop a prototype catalytic converter utilizing compact vacuum insulation, phase-change materials, and variable conductance that can maintain its operating temperature 24 hours or longer, thus greatly reducing cold-start pollution. And then they collaborated with Benteler Industries, which has licensed the catalytic-converter technology, to engineer a production-ready version. Compared to other concepts on the market, the new converter is cheaper, more versatile, lighter, and longer lasting. And it is the only one that deals with cold-

start emissions.

The NREL/Benteler catalytic converter reduces emissions of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides below the levels called for in the new standards.



More info: Visit the NREL web site at <www.nrel.gov>

FAA T² Joins Office of Knowledge Management

May - The **Federal Aviation Administration's** Technology Transfer Program has found a new home in the Technical Center's Office of Knowledge Management (ACK). This agency program, established by congressional legislation, provides a unique opportunity for the private



sector to more fully optimize the research capabilities and products of federal laboratories.

The ACK explores, evaluates, and establishes policies that will lead to new technical opportunities and avenues for the Technical Center to embrace. The office establishes and implements Center

direction and policies for intellectual property and technology transfer (T²), and facilitates knowledge sharing.

"The William J. Hughes Technical Center is the FAA's premier research laboratory with a vision of being internationally recognized as the leader in shaping aviation's future," said **Dennis Filler**, Chief Scientist for Technology

and ACK Program Director. "This heightened focus on technology transfer will enhance the technical center's opportunities to be just that."

The CRADA is the key vehicle the agency uses to collaborate with non-federal partners to conduct specific research and development (R&D) efforts consistent with its T² goals.

These programs provide many benefits to all involved parties, including collaborative research; licensing of patent rights and other intellectual property protections that provide royalty income for the laboratory and the inventors; reduced costs by leveraging investments during all stages of R&D; employee exchanges; and awards to the inventors.

Deborah Germak is the Technology Transfer Program Manager. Deborah formerly had been the Technical Center's Contracts Branch Manager.

"We have numerous CRADAs and SBIR contracts covering collaborative research on a multitude of subjects," said Germak. "We are very proud of our successes in researching many new initiatives and in patenting several inventions resulting from our technology transfer efforts."

More info: Deborah Germak, (609) 485-6320, or <deborah.germak@faa.gov>



*Dennis Filler
ACK Program Director*

FLC on Tour

March - FLC Marketing and Public Relations Chair **Al Jordan** led the Federal Gallery of the Technology Transfer Conference and Expo



A visitor to the NASA TTCE booth checks out the future of spacewear.

(TTCE) in Chicago, Ill., March 3-6, 2003. As part of National Manufacturing Week's (NMW) National Design Engineering Show, TTCE

provided an opportunity for the FLC to showcase the outstanding research and innovation conducted by its member laboratories.

Exhibiting as part of TTCE's Federal Gallery were NASA, Aberdeen Test Center, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

Jordan also highlighted the value of the FLC to laboratories, industry, and academia during his presentation in the TTCE theater and the NMW presentation room.

"This type of exposure provides veterans of T² with a forum to learn new ways to take advantage of what the FLC has to offer, while at the same time generates interest on the part of newcomers to the world of T²," said Jordan.



An SAE attendee checks out tomorrow's technology today in a Dodge Charger prototype.

The FLC also had a strong presence in Detroit, Mich., that same week as it took part in the Society of

Automotive Engineers' (SAE) World Congress.

Exhibiting to the automotive industry brought federal laboratories to the forefront of the automotive research and development world.

The FLC booth was buzzing with attendees wanting to know more about the research and cooperative opportunities associated with labs such as Argonne, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Naval Research Laboratory, Aberdeen Test Center, and the Air Force Research Laboratory-Materials Command.



DC on T², From page 5

Advanced Technology Program and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program are expected to take some serious cuts when the Commerce appropriation is passed.

Overall, the federal R&D budget looks like it will grow about 3-4% in FY 2004.

In 2003, the DHS was established, and they are still getting organized and staffed. Many of the 22 agencies and organizations moved to DHS will be supported by a well-funded R&D program for the first time.

In my experience in Washington, it takes several years to get a new cabinet-level agency fully operational. In the interim, expect DHS to execute large parts of its R&D budget and programs through other departments such as DOD, Department of Energy, and Health and Human Services.

Several major changes are in the forefront for the DOD. The FY 2004 Defense Authorization Act gives the DOD the authority to create a totally separate personnel and pay system. This will replace the General Schedule (GS) system as well as a number of special systems that have been installed in DOD labs over the last several years.

Agency Reps Impressed by FLC Initiatives

October - The FLC Executive Board met in October to discuss budget, the upcoming FLC elections, and committee and regional initiatives.

The meeting, held October 8-9 in Crystal City, Va., also included a presentation by Regional Coordinators **Susan Sprake** (Mid-Continent), **Scott Deiter** (Mid-Atlantic), **Kelly McGuire** (Southeast), and Julie Evans (standing in for Northeast Regional Coordinator **Hans Kohler**) to agency representatives **Nancy Groves** (Dept. of Defense-Navy), **Jonathan Root** (NASA), **Richard Brenner** (USDA), **Cynthia Gonsalves** (Dept. of Defense), **Lynn Murray** (Dept. of Transportation), **Connie Jacobs** (DARPA), **James Wanko** (Dept. of Defense-Army), **Mike Curtis** (Dept. of Energy), and **Bea Droke** (FDA).

The agency representatives were impressed with the work and direction of the FLC. "You have



Richard Brenner (left) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Jonathan Root of NASA learn about FLC initiatives during an FLC Executive Board meeting in Crystal City, Va., October 1-3, 2003.

a mindset to have a selected set of goals that are achievable and important and I commend you for that," said Root.

Gonsalves added, "I want to commend the Executive Board and what the regions are doing and the support you are giving to the local labs."

FLC Assists in Making a Difference

August - During the week of July 20, 2003, a number of events in Washington and elsewhere celebrated the 13th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. One of these events, *Technology for All Americans*, was an exhibition of assistive technologies hosted by Department of Commerce (DOC) Secretary Don Evans in the main lobby of the DOC on July 24.

In 1996, **Ty Taylor**, then FLC Washington, DC Representative, was invited to speak at a symposium during the Paralympic Games in Atlanta.

These games use the summer Olympics site for a competition of the physically handicapped from around the world. Taylor spoke about the FLC and the opportunities to transfer technology from federal laboratories.

After listening to these courageous people describe some of the challenges of physical handicaps and the role new technology could play in making a difference, Taylor knew the FLC



From left, FLC Technology Locator Sam Samuelian and FLC DC Representative Dave Appler explain to Commerce Deputy Secretary Sam Bodman and Deputy Undersecretary Ben Wu the role of the FLC and how crucial the laboratories are in supporting assistive technology.

could work with the laboratories to make a difference.

As a result of the FLC's diligent efforts and results in this area, Ben Wu, Deputy Undersecretary of Commerce for the Technology Administration, asked the FLC to assist the DOC in planning and hosting an exhibition of assistive technologies.

President Bush created the New Freedom Initiative as a commitment to address accessibility barriers and to

increase the development of, and access to, assistive and universally designed technologies. The FLC and the federal labs are playing a crucial role in that regard.

On behalf of Secretary Evans, Philip L. Bond, Undersecretary of Commerce, Technology Administration, announced during the *Technology for All Americans* exhibition an eight-point DOC

See FLC Assists, page 6

Some of the concepts in the DOD bill have been proposed in bills impacting several other agencies.



Second, the next round of military base closures is still on target for FY 2005.

There is a lot of discussion in the DOD research, development, test and evaluation

community because previous base closures did not have a large impact on this portion of the DOD's activities.

Authorizing legislation in several other areas was deferred until next year. This includes the Transportation Equity Act, which is a six-year reauthorization of gas tax-funded transportation programs, including R&D. The current FAA reauthorization was postponed for six months. The Omnibus Energy Bill failed to pass the Senate in final form for the second year in a row and may not be enacted until after the next elections.

As far as technology transfer legislation is concerned, Congress does not appear inclined to amend current laws.

They are more disposed to have GAO and other study groups look at how the agencies are managing their programs.

In a related area, though, Congress has funded several initiatives for agencies to stimulate commercialization of technologies by starting venture capital funds.

ETC...

FLC Assists, From page 5

initiative as a furtherance of the New Freedom Initiative. The initiatives are: data analysis to increase export promotion opportunities; creating an industry forum for manufacturing, regulatory, and trade impacts; cataloguing trade barriers; manufacturing technical assistance; facilitating measurement and private sector standards; developing and promoting technology transfer; assisting coordination of assistive technology R&D; and reporting progress to the Secretary of Commerce by March 2004.

The FLC received great exposure through the visits of several distinguished individuals to the FLC booth.

The list included Undersecretary Bond; Dr. Robert H. Pasternack, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Dr. W. Roy Grizzard, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy; Rhett B. Dawson, President and CEO, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI); and Dr. Judith Harkins, Director of Technology Access Programs, Gallaudet University.

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"My inclusion in the Fortune article is a direct result of WBT02." - George E. Dzyacki, Zinpoint, LLC.

"The most positive result was recognition by Time Magazine as 'One of the Coolest Inventions of 2002.'" - Bud Cass, Advanced Ceramics

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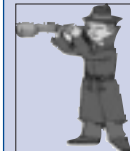
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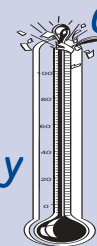
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