

CRADA facts

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

CRADA opportunities
AT METC

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS (CRADAs) AT METC

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The Morgantown Energy Technology Center (METC) is always interested in discussing partnering opportunities with those in the private sector. One way METC can work with the private sector and academia is through Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs). What follows is a short discussion of CRADAs at METC.

What is a CRADA?

The Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-502) provided a new mechanism for joint research between private parties and METC. Joint projects under this law are called CRADAs. CRADAs are simply agreements between METC and the private sector to work together on a mutually beneficial project. Each partner in the CRADA applies whatever resources are agreed to in the performance of its portion of the project. These resources may include personnel, equipment, or facilities. While partner dollars may be used to fund portions of the Government's effort, METC may not provide federal funds to the private sector partner.

Intellectual property disposition under a METC CRADA is quite flexible. METC can negotiate directly with the partner on issues including the allocation of rights to patents developed during the CRADA, protection of information generated under the CRADA, and the exclusive or non-exclusive licensing of METC inventions.

What Makes a Good CRADA?

From METC's perspective, a good CRADA consists of two elements: a good project and a good CRADA partner. Good CRADA projects address goals that are beneficial to both the private sector participant and METC.

Of primary interest to METC is the development and deployment of clean, efficient power generation technologies and environmental remediation technologies. For power generation, METC's primary focus is on Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) systems, Pressurized Fluidized-Bed Combustion (PFBC) systems, Advanced Turbine Systems (ATS), Externally Fired Combined-Cycle (EFCC) power systems, fuel cell systems, and fuels technology systems. METC's environmental remediation interests focus on the development of high-payoff technologies to clean up the inventory of DOE nuclear component manufacturing sites, and to manage DOE-generated waste faster, safer, and cheaper than environmental cleanup technologies that are currently available.

Regarding CRADA partners, preference is given to small businesses and to business units located in the United States which agree that products resulting from the CRADA will be manufactured substantially in the United States. In the case of foreign-owned companies, METC will take into consideration how U.S.-based companies are dealt with in that country.

Projects will be undertaken based on factors such as those listed above, CRADA partner resources offered, METC resource availability, and the specific contribution of the project to METC's research and development (R&D) program.

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How Do I Initiate a CRADA With METC?

Since no funds are transferred from METC to the private sector participant, most of the regulations governing federal procurements do not apply. CRADAs can be implemented relatively quickly and with few complications.

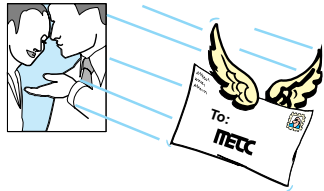
Generally, the first step in formalizing a CRADA is an expression of interest to METC by the potential private sector participant. This expression of interest, while it can be verbal, is most effective when it takes the form of a letter addressed to a METC point of contact listed on the front of this factsheet.

That expression of interest triggers a series of discussions both within METC and with the potential partner to decide whether METC and the private sector party can define a project that will benefit both parties, and whether the needed resources are available to perform the envisioned work. Ultimately, the final decision of whether METC will pursue a particular CRADA opportunity lies with the METC Director.

The CRADA Process

1

Expression
of Interest



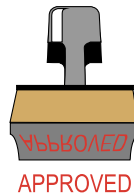
2

Discuss
Idea



3

Management
Approval



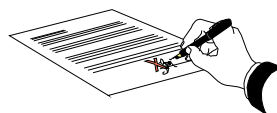
4

Develop
CRADA



5

METC
Signatures Partners'
Signatures



6

Winners'
Circle



SIX STEPS TO INITIATE A CRADA

1. Expression of interest is addressed to METC
2. CRADA Team discusses idea and whether the needed resources are available
3. Approval given to develop CRADA
4. CRADA developed
5. CRADA signed
6. Everybody wins