



Cooperative Research And Development Agreement (CRADA) Program

TARDEC Focus

The U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and realize Future Force superior capabilities to rapidly facilitate Army transformation. Our technical staff leads research for ground vehicle survivability, mobility, intelligent systems and maneuver support and sustainment capabilities.

TARDEC is focused on partnering with customers, industry and academia to harness new technologies for emerging systems, reduce operating and maintenance costs to fielded systems, and ensure that our Soldiers have the best performing, most reliable and easiest to maintain ground vehicles in the world.

The TARDEC National Automotive Center's (NAC's) mission is to serve as a catalyst linking industry, academia and government in the development and exchange of automotive research and technologies that will benefit all sectors.



TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.

Overview

CRADAs are established between federal laboratories and commercial, academic or nonprofit partners to facilitate technology transfer between the parties for mutual benefit. Under a CRADA, the partner may contribute resources such as personnel, services, property and funding to the effort. The government may contribute all of the above except funding.

The *Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980* made technology transfer part of every federal laboratory's mission. The act facilitates technology transfer from federal laboratories to non-federal organizations, providing the latter with a means to access federal laboratory developments.

Subsequent legislation has provided significant new authorities for federal laboratories to establish CRADAs with private companies as well as public and non-profit organizations. It also allows for the negotiation of licensing arrangements for patented inventions developed at the laboratories.

Features

Common Interest

The most desirable CRADA feature is the avenue provided for combining the research and development efforts of the technical partner and the military toward a common objective. Each party is responsible for its own efforts.

Patent Rights

Patent and intellectual property rights belong to the inventor. The partner is given the opportunity to own the rights to joint invention.

Licensing

The government is granted a royalty-free license for partner inventions under the CRADA for governmental purposes. The partner may negotiate for exclusive licenses for government inventions.

Simple

The CRADA is easy to establish with a straight forward contract section and mutually drafted Statement of Work (SOW). Since no funds may flow from the government to the technology partner, competition issues are set aside. Typically, a CRADA can be in place within 60 days of inception.

Process

Once mutual interest with a technology partner has been established, the SOW is developed. This is the "engineer-to-engineer" section, defining the tasks to be performed by each party for achieving the stated research goal. The SOW is an appendix to the CRADA contract portion.

The contract is in plain language and follows a very standard format. Basically, it ensures the technology partner's safety of proprietary and patent rights while providing for the royalty-free licensing of the resultant technology to the military for government purposes only. Modifications to the contract can be made as required, and unilateral termination is allowed.

The document is in effect once it is signed by both parties. The parties work at their own pace and keep in frequent contact regarding their progress. The agreement is normally set up for the work to be completed in three years, but often projects are completed in less time.

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