



Improve Transfer of Federally-Funded Technologies from Lab-to-Market

Goal Leaders

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Goal Overview



The Challenge

- The Federal Government invests approximately \$150 billion annually¹ in research and development (R&D) conducted at federal laboratories, universities, and other research organizations.
- For America to maintain its position as the global leader in innovation, bringing products to market more quickly, growing the economy, and maintaining a strong national security innovation base, it is essential to optimize technology transfer and support programs to increase the return on investment (ROI) from federally funded R&D.



The Goal

- Improve the transition of federally-funded innovations from the laboratory to the marketplace by reducing the administrative and regulatory burdens for technology transfer and increasing private sector investment in later-stage R&D;
- Develop and implement more effective partnering models and technology transfer mechanisms for federal agencies; and
- Enhance the effectiveness of technology transfer by improving the methods for evaluating the ROI and economic and national security impacts of federally funded R&D, and using that information to focus efforts on approaches proven to work.



The Strategies



Identify regulatory impediments and administrative improvements in federal technology transfer policies and practices.



Increase engagement with private sector technology development experts and investors.



Build a more entrepreneurial R&D workforce.



Support innovative tools and services for technology transfer.



Improve understanding of global science and technology trends and benchmarks.



1: Analytical Perspectives, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2019, ch. 18. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BUDGET-2019-PER/pdf/BUDGET-2019-PER.pdf>



By 2030, the strategies and actions of this CAP Goal are working toward a future in which:

Agencies will have the skills and resources to improve the transition of federally funded innovations from the laboratory to the marketplace; initiatives to ease administrative and regulatory burdens for federal technology transfer will increase private sector investment in early and later-stage R&D; innovative processes and services will support new businesses and industries; and more effective partnering tools and technology transfer mechanisms for federal agencies will be developed, clarified, and made known to stakeholders for relationship building and increased number of cooperative projects.

Outcomes

- Economic growth based on the commercialization of federally funded research is substantially increased based on economic analysis of outcomes of lab to market results.
- U.S. innovation system is demonstrably improved through the discoveries and inventions arising from federally funded R&D at the Nation's universities, research institutes, and federal laboratories as measured by increased levels of partnership agreements, licensing, and successful startups.
- Private funding for science and technology based businesses increases to accelerate the launch of new products and services.
- Economic and public health resilience supported by technological innovations.

Operations

- Available technologies for development and research collaborations for all federal agencies are available on web-based Federal Laboratory Consortium's "Available Technologies Web Page" along with information on partnering instruments.
- Information on available technologies is available to the public and data on performance is collected and reported on overall performance of federally funded technologies.
- Entrepreneurial training and experiential learning for commercialization of science and technology-based businesses is broadly available, coordinated, and made available to the public.
- A modern and improved reporting system for federally funded inventions from sponsored research is launched to lower administrative burdens and ease the transition of products to the marketplace.
- Reduction of perceived administrative obstacles to transferring technologies will improve the ability to increase partnerships.





Walter Copan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director, NIST



Michael Kratsios, Chief Technology Officer of the United States, The White House

Participating Agencies



Interagency Contributors¹

- National Science and Technology Council
Lab-to-Market Subcommittee
- Interagency Working Group for
Technology Transfer
- Interagency Working Group for
Bayh-Dole²
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
Program Managers Working Group
- Entrepreneurial Training
Interagency Working Group
- Federal Laboratory Consortium for
Technology Transfer

1: See <https://www.nist.gov/tpo/lab-market> for descriptions of participating working groups and strategy team focus areas

2: The Interagency Working Group for Bayh-Dole coordinates implementation of the Bayh-Dole Act; see 35 U.S.C. 200 and 37 C.F.R. 401 and 404.






Agency Progress


 NIST received input on improving iEdison extramural reporting system




 DOE Technology Transfer Working Group 2019 Award Winners announced



 xTechSearch launches prize competitions for Army Innovation



 NSA interacts directly with technical talent through hackathon



 SBA visits 15 states, 2000+ attendees learn about funding for high-impact startups



First multi-agency workshop on collaborations with Maryland high-tech industries held



Multiple agencies support economic development with T2 event in Puerto Rico



 DOE National Labs showcase technologies and partnership opportunities at SpaceCom





 Increased visibility of DOE's Technology Commercialization Fund opportunities via Lab Partnering Service





 NSF kicked off national diversity and inclusion infrastructure for innovation and entrepreneurship





 \$1M dedicated to moving NIST technology from the lab to market





 100+ teams graduated DOE's Energy I-Corps entrepreneurship training



 The USDA Forest Service Patent Program website updated



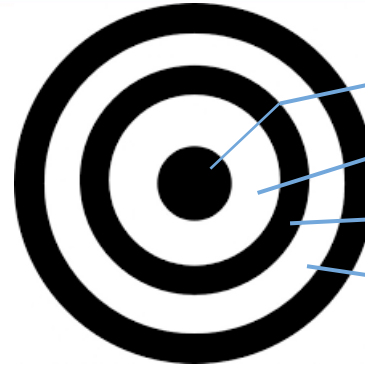
 NOAA completed 1-year Lab Innovation Manager pilot program







Identify regulatory impediments and administrative improvements in federal technology transfer policies and practices.



Problems Targeted

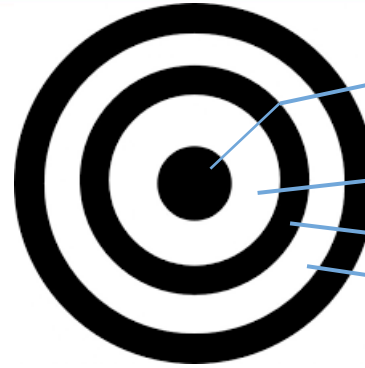
- Dated Legislation
- Inconsistent Interpretations
- Cultural Impediments
- Lost Opportunities

Key Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner
Develop proposed updates to the Bayh-Dole Act implementing regulations for cross-agency and public feedback processes	Q3FY20	Complete	NIST drafted NPRM for formal interagency review and clearance	NIST, IAWGBD
Develop legislative proposal for revisions to Stevenson-Wydler Act	Q4FY20	On Track	NIST received and reviewed LRM comments, finalizing proposal language with OMB	NIST, IAWGTT
Reduce administrative burden for SBIR/STTR programs	Ongoing	On Track	Multiple agencies expand application burden reduction pilots; SBA reduced burden on agencies through reporting improvements, including automating calculations; Milestone extended to ongoing to capture additional agency efforts	SBA SBIR PM





Increase engagement with private sector technology development experts and investors.



Problems Targeted

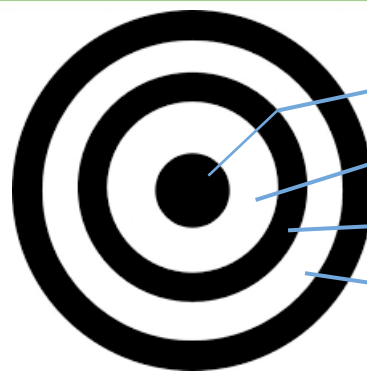
- Challenges working with Government
- Lack of Interest in Federal Technologies
- Mismatch with Market Needs
- Inability to Find Information

Key Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner
Develop recommendations for making federally-funded technologies, knowledge, and capabilities more attractive for private investment through Presidential Innovation Fellow's assessments	Q1FY20	Complete	Recommendations to be published in National Academy of Inventors Journal	NIST, GSA
Examine existing authorities that foster and provide flexibility for R&D collaborations with the private sector	Q1FY20	Complete	Efforts will lead to additional milestones in future quarters	L2M SC
Enhance interagency collaboration to support the R&D innovation ecosystem, such as through consortia and regional innovation clusters, to engage the private sector and leverage non-federal resources	Q3FY20	Delayed	Working group continuing to scope efforts for pilot project funding	L2M SC
Improve outreach activities from agencies to the private sector, such as demonstration and showcasing of federally-funded R&D	Ongoing	On Track	Agencies participated in SBIR and Puerto Rico showcase events; milestone extended to "ongoing" to continually capture agency efforts	L2M SC





Build a more entrepreneurial R&D workforce. Support entrepreneurial education and training to develop the next generation of skilled innovators and entrepreneurs, and enable technology transfer and start-ups.



Problems Targeted

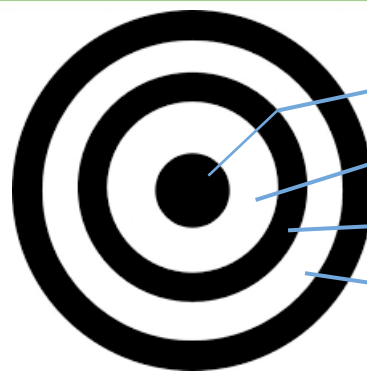
- Lack of Knowledge
- Lack of Incentives
- Cultural Impediments
- Policies that Discourage Entrepreneurship

Key Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner
Improve and expand agency participation in R&D entrepreneurial training programs, such as I-Corps, the Lab-Embedded Entrepreneurship Program, and internships	Ongoing	On Track	No change	L2M SC, NSF
Submit proposal to designate a job series for federal technology transfer professionals	Q4FY20	On Track	No change	IAWGTT, OPM
Increase the participation of underrepresented groups in entrepreneurship to ensure a diverse and inclusive innovation community	Ongoing	On Track	NSF launched GEM Consortium to support diversity and inclusion in innovation and entrepreneurship	L2M SC





Support innovative tools and services for technology transfer. Improve and develop tools to support the discovery and transfer of technologies.



Problems Targeted

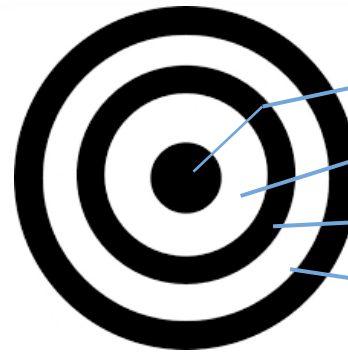
- Lack of Awareness
- Complicated Bureaucracy
- Inconsistent User Experiences
- Duplicative Tools

Key Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner
Enable interagency sharing and leveraging of resources and expertise related to implementing intramural and extramural reporting tools to enable adoption and adaptation for agency-specific missions and improve the user experience	Ongoing	On Track	Milestone extended to ongoing to capture additional agency efforts	L2M SC
Improve outreach to extramural R&D performers (university technology transfer offices, SBIR/STTR awardees) to support effective reporting of federally-funded R&D outputs	Q1FY20	Complete	RFI for iEdison redevelopment closed with 47 submissions from extramural users	L2M SC
Develop enabling policies and guidance (federal-wide and agency-specific) to improve tools used for outreach and raising public awareness of federal R&D resources, including federally-funded R&D outputs	Ongoing	On Track	SBA expanded guidance and training through Train-the-Trainer initiatives with ecosystem resource partners, including Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs); milestone extended to ongoing to continue to capture agency efforts	L2M SC
Identify common measures and mechanisms to improve the effectiveness of technology transfer tools and services used for outreach and to raise public awareness of federally-funded R&D outputs	Q4FY20	On Track	No change	L2M SC





Improve understanding of global science and technology trends and benchmarks to measure progress and achieve results.



Problems Targeted

- Demonstrating Value
- Varying Missions
- Activities vs Outcomes
- Reporting Burdens

Key Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner
Identify administrative and business data sources to evaluate company-level economic impacts of SBIR/STTR in collaboration with Census and USPTO	Q1FY20	Complete	Pilot proof-of-concept studies completed to match datasets. Special tabulations of the data will be available from Census.	SBA
Update federal-wide guidance by developing unified methodology for data collection/ sharing and clarify definitions/data collection processes	Q1FY20	Complete	Published on NIST website .	IAWGTT, OMB
Enhance reporting guidance to add “a la carte” technology transfer metrics that agencies might include in their annual reporting	Q1FY20	Complete	Published with Agency guidance on NIST website .	L2M SC
Issue a prize competition to solicit proposals/ideas for increasing extramural invention reporting	Q4FY20	On Track	Federal Register Notice in Strategy Team review.	L2M SC
Compose a white paper on findings in TT and ROI literature and possible future studies	Q3FY20	On Track	White paper in final revisions; identifying appropriate publication outlet.	L2M SC
Bundle publicly-available federal innovation data to support research in the field of science and innovation policy	Q4FY20	Delayed	SBA improved quality of data on small business innovation available on SBIR.gov; identifying where to make bundled information available. NIST drafting lessons learned report from NTIS Joint Venture Partnership.	L2M SC
Make recommendations based on study of issues in reporting data, software and apps that may expand the definition of technology transfer	Q4FY20	On Track	Study committee has held four meetings .	L2M SC





Appendix A: Completed Milestones

Completed Milestone	Completion Date	Strategy	Final Status	Owner
Hold kick off event: “Unleashing American Innovation: Lab-to-Market” on April 19, 2018	Q3FY18	1	233 registered attendees	DOC, OSTP
Publish Request For Information (RFI) and hold public forums to gather input	Q4FY18	1	4 Public Forums with 341 registered participants; 104 RFI responses received	NIST
Examine existing models for private investment and growth, including agency foundation and investment mechanisms	Q4FY18	2	Interagency strategy team produced list of existing agency models and mechanisms	L2M SC
Identify existing entrepreneurial training programs and models for the R&D workforce	Q4FY18	3	Initial input gathered from agencies	L2M SC
Examine differences in conflict-of-interest policies and how they impact ability of personnel to engage in entrepreneurial activities	Q4FY18	3	Interagency strategy team collected and evaluated COI policies and practices at agencies and universities	L2M SC
Execute and begin Joint Venture Partnership to engage the private sector to develop tools for efficient utilization of public and private data to enhance technology commercialization efforts	Q4FY18	4	Partnership executed and project underway	NIST
Complete a study of global practices in technology transfer and commercialization	Q4FY18	5	Study complete	NIST
Complete a study of state programs in technology transfer and commercialization	Q4FY18	5	Study complete	NIST
Survey agencies and customers to determine priority actions for FLCBusiness implementation	Q1FY19	4	FLCBusiness updated to version 3.0 per user and stakeholder input	FLC
Analyze input and develop additional milestones	Q2FY19	1-5	Milestones added to all strategy areas	L2MSC
Develop regulatory and/or legislative package timetables to carry out recommendations	Q2FY19	1	Timetables complete	NIST
Create an Interagency Working Group on entrepreneurial training to share practices and develop recommendations to improve federal entrepreneurial training programs	Q3FY19	3	Working Group formed	L2M SC, NSF
Complete a quantitative and qualitative study of federal tech transfer across multiple agencies	Q3FY19	5	Study published	NIST





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Develop recommendations for making federally-funded technologies, knowledge, and capabilities more attractive for private investment through Presidential Innovation Fellow's assessments	Q1FY20	2	Recommendations published in National Academy of Inventors Journal	NIST, GSA
Examine existing authorities that foster and provide flexibility for R&D collaborations with the private sector	Q1FY20	2	Efforts will lead to additional milestones in future quarters	L2M SC
Improve outreach to extramural R&D performers (university technology transfer offices, SBIR/STTR awardees) to support effective reporting of federally-funded R&D outputs	Q1FY20	4	RFI for iEdison redevelopment closed with 47 submissions from extramural users	L2M SC
Identify administrative and business data sources to evaluate company-level economic impacts of SBIR/STTR in collaboration with Census and USPTO	Q1FY20	5	Pilot proof-of-concept studies completed to match datasets. Special tabulations of the data will be available from Census	SBA
Update Federal-wide guidance by developing unified methodology for data collection/ sharing and clarify definitions/data collection processes	Q1FY20	5	Published on NIST website	IAWGTT, OMB
Enhance reporting guidance to add "a la carte" technology transfer metrics that agencies might include in their annual reporting	Q1FY20	5	Published on NIST website	L2M SC

