**Request for Information**

**Federal Technology Transfer Authorities and Processes**

**Last day to submit the responses: May 18, 2018**

### Introduction

The Secretary of Commerce delegated responsibility to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for certain regulatory and policy issues related to the management of Federal inventions. As part of a broader initiative aimed at increasing the return on investment from technologies that result from Federal research and development (R&D), NIST requests information from the public regarding the current state of Federal technology transfer and the public’s ability to engage with Federal laboratories and access federally-funded R&D through collaborations, licensing, and other mechanisms. The information received in response to this RFI will be used by NIST to evaluate possible changes to Federal technology transfer practices, policies, regulations, and/or legislation that will (1) streamline the transfer of technology from Federal laboratories and other federally-funded R&D, and (2) accelerate the commercial development of Federal technologies by the private sector.

NIST is seeking broad input and participation from Federal R&D and intellectual property and technology transfer stakeholders to assist in identifying and prioritizing the issues and the recommended actions. The specific objectives of the assessment are to identify: (a) core Federal technology transfer principles and practices that should be protected, and those which should be adapted or changed; (b) approaches to improve efficiency and reduce regulatory burdens of technology transfer to attract private sector investment in later-stage R&D, commercialization and advanced manufacturing; (c) new partnering models and technology transfer mechanisms with the private sector, academia, other Federal agencies, state and other public-sector entities to support technology development and maturation; (d) new approaches that will reduce or remove barriers, and enable accelerated technology transfer, with focus on areas of strategic national importance; (e) better metrics and methods to evaluate the ROI outcomes and impacts arising from Federal R&D investment; and (f) new approaches to motivate significantly increased technology transfer outcomes from the Federal sector, universities and research organizations.

This information will only be used as input to the Return on Investment initiative. All submissions, including attachments and other supporting materials, will become part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Sensitive personal information, such as account numbers or Social Security numbers, or names of other individuals, should not be included. Submissions will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. Comments that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language or content will not be considered.

### Instructions

This template is designed to facilitate responses to the RFI. Use of this form is optional.

It is not required to fill out all of the sections, for example a participant may elect to only provide input on one question.

Save and email it to [roi@nist.gov](mailto:roi@nist.gov).

# Contact Information

|  |  |
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| Full Name | Chris Batich |
| Email address | cbati@ufl.edu |
| Organization Name | University of Florida, Materials Engineering Department |
| Organization Type | Education and Research |

Questions

1. What programmatic, regulatory, or legislative practices and/or provisions related to Federal technology transfer are currently having positive impacts for your organization?

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| Formaition of a Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI) with NIH support in 2009. This funds seed projects, regulatory support, and statistical support. A huge medical establishment nearby generates clinical needes and the means to evaluate translation. Much of that funding is federal. |

1. What provisions related to Federal technology transfer are currently inhibiting either collaborations with Federal labs, access to other federally-funded R&D, or commercialization of Federal technologies?

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| Specific funding dedicated to such collaborations. Should be given to each institution for initiation of new joint projects (no previous collaboration via funding or publications). |

1. What programmatic, regulatory, or legislative practices and/or provisions related to Federal technology transfer would you like to see changed and in what ways?

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| THE most important question to evaluate the PI is almost never asked: "Have you been listed on a patent leading to product which has been successfully commercialized?" Hypothesis-driven research sometimes does not describe what is needed to overcome the barriers for translation, which are often mundane but need attention and funding. |

## Thank you for your time and participation.