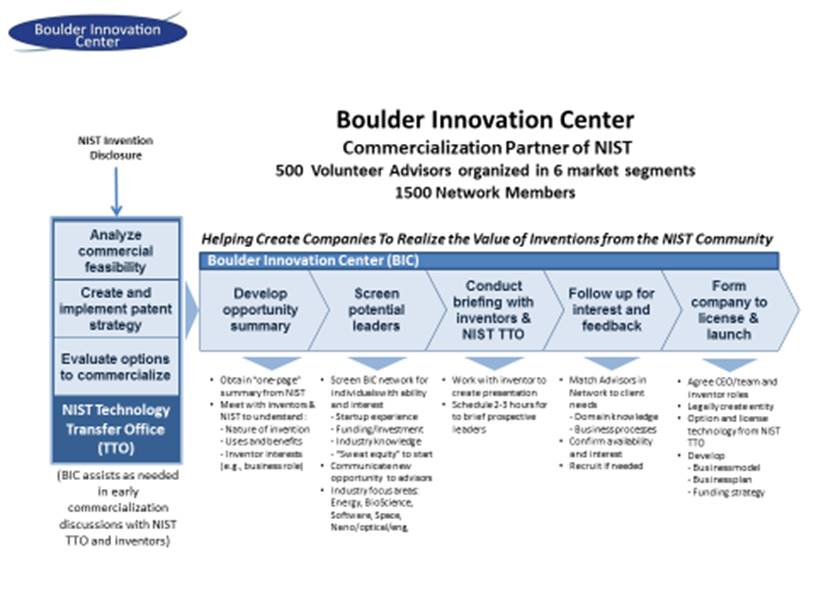
Dear NIST,

In 2009 Tim Bour, Eric Gricus and myself (Ken Altshuler) of the non-profit Boulder Colorado Based *Boulder Innovation Center*, endeavored to engage NIST in assisting tech transfer.  Our mission was to find commercial paths for startup technologies and innovations out of the University of Colorado and School of Mines.  We were created by the University of Colorado, Boulder Chamber of Commerce, and a number of interested companies in Boulder, Colorado.

We were ultimately unsuccessful with NIST because our efforts and the efforts within NIST were largely met with bureaucratic red tape that utterly stalled any opportunity for tech transfer support.   Despite 1) high level meetings with Jack Pevenstein, your General Counsel, and half a dozen NIST TTO representatives who mostly flew out from Gaithersburg and 2) successfully identifying companies interested in exploring a test group of patents owned by NIST, the collaboration ultimately disbanded in failure after six months of exploration.  The reasons were 1) your $150 billion annual R&D budget failed to provide a dime for organizations like the *Boulder Innovation Center* to help even though NIST TTO believed there was a budget, 2) your TTO did not truly have the interest or vision to succeed in their mission, and 3) your legal framework around fostering an environment for inventions to take root was all talk and no action.  I do not know of Tim Bour’s availability, but I hope you engage him and seek his opinion if you are truly interested in a failed test case for what you seek in your RFI.

1. *What are the core Federal technology transfer principles and practices that should be protected, and those which should be adapted or changed?* Get your inventions out to the public with the primary concern and goal of generating widespread adoption of technology developed by NIST as a means to foster public support.
2. *What are the issues that pose systemic challenges to the effective transfer of technology, knowledge, and capabilities resulting from Federal R&D? Please consider those identified in the RFI as well as others that may have inhibited collaborations with Federal laboratories, access to other federally funded R&D, or commercialization of technologies resulting from Federal R&D*.  See above.  Explore the most successful TTO strategies, be open minded, eliminate internal positions that fill these roles,  and be willing to take risks in order to actionably more forward.
3. *What is the proposed solution for each issue that poses a systemic challenge to the effective transfer of technology, knowledge, and capabilities resulting from Federal R&D? Please consider the approaches identified in the RFI*. Hard to find people interested in pushing innovations through creative efforts and harder to adequately pay/reward those people.  What TTOs are generally left with are low yield individuals who actually stall the process.  In other words, you get what you pay for, which mostly amounts to nothing.
4. *What are other ways to significantly improve the transfer of technology, knowledge, and capabilities resulting from Federal R&D to benefit U.S. innovation and the economy? What changes would these proposed improvements require to Federal technology transfer practices, policies, regulations, and legislation?* The recipe is actually not that hard.  Pay well. Performance increases. Reward creative solutions to obstacles.  Be flexible in how you approach each technology and potential individual willing to spend their money and energy on one of your inventions – all are different and require high touch.  Basically, if you actually try, you will be surprised at how far you get!

For your convenience, I am including a slide presented to NIST from the *Boulder Innovation Center*.



In re: [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/05/01/2018-09182/request-for-information-regarding-federal-technology-transfer-authorities-and-processes](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.federalregister.gov%2Fdocuments%2F2018%2F05%2F01%2F2018-09182%2Frequest-for-information-regarding-federal-technology-transfer-authorities-and-processes&data=02%7C01%7Ccourtney.silverthorn%40nist.gov%7C620ee31fa38a4c82f05c08d5cc1acf70%7C2ab5d82fd8fa4797a93e054655c61dec%7C1%7C1%7C636639337947913852&sdata=TWJjntGCmr%2FJHRgC3iH5G2tSmG%2FQG55KlQk4xgf%2F%2BtU%3D&reserved=0)