

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
National Institute of Standards and Technology
and
Maryland Technology Development Corporation**

1. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a cooperative relationship between the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO). Under this MOU, TEDCO and NIST will establish mutually beneficial links between NIST and technology-oriented small businesses throughout Maryland, with the aim of enhancing NIST technology transfer and Maryland economic development.

2. BACKGROUND

A. The National Bureau of Standards, now the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), was established by Congress in 1901 to support industry, commerce, scientific institutions, and all branches of government. As a non-regulatory agency of the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration, NIST's mission is to develop and promote measurement science, standards, and technology needed to enhance productivity, facilitate trade, and improve the quality of life.

(1) NIST Laboratories conduct research to advance the Nation's technology infrastructure and to meet the needs of industry to continually improve products and services. NIST promotes and recognizes organizational performance through the Baldrige National Quality Program, provides technical and business assistance to smaller manufacturers through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), and partners with the private-sector to develop broadly beneficial technologies through the Advanced Technology Program. The NIST Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program funds proposals by small businesses for research and development efforts that fall within areas that support the needs of NIST laboratory programs. NIST also hosts numerous Guest Researchers and provides access to qualified researchers and firms to specifically designated research facilities.

(2) NIST has always recognized that the transfer of NIST-developed technology and research results to U.S. companies and educational institutions is integral to its mission. Beginning in the early 1980's Congress enacted a number of public laws enhancing the ability of NIST and other government agencies to formally transfer technology. Accordingly, these statutes have augmented the Institute's capability to enter into patent licenses or Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) as primary tools for technology transfer, along with peer-reviewed publications, scientific meetings, formal and informal collaborations, and hosting of Guest Researchers.

(3) NIST Laboratories are currently engaged in leading-edge measurement science research that provides the basis for all economic activity.

B. TEDCO provides capital and expertise in technology, finance, and business to help Maryland entrepreneurs overcome challenges and plan for growth.

(1) TEDCO, a public corporation, was created by the Maryland State legislature in 1998 to foster the development of a technology economy that will create and sustain businesses throughout all regions of Maryland.

(2) TEDCO has, through a network of resources, fostered dynamic relationships among companies, institutional and private investors, research institutions, and the university community. TEDCO also designs and develops community and regional initiatives that accelerate the technological evolution of the region. TEDCO can serve as a valuable link between the capabilities available at NIST and the technology needs of Maryland small businesses.

3. COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP

NIST and TEDCO agree to form a cooperative relationship under this MOU for the purpose stated above. In furtherance of this agreement:

- a. TEDCO and NIST representatives will engage in discussions for the purpose of identifying activities that will leverage the capabilities and resources of NIST, Maryland small technology-oriented business firms, and leading institutions of higher education to the mutual benefit of all parties.
- b. Information on NIST inventions available for licensing is available to the public on the web at <http://patapsco.nist.gov/TS/220/sharedpatent/index.cfm>. Using this information, TEDCO will endeavor to locate and identify Maryland small technology-oriented business firms that may have an interest in licensing any of the NIST inventions that are available for licensing. NIST will endeavor to make available to these firms additional publicly available technical information on inventions for licensing, as well as guidance and support on procedures for submitting a license application. NIST may also facilitate technical discussions between the small firms and NIST inventors as appropriate. If requested by a small business firm, TEDCO may choose to provide them assistance on licensing issues.
- c. NIST SBIR and ATP Program Managers will endeavor to provide timely information to TEDCO on open solicitations and proposal submission opportunities. ATP will also provide support by giving Program overview presentations at TEDCO-sponsored events, as appropriate. TEDCO will endeavor to identify small business and/or educational institutions interested in submitting proposals, provide advice on proposal requirements, and provide such other assistance to these organizations as it is within its charter to perform.
- d. The NIST MEP program office will continue to coordinate MEP-related efforts with TEDCO through Maryland's MEP center: the Maryland Technology Extension Service (MTES).
- e. NIST will assist TEDCO personnel with their familiarization of publicly available information on current NIST research programs and activities that may be of interest to small businesses and educational institutions. NIST may also arrange for direct discussions between NIST staff members and TEDCO for the purpose of highlighting specific research programs that may be of mutual interest.

- f. TEDCO may choose to assist small business firms and/or educational institutions in arranging formal or informal collaborations with NIST researchers.
- g. TEDCO and the NIST Office of Public and Business Affairs will endeavor to cooperate in planning and presenting various NIST technology transfer programs and showcases.
- h. TEDCO will sponsor activities and programs that showcase the technology and capabilities of small businesses and/or educational institutions within its area of responsibility that may be of interest to NIST programs and/or researchers.
- i. TEDCO and NIST will jointly sponsor an opportunity for TEDCO to describe its role and capabilities to NIST staff and management.

4. GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. Each party will establish a single point of contact who will serve as the principal interface for his/her respective organization.

B. Either party may cancel this MOU and any extension thereof by providing the other party with 30-day notice of cancellation. Such cancellation notice shall be sent by certified mail and will be effective 30 days from the date sent. Cancellation of this agreement will have no effect on approved project agreements.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU will be effective upon the date of the final signature of this document for a period of one year with one-year extensions available upon written mutual agreement. Extensions become effective upon final signature of the appropriate parties.

Dr. Phillip Singerman
Executive Director
Maryland Technology Development
Corporation

Date: _____

Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

Date: _____