

TARDEC's mission is to research, develop, engineer, leverage, and provide advanced systems integration of emerging and maturing technologies into the Army's ground systems and to support equipment throughout the life cycle. TARDEC is focused on partnering with our customers, industry and academia to harness new technologies for emerging systems, reduce operating and maintenance costs of fielded systems, and assure that our soldiers have the best performing, most reliable, and easiest to maintain ground vehicles in the world.

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

TARDEC is responsible for the development, acquisition and sustainment of:

- COMBAT VEHICLES
- TACTICAL VEHICLES
- TRAILERS
- MATERIEL HANDLING EQUIPMENT
- CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT
- TACTICAL BRIDGES
- FUEL & WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS
- PETROLEUM & LUBRICATION EQUIPMENT
- WATERCRAFT
- RAIL



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**Cooperative
 Research And
 Development
 Agreement
 (CRADA)
 Program**



CRADAs are established between Federal Government Laboratories and one (or more) commercial companies to facilitate technology transfer between the parties for their mutual benefit. This helps to improve U.S. competitiveness. Under a CRADA, an industry or academic partner may contribute resources such as personnel, services, property and funding to the effort. The government can contribute all the above, except funding.

The Stevenson–Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 made technology transfer part of the mission of every federal laboratory. It made it easier for federal laboratories to transfer technology to non-federal parties and it provided outside organizations with a means to access federal laboratory developments. The Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 provided significant new authorities for federal laboratories to establish CRADAs with private companies, as well as with public and non-profit organizations. It also allowed for the negotiation of licensing arrangements for patented inventions made at the laboratories. Along with Executive Order 12591 (in 1987), it ensures that federal laboratories assist universities and the private sector by transferring technical knowledge.

At the National Automotive Center (NAC), part of the Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), technology partners are constantly being sought, particularly in regards to automotive concerns. The NAC's location in the Detroit area increases its visibility in the automotive community. The NAC is present at area exhibitions such as the Society of Automotive Engineers World Congress and the North American International Auto Show. Automotive manufacturers, Tier One suppliers, et al., are invited to tour NAC facilities to talk to the research people.

· **Common Interest** The most-desirable feature of the CRADA is that it provides an avenue for combining the R & D efforts of the technical partner with that of the military, towards a common objective. Each party funds their own efforts.

· **Patent Rights** Patent rights and intellectual property rights belong to the inventor. The technology partner is given the first right to license the derived technology.

· **Licensing** The military reserves the right to utilize the derived technology for an unlimited period of time, through a licensing agreement, either with the technology partner or a third party.

· **Simple** The CRADA is easy to set up with a straight-forward, standard contract section, and an agreed upon Statement of Work. Since no funds can flow from the government to the technology partner, competition issues are set aside. Typically, a CRADA can be in force within 60 days of inception.

TARDEC Facilities

- ?? Fabrication Facility
- ?? Electrical Lab
- ?? Propulsion Lab
- ?? Robotic Engineering Lab
- ?? Air Flow Test Facility
- ?? Vetronics Lab
- ?? Infra-Red Imaging Lab
- ?? Fuels & Lubes Lab
- ?? Motion Base Simulator
- ?? Software engineering

Once the interest of a technology partner has been established, the Statement of Work (SOW) is developed. This is typically an “engineer-to-engineer” agreement defining the tasks to be performed by each party for achieving the stated research goal. The SOW becomes an appendix to the contract portion of the CRADA. The contract is in plain English and follows a very standard format. Basically, it ensures the safety of the proprietary and patent rights of the technology partner, while providing for the unrestricted licensing of the resultant technology to the military. Modifications to the contract are allowed as required.

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

TARDEC's major areas of interest are:

ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY
MILITARY GROUND VEHICLES
TANK AUTOMOTIVE LABORATORIES
AUTOMOTIVE PROPULSION SYSTEMS
PETROLEUM AND WATER TECHNOLOGIES
HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND SIMULATION

For more information on CRADAs, please contact:

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