



+ STUDY

Title: Improving Transition Through Technology Transfer

Sponsor: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Research and Engineering



Background

While Technology Transfer (T2) primarily focuses on transferring intellectual property and innovative technologies from federal labs to industry to support the US economy, it also significantly contributes to technology transition back to the Department of Defense (DOD). From 2000 to 2021, 39% of patent license agreements resulted in transition, amounting to over \$5 billion in sales of new products and services to the US military. These figures highlight substantial opportunities to further increase technology transition through T2 mechanisms and better leverage the research conducted by federal labs to benefit the warfighter.



Problem Statement

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OASD (R&E)) commissioned a study and write a report on ways to enhance T2 for improved transition of lab technology to the DOD. OTTR, was tasked with researching and producing case studies on transfer projects that successfully led to transition efforts (refer to Appendix A) and compiling a report summarizing lessons learned and best practices from these T2 efforts. To support the development of this report, a Study Working Group was formed to supplement the review of case studies, and input was gathered from TechLink's DOD T2 Impact Model Project and MilTech subject matter experts (SMEs) on technology transition. (TechLink, MilTech, and OTTR are research programs at Montana State University).



Methods

Multiple sources, including case studies, the Study Working Group, TechLink, MilTech, and customer input, were utilized to generate findings that were organized into topic areas as part of the analysis to formulate recommendations and prioritize ways to improve transition through T2. The selected case studies were chosen to illustrate transition THROUGH technology transfer, wherein technology developed in partnership with industry under T2 authorities was subsequently transitioned into DOD programs. In most instances, the technology originated in DOD labs, while two technologies originated in industry.



Recommendations

Recommendations were derived from the findings for each topic area and refined based on feedback from LQEP-T2 and the customer. These recommendations were then assessed and prioritized, resulting in ten Priority A Recommendations to enhance transition through T2.