

October 24, 2007

Paul Fritz of the Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division wins the FLC Mid-Atlantic Region Outstanding Technology Transfer Professional Award

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium this year presented the Outstanding Technology Transfer Professional Award to Mr. Paul Fritz of the Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division.

The Outstanding Technology Transfer Professional Award recognizes the efforts of a technology transfer professional — who is a member of the FLC—who has demonstrated outstanding work in transferring a technology in a manner significantly over and above what was called for in the normal course of their work. Nominees must have demonstrated outstanding leadership, inventiveness and perseverance.

Paul Fritz is the Office of Research and Technology Application (ORTA) and Team Leader at the Department of the Navy, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD), Patuxent River, Maryland and has been responsible for the daily business operations of the Business Office since 2003. Mr. Fritz is a recognized leader in technology transfer.

Prior to his assignment as Team Leader, team members had very little involvement in the transfer of Intellectual Properties (IP) to industry or other military installations.

When Mr. Fritz became the Team Leader at NAWCAD, there was a substantial backlog of intellectual property that needed review and evaluation. By reviving the Invention Evaluation Review Board (IEB), he was able to create a working board of senior leaders to make sensible decisions about the allocation of limited funding for intellectual property protection by concentrating on those opportunities that might benefit the Navy and/or have commercial potential. He initiated a training program for inventors to help them understand how to preserve IP, fill out an invention disclosure, and market IP, and he continues to teach this course. Mr. Fritz was able early on to recognize good IP, find licensees for it, and bring money to the laboratory and his inventors. He not only “turned around the program,” but in 2005 made it the second highest money earner in the Navy. Since 2004, Mr. Fritz initiated 74 private party agreements worth over \$24 million. In addition, he wrote 27 CRADAs and 17 PLAs. In FY2007 alone, Mr. Fritz has negotiated 8 CSA agreements worth \$1,938,924; there are 11 CRADAs currently in progress. Forty-six active patents have been filed with US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with three issuing within the past year. Nineteen new invention disclosures at NAWCAD are awaiting an IEB review.

Through his efforts, inventors at NAWCAD are motivated to protect their newly created IP and work with Paul to see it transitioned and transferred for the benefit of the military and civilian sectors.

The Federal Laboratory Consortium is comprised of the technology transfer offices of all of the Federal laboratories throughout the country while its Mid-Atlantic Region focuses on the 70 Federal laboratories in DC, DE, MD, PA, VA and WV.

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