

Conference on Linking Technology Transfer to End-User Needs

Federal Laboratory Consortium Mid-Atlantic Region Press Release

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Conference to Focus on Technology Transfer, Licensing, Commercialization and Partnering

PRESS RELEASE

September 22, 2006 – On September 19-21, 2006, over 55 speakers convened in Cumberland, Maryland to reveal new initiatives and disclose advanced methods for transferring technology, manage intellectual property, move new ideas into the marketplace and accelerate implementation of advanced technology by partnering across agency, institutional and international boundaries. Professionals from academia, industry and economic development groups attended and networked with government laboratory representatives at this meeting.

As the world's knowledge base grows, unprecedented change impacts everything, and global competition intensifies, it is now more important to accelerate innovation and translate ideas into actual use faster. The field of technology transfer is crucial to this process as it involves 1). the application of enabling agreements, 2). identification of the applicable pathways between laboratory and end-user, 3) leveraging partnerships among scientists, entrepreneurs, venture financing, incubators, developers and other vendors, stakeholders and consumers.

The varied agenda, took examples, lessons-learned and best practices that relate to the interests of a variety of practitioners, including technology transfer scouts, lawyers involved in licensing or other intellectual property issues, bioscience developers, military hardware developers, technology marketers or investors in advanced technology. Special illustrations were drawn from the fields of energy and assistive technologies as well as forensics, biometrics, virtual reality, medical sciences and international issues.

R. James Woolsey, Vice President, Booz Allen and Hamilton and past Director of the CIA, discussed the crucial relationship between the U.S.'s national security and its energy policy. His remarks were preceded by an entire session on collaborative projects to develop and deploy new technologies for alternative energy sources. Roger Conway presented an analysis of comparative costs of alternative energy sources, including biomass and alcohol. Wayne Surdoval, DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory, reviewed the Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance, focusing on developing solid oxide fuel cells. Thomas Sarkus, DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory, talked about the FutureGen program and its technology needs. Rosemarie Szostak, DARPA, discussed the petroleum-free military vision.

Dennis Bushnell, Chief Scientist at NASA Langley Research Center, presented a "wave top tour" of emerging technologies across the fields of IT, biotechnology, nanotechnology, energetics, robotics, quantum technologies and more, showing across-the-board radical change impact on society. Many of his points related to the U.S. competitiveness problem.

An international technology transfer panel featured three speakers. Roisen McNally, Murgitroid Company, made a presentation on doing intellectual property business across international borders. Paul Mcquire, Enterprise Ireland, talked about the future of biotechnology commercialization in Ireland. Melanie Peterson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, discussed some important new results of their international collaborations.

Robert Jaeger, Dept. of ED, lead a panel on new assistive technologies and remaining challenges. He was joined by Robert Merrell on telemedicine. Anna Lockhart, AnthroTronix, Inc., provided a small business perspective, and Steven Bauer, University of Buffalo, presented the Rehabilitative Engineering & Research Center on Technology Transfer.

Lorraine Flanders, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division presented examples of how Educational Partnership Agreements work and made a case that more of such efforts are necessary to boost science and engineering interest in the schools.

Other sessions and topics included:

- Presentations on new programs and partnerships at USDA, EPA, NASA
- Technology transfer and reporting at DOC, DOE, USDA
- License auditing and monitoring at NIH
- The Federal framework for restoring the Chesapeake Bay
- Economic development initiatives in West Virginia, Montgomery County, Maryland, the State of Maryland and the Port of Philadelphia
- Spin-in technology transfer was emphasized by the Joint Forces Command
- The real state of forensics technology and new forensics technology was covered by the University of West Virginia and the GenArraytion Company
- Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties discussed its program
- Detailed examples of mutually beneficial relationships between Federal labs and academia were given by the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, and by Rockville Economic Development.
- A new, portable technology transfer training program for the Department of Defense was described by TRSG, Inc.
- Knowledge, Innovation and Technology Sharing Systems were presented by Knowledge Sharing Systems
- The Defense Technical Information Service showed how to access innovation information.
- Foresight Sciences and Technology, Inc. provided information on a comprehensive, commercialization web portal.
- Invotex taught how to value patent and technology licenses
- SAIC/Frederick showed how to access extensive biotechnology expertise and resources at NCI-Frederick
- WizPatent Manager showed how to do intellectual property due diligence for new product development
- The National Biometric Security Project discussed its role with the Federal agencies
- Progress of the FLC Fire Fighting Task Force was reviewed.
- NIH presented challenges and new tools in marketing a large IP portfolio.
- The National Cancer Institute showed how to identify and resolve “hidden” issues in research collaborations.

A half day “training” session focused on protecting and marketing intellectual property.

The meeting was this year’s annual meeting of the Federal Laboratory Consortium Mid-Atlantic Region. www.flcmidatlantic.org.

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.