

Contact Information

To learn more about how your organization can enter into a Partnership Intermediary Agreement with ARS, please contact the ARS Office of Technology Transfer:

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Additional Information

The ARS Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) administers USDA's technology licensing program. To learn more about ARS research partnering and licensing opportunities, or to receive "Technology Alerts" (e-mail notification of ARS partnering opportunities), contact the ARS-OTT Marketing Staff or visit the ARS Website (select "Partnering" from the menu on the left):

WWW.ARS.USDA.GOV

ARS Mission

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national importance and provides information access and dissemination to:

- ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products,
- assess the nutritional needs of Americans,
- sustain a competitive agricultural economy,
- enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and
- provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

USDA Mission

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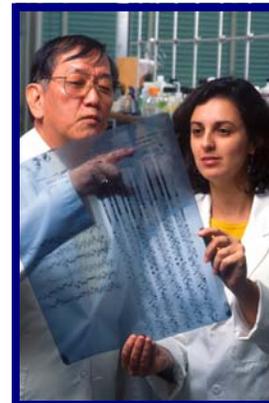
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April 2008



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service

Partnership Intermediary Agreements (PIA) and Technology Transfer





What is a Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA)?

PIAs allow federal research agencies to enter into an agreement with a non-profit organization (partnership intermediary) to assist the federal agency with its technology transfer efforts.

The partnership intermediary's services complement those of the federal laboratory and increase the likelihood of success in conducting cooperative or joint activities between the federal agency and a partnering organization (businesses, universities, or other federal agencies).

These agreements can help strengthen state and national economic development and help U.S. businesses compete globally in the marketplace.

The ARS Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) facilitates and manages PIA agreements for USDA.

What's in it for the Partnering Organization?

PIAs give the partnering organization access to more than 2,000 ARS researchers located at more than 100 research facilities nationwide—including four state-of-the-art pilot plants located in California, Illinois, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania. The partnering organization becomes part of our Agricultural Technology Innovation Partnership (ATIP). Any business that enters into an agreement with ARS resulting from a PIA partnership becomes an ATIP affiliate. ATIP is a forum created and managed by ARS-OTT that fosters interactions between businesses, universities, and ARS professionals nationwide.

What's in it for Businesses?

Through the partnering organization, businesses gain:

- marketing assessments and business plan development assistance,
- identification of funding source (state funds, angel investments, venture capital, and SBIR and other federal grants),
- early notification of "ARS Technology Showcase" events,
- access to facilities, equipment and research expertise through formal agreements, and
- assistance in matching USDA technologies with business needs.



What's in it for ARS?

The partnering organization offers many benefits to ARS researchers, including:

- identifying potential research partners and licensees,
- increasing access to a variety of businesses,
- providing industry perspective on ARS technologies,
- increasing the likelihood of impact from research outcomes,
- identifying potential funding sources for research scientists, and
- expanding customer and stakeholder interactions with the private sector and other federal agencies, e.g., food safety and environmental agencies.