



Cooperative Research and Development Agreements

A Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) is a legal agreement between a government entity and one or more non-government parties, such as private industry and academia. CRADAs offer both parties an opportunity to leverage each other's resources when conducting mutually beneficial research and development (R&D).

Both parties share the risks and benefits of collaborative R&D by working together. The goal of a USJFCOM CRADA is to create a partnership that accelerates R&D efforts to meet joint warfighting capability requirements.

A CRADA provides unique opportunities for each party. They can conduct personnel exchange or share facilities, equipment and other resources. USJFCOM can and does provide a variety of resources to CRADAs, but federal law prohibits the payment of government funds to any non-federal partner.

USJFCOM can execute CRADAs in a short period of time and can easily renew or modify them as appropriate. The government can grant the collaborating party patent licenses on any invention made in whole or in part by the laboratory under the agreement. In all cases the government retains a non-exclusive, non-transferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to use inventions developed. The parties may treat any data or information developed under the agreement as proprietary for up to five years.

Interested parties should contact USJFCOM's Office of Research & Technology Applications (ORTA). The ORTA will ask for a brief written abstract of the research proposal, which will form the basis for a CRADA research plan.

The ORTA will use the abstract to find the best partnering match to a research partner within the command. Once the ORTA identifies a match, it will facilitate a session to develop the research plan. Research plans identify the R&D content of a CRADA and specify objectives, tasks, activities, deliverables and schedules. They also identify what resources each party will contribute.

A CRADA consists of the completed research plan and a fairly standard legal section that provides language to specify the responsibilities of the collaborators and to protect software, data, and intellectual property. It also addresses the duration and effective date of the CRADA and specifies how to handle modifications, disputes and termination. CRADAs can have durations ranging from months to years.

While a CRADA is a contract, it is not a part of the government's acquisition and procurement process. Federal acquisition regulations do not apply. A CRADA is effective when both parties sign the written agreement.