

## WHAT IS A CRADA?

A Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) is a written agreement that facilitates research and development (R&D) collaboration between one or more federal laboratories and one or more non-federal entities. Both parties to a CRADA may provide personnel, facilities, equipment, or other resources, but the government may not provide funding to non-federal entities under a CRADA. CRADAs are authorized by [15 U.S. Code § 3710a](#).

## DHS CRADAs

CRADAs assist the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by facilitating collaboration with other entities to leverage the expertise and resources of both parties. The program assists R&D program managers across DHS in establishing CRADAs to support the development and delivery of technology solutions for homeland security end users. The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) manages CRADAs for the Department.

## WHEN IS A CRADA APPROPRIATE?

CRADAs provide an easy way to collaborate with DHS programs, laboratories, and/or components. CRADAs enable DHS researchers to exchange technical expertise with non-federal partners and protect the rights of both parties to inventions that may result from the collaboration. CRADAs are ideal mechanisms when DHS and an external partner can share resources and expertise not otherwise available to the other party to help advance development of an idea or technology that helps meet homeland security needs.

## WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN CRADAs?

CRADAs must involve at least one non-federal party. In addition to DHS researchers, the other participants in a CRADA may be one or more of the following:

- Private corporations (U.S. or foreign)
- Nonprofit and not-for-profit institutions (U.S. or foreign) including universities and foundations
- State and local governments (U.S.)
- Individuals (U.S. or foreign)

## BENEFITS OF USING A CRADA

CRADAs provide DHS and CRADA partners the opportunity to engage in joint R&D efforts and offer the following benefits:

- Ease of entering into arrangements with DHS to engage in R&D activities
- Access to DHS laboratories' expertise, capabilities, and technologies to foster innovation and improve the economic, environmental, and social well being of the U.S.
- New products, processes, and intellectual property (IP) applicable to DHS mission and commercial goals
- Access to IP resulting from CRADA efforts
- Reduced costs, time, and risk of R&D to achieve DHS mission and/or commercial goals by leveraging external expertise, ideas, investment, and resources
- Joint approaches to solving specific problems by applying different cultural solutions

## CRADA ACTIVITIES

DHS CRADAs support the following collaborative activities that span the R&D lifecycle and increase technology transfer and commercialization readiness: basic research; concept ideation; prototype development; testing and evaluation; technology demonstrations; assessments and pilot deployments; and adaptation of commercial products for government use in DHS mission applications.

## CONTACT

If you have questions or would like more information about the DHS CRADA Program, please email [CRADA@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CRADA@hq.dhs.gov).