



NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

# CRADA 101

## HOW TO WORK WITH NPS

A partnership with NPS provides access to expert faculty, operationally experienced military students and research with immediate applications within and outside the Department of the Navy and DOD. Partners gain understanding of challenges facing operational forces and how technology can provide potential solutions. Experimentation is often conducted alongside students and faculty in labs or at test ranges in quarterly Joint Interagency Field Experimentation (JIFX) events. <https://nps.edu/web/fx>.

- *NPS leverages **Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs)** to support collaborative activities of mutual benefit with external industry partners.*
- *CRADAs typically explore emerging technology applications as possible solutions to defense operational problems, including accelerating technology transfer and commercialization readiness.*
- *Throughout the years, NPS has entered into more than 270 CRADAs and over 110 Limited Purpose CRADAs.*



## WHAT IS A CRADA?

A Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) is an agreement between a Federal laboratory and a non-Federal party to perform collaborative research and development in any area that is consistent with the Federal laboratory's mission. CRADAs are a frequently used mechanism for formalizing interactions and partnerships between private industry and the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), and the only mechanism for receiving funds from non-Federal sources for collaborative work. 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.

CRADA projects are highly focused, and the specific technical responsibilities of the collaborators are delineated. A CRADA defines the tasks to be done within an area of collaboration and grants the Government a Government purpose license and the non-Federal party a non-exclusive, paid-up, royalty-free license for internal use of any inventions that result from the CRADA research. The non-Federal party is granted an option to negotiate either an exclusive or nonexclusive commercial license within a pre-specified, CRADA-related field of use, subject to Government-purpose rights. The CRADA also provides protection of proprietary information for both sides.

## WHEN IS A CRADA APPROPRIATE?

CRADAs provide an easy way to collaborate with all NPS laboratories and/or components. CRADAs enable NPS 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 NPS labs 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 Department of the Navy (DON) needs.

## WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN CRADAS?

CRADAs must involve at least one non-federal party. In addition to NPS 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 NPS Labs and CRADA partners the opportunity to engage in joint R&D efforts and offer the following benefits:

- *Ease of entering into arrangements with NPS to engage in R&D activities. Current NPS technical focus areas include:*
  - *5G, Additive Manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Systems, Computer Networking, Cyber, Data Analysis, Digital Design, Digital Engineering, Digital Manufacturing, Digital Twin Technology, High Performance Computing, Hypersonics, Lasers and Directed Energy, Machine Learning, Modeling and Simulation, Networked Data Environments, Operational Meteorology, Power and Energy Technologies, and Quantum Technologies*
- *Access to NPS laboratories' expertise, capabilities, and technologies to foster innovation*
  - *Learn about NPS research centers and unique facilities here: <https://nps.edu/web/guest/departments>*
- *New products, processes, and intellectual property (IP) applicable to NPS mission and commercial goals*
- *Access to NPS IP resulting from sponsored research activities. In the past 5 years, NPS has filed over sixty patent applications based on faculty and student research, many of which are in key technology areas such as advanced autonomous systems, space and cyberspace as warfighting domains, and resilient and agile logistics. There have been over 100 patents issued to NPS.*



## CRADA ACTIVITIES

NPS 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 DON mission applications.*

## CONTACT:

The **NPS Research Office** is here to facilitate the development of CRADAs and enable the partnerships we need to be successful.

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