

THE INNOVATION CATALYST

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS OFFICE
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2019

How Space Act Agreements Can Help Your Research

The Strategic Partnerships Office at Goddard uses a variety of tools to connect NASA researchers with organizations outside of NASA in furtherance of mutual goals. One such tool, known as a Space Act Agreement, is a versatile, unique-to-NASA legal document that opens the door to all kinds of partnerships and collaborations.

NASA has signed Space Act Agreements (SAAs) with a wide range of organizations and for niche purposes – for example, NASA has many SAAs with SpaceX to enable commercial launch services. On the other side of the spectrum, a 2018 SAA with Peanuts Worldwide grants NASA permission to use Snoopy and other Peanuts characters in promotion of space exploration missions.

While you may not have an immediate use for Charlie Brown in your research, there are ways to leverage Space Act Agreements in benefit of your work. We've provided a few examples below, but if you have specific questions or ideas you'd like to pursue, please reach out to us by calling 301-286-5810 or emailing techtransfer@gsfc.nasa.gov.

SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE

NASA research benefits when industry picks up and furthers government technology. At Goddard and other NASA centers, SAAs grant innovators the ability to provide support to organizations outside of NASA. Several active SAAs support companies in the burgeoning robotic on-orbit servicing industry. As NASA develops and furthers its own technologies, SAAs allow NASA researchers to share their knowledge and provide input for commercial space operations. SAAs can also work in conjunction with technology licenses agreements – if you invent a technology and a company licenses it, the SAA gives the company access to you as a resource as they test, modify, and troubleshoot your innovation as they adapt it for commercial application.

TEST YOUR TECHNOLOGY

An SAA between NASA and the Smithsonian Institution has enabled the two organizations to explore a new

application for a NASA technology. The Molecular Adsorber Coating (MAC), invented at Goddard, is being tested at the National Museum for Natural History as a way to mitigate contamination of historic artifacts in the museum's collection. Because of its highly porous properties, MAC might be able to trap mercury vapor and other harmful contaminants to which the artifacts are exposed. With an SAA in place, NASA engineers applied their time and expertise to this investigation. If you have a colleague outside of NASA who wants to collaborate, consider how an SAA might be able to meet your research needs.



Goddard recently signed an SAA with the Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA) to create opportunities for members to explore technology licensing. The WNBPA Executive Committee includes (from left to right) Layshia Clarendon, Elena Delle Donne, Carolyn Swords and Chiney Ogumike.

Credits: WNBPA/Isaac Thesatus/Redhouse Visuals

FIND PARTNERS

You might have a technology you'd like to develop with a partner, but you're not sure how to identify a collaborator. Reach out to SPO and let us know – we can help you refine your partnering goals and search for potential partners. The old Federal Business Opportunities website was retired this year, but NASA can still post calls for partnership opportunities on the new <https://beta.sam.gov> website. Get in touch with SPO to learn how you can leverage this resource and identify an organization for a potential SAA.

2020 Goddard Fellows Innovation Challenge Opens Dec. 13

Submit your early-stage and exploratory research proposal to the [2020 Goddard Fellows Innovation Challenge](#) (GFIC), which begins Dec. 13. The GFIC provides funds for radical or high-risk and high-reward efforts that could have dramatic, long-term consequences for science and engineering. Approximately 10 proposals will be selected

and funded in 2020, and proposals are due by Jan. 10, 2020.

Once you've submitted your proposal, don't forget to send SPO a [New Technology Report](#) describing your innovation!

Recent SPO Activities

IRAD POSTER SESSION

SPO participated in the annual Goddard Internal Research and Development (IRAD) Poster Session on Nov. 7. The poster session is an opportunity for Goddard innovators to showcase their IRAD work and share it with the Goddard community. SPO brought informational materials about the Goddard Master Innovator Program, developed to acknowledge innovators who participate in the technology transfer process and rank their progress.

INNOVATOR TRAINING

SPO conducted a training session for innovators at Goddard's main campus on Nov. 13. The three-hour training explained how Goddard's technology transfer process works, from submitting an NTR to patenting and commercialization of technology. The training also described how innovators can participate in the technology transfer process and what benefits could result for them and their research. For future trainings, keep an eye on Dateline or search in SATERN.

SPACECOM

From Nov. 20-21, SPO staff members participated in SpaceCom, a commercial space conference and exposition located in Houston, Texas. The expo brings together legislative officials, international space agencies, engineers and scientists from aerospace, and many other related industries. SpaceCom operates under a Space Act Agreement with NASA in the collaboration and development of the show.



SPO Deputy Chief Kerry Leonard represented Goddard at the 2019 SpaceCom conference and exposition in Houston, Texas.

Upcoming Events for Innovators

New Technology Awards Ceremony

February 26, 2020

Celebrate Goddard's technology transfer achievements with fellow innovators.

SPO Speaker Series

Coming Soon!

Check Dateline for announcement. Guest speakers share their insights on topics related to technology transfer.

Technology Transfer Trivia

- 1 What Goddard technology was inducted into the Space Technology Hall of Fame in 1988?
 - A. AeroPod
 - B. Groth Algorithm
 - C. Ingestible Thermometer Pill
 - D. NASA Structural Analysis Computer Software
- 2 Which of these examples is NOT a type of NASA patent license?
 - A. Nonprofit License
 - B. Commercial License
 - C. Startup NASA License
 - D. Evaluation License
- 3 How many years does it take for a U.S. patent to expire after the application is filed?
 - A. 5 years
 - B. 10 years
 - C. 15 years
 - D. 20 years

[Link To Answers](#)