

Technology transfer from Sandia National Laboratories using entrepreneurial and commercialization Ecosystems

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Sandia National Laboratories has a rich history of technology transfer including the Laminar Flow Clean Room, a \$50B technology used worldwide. Other technology transfer successes have included areas ranging from microsystems and optics to drill bits. One of the keys to Sandia's success in this area is the use of a variety of mechanisms for joint development, licensing, and small business partnerships. One especially effective approach for workforce development as part of technology transfer is the use of Sandia's Entrepreneurial Leave opportunity. This program enables Sandia inventors to leave Sandia in order to form or join a new company to provide the in-depth expertise needed for effective commercialization of the technology that they created. They also train others in the use of their technology. After up to three years the inventors can either choose to continue to work for the new company or can return to Sandia with no loss of pay or position. Several examples will be discussed in which Entrepreneurial Leave was used to create successful companies based in part on Sandia technology.