

SEPT

SEVEN AREAS OF CONCERN FOR EFFECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACT OF 1986
AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 12591

1. Opportunities Provided by the Legislation and Executive Order

- o Take technology transfer seriously via staffing and management action
- o Opens new opportunities for cooperation with industry and for assisting in economic development.
- o Encourages commercialization by removing barriers and providing incentives.

2. Cooperative Research and Development

- o Strength of the mandate
- o Opportunities for expansion
- o Distinct from procurement or assistance regulations (need guidelines)
- o Many attitudes must change

3. Patent-Licensing

- o Provides the opportunity for faster commercialization
- o Creates new property right for Federal lab scientists
- o Much inertia in the system today

4. Research and Development Brokering

- o Offers substantial opportunity to increase "spin-off"
- o A "new" area requiring purposeful action
(guidance to labs especially needed to assure "equity")

5. Protecting Proprietary Information

- o Key to obtaining working relationship with industry
- o Need to avoid barriers to flow of information
- o Experience varies widely; guidance needed.

SEVEN AREAS OF CONCERN

6. Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

- o Several areas in the Act raise "conflict" issues
 - generally prohibited conduct (e.g. private gain)
 - outside activities
 - use, protection and release of information
- o Great need for early orientation of scientists

7. Agency Oversight

- o Need for broad coordination; Tech Transfer cuts across many management/staff functions
- o Program implementation requires considerable strengthening of current staff capability -- with objective of maximum decentralization
- o Documenting and reporting technology is a considerable challenge/opportunity, yet to be met