From: Gus Simiao
To: roi
Subject: Green Paper Feedback
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 11:33:36 AM

To Whom this may concern,

I would like to provide one thought on the green paper. I did not have a chance to read the entire document so this comment may already be incorporated. My comment is related to the topic of increasing engagement with the private sector.

I am an entrepreneur with experience in licensing technologies from universities into a newly formed company (startup) to commercialize the technology. Recently I have sought to license technologies from the federal government by reaching out to the Navy Research Lab, Army Research Lab, and others.

What I have obtained from them is a very long list of technologies that have been patented. Some labs have their own websites while others work with TechLink a Montana State University website that lists several technologies from the federal government. In all cases I found myself swimming this sea of patents with not much more than a paragraph description of each technology.

Such limited information has made it difficult for me to identify technologies that might have commercial potential. I have also tried to connect with the technology transfer managers to further discuss the matter. In most cases I was directed back to the website that lists the technology. Another challenge is that I have limited access to the researches who are working on these projects. I have no way of identifying them or contacting them. Unlike universities where it is much easier to identify and connect with professors on topics of interest.

Being from the private sector, it is not immediately obvious to me how you might solve this problem of making it easier for entrepreneurs to access federal government research. One thought might be for you to benchmark best practices from the leading technology transfer universities.

I appreciate your constraints and challenges. I just thought I tell you my story as one data point to help inform your work. I do believe this initiative is very important and hope it will turn out to be a successful effort.

Thanks,

Gus Simiao

M: (734) 272-2290

On Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 3:37 PM NIST Director <director@nist.gov> wrote:

> Dear Colleague:

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced the release of a Draft Green Paper detailing steps to modernize the U.S. system of technology transfer and innovation for the 21st century on December 6, 2018 with a request for feedback by January 9, 2019. As you are aware, we had a lapse in appropriations that included the Department of Commerce and NIST. I am therefore extending the period to provide feedback through **February 5, 2019**, via roi@nist.gov.

NIST is striving to address comments prior to the expiration of the current Continuing Resolution on February 15, 2019. While we all anticipate that there will not be another lapse in appropriations on February 15th, we are trying to balance the timing with the need to take swift action. The NIST ROI website was open to receive comments and most people were able to download the document.

We are very grateful for those who were able to respond and for the thoughtful input we received. However, we also received a few requests to extend the feedback period and would like to try to accommodate as many views as possible, while also trying to complete this paper in a timely fashion.

Once again, I am grateful for your continuing engagement in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Walter G. Copan, Ph.D.

Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology

Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology

From: NIST Director
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 2:21 PM
To: NIST Director <director@nist.gov>
Subject: Commerce's NIST Announces Actions to Stimulate Commercialization of Federally Funded R&D

Dear Colleague:

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) today announced the release of a Draft Green Paper detailing steps to modernize the U.S. system of technology transfer and innovation for the 21st century.

The United States spends more than any other nation on research and development (R&D) each year, investing over $150 billion in federally funded R&D alone. To ensure that investment reaps the largest commercial, economic, and national security returns possible, the President's Management Agenda (PMA) directed NIST to work with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to speed the transfer of federally funded R&D to the private sector. As part of the PMA's Lab-to-Market Cross Agency Priority (CAP) Goal, NIST launched the Return on Investment (ROI) Initiative for Unleashing American Innovation, which led to the draft green paper.

The draft green paper identifies 15 actions intended to stimulate the commercialization of federally funded R&D. Implementing these actions will increase the impact of federal R&D investment through agile partnerships that can create tremendous value for our society and economy. For example, granting reliable and predictable intellectual property rights for licensing and commercial development of federal research will also encourage innovation and more private sector investment in R&D. The actions are aligned with the five strategies in the PMA's Lab-To-Market CAP Goal: 1) identifying regulatory impediments and administrative improvements; 2) increasing engagement with private sector experts and investors; 3) building a more entrepreneurial R&D workforce; 4) supporting innovative tools and services for technology transfer; and 5) improving understanding of global science and technology.

The draft green paper was developed based on broad inputs from the public in response to a Request for Information published in the *Federal Register,* public meetings and multiple stakeholder engagement sessions, and extensive review of prior reports and studies related to federal R&D technology transfer. The green paper also incorporates input from key federal stakeholders, including the National Science and Technology Council's Lab-to-Market Subcommittee. The green paper is a discussion document, not a policy commitment or decision by the federal government. Implementation of actions that require specific policy, legislative or regulatory changes will be advanced through the appropriate formal process, including interagency review and public comment.

The draft green paper as well as the public comments received in response to the Request for Information and background information about the initiative are available on the NIST ROI website. NIST will consider additional feedback on the green paper

received by January 9, 2019, via roi@nist.gov. A final version is expected in early 2019.

I am grateful to all stakeholders, especially those who submitted oral and written comments in response to the RFI and at ROI public forums throughout 2018, to the outstanding, dedicated team at NIST and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to all the U.S. federal science and technology agencies represented in the National Science and Technology Council and its Lab-to-Market Subcommittee, and to the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) for your many contributions thus far.

Thank you for your continuing engagement in helping to chart this important course of action for the Nation.

Sincerely,

Walter G. Copan, Ph.D.

Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology

Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology