

Benefits to Canada

The benefits of the ISTC go beyond reducing the risks posed by the proliferation of weapons-based science. For example, Canadian individuals and organizations (public and private) that become involved as collaborators or partners in ISTC research projects can benefit from early and privileged access to new technologies developed at moderate cost by world-class scientists in Russia and other FSU countries. Such access to new technologies can contribute to the research goals of many government departments and research organizations (e.g. those involved in atmospheric monitoring, border protection or soil decontamination) while also enabling Canadian companies to improve their products and possibly their export performance. In 2004, the ISTC Governing Board approved Pratt & Whitney Canada as Canada's first industrial partner to the ISTC.

ISTC-sponsored seminars have provided opportunities for Canadian stakeholders to meet with FSU scientists, exchange information and explore areas for future collaboration. For example:

- Canada participated in the first annual Chemical Science and Commercialization Conference held from September 27 to 29, 2004, in Moscow. Canadian participants included representatives from government

(including Environment Canada and the National Research Council), academia and industry. As a result of this conference, Canadian and Russian scientists are working together to develop new project proposals for submission to the ISTC.

- A biosafety workshop, held in Winnipeg in October 2004, enabled Canadian and FSU experts to pursue discussions on current and potential collaboration through the ISTC. (This workshop is described in more detail in the next section on the Biological Non-Proliferation Program.)
- Following the Winnipeg workshop, the 13 participating FSU scientists travelled to Ottawa to attend Health Canada's Third Annual Science Forum, held from October 18 to 19. That meeting allowed for further discussion of research activities between the FSU scientists and researchers/scientists from across Canada representing a variety of disciplines.

These and other activities have led to numerous new project ideas involving government, industry and university scientists from Canada and countries of the FSU.

A survey of Russian scientists: Is the ISTC effective?

A survey on the role and work of the ISTC, conducted at 20 research institutes and involving 602 Russian scientists, found that 21 percent of respondents would consider working in a country such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran, Iraq or Syria for one year in their area of specialization. The survey also revealed that those receiving ISTC and Western grants were less likely to consider accepting such employment. Overall, 90 percent of respondents characterized ISTC research grants as "very useful," and 48 percent identified support for research as the most successful aspect of the ISTC. Helping to establish contacts with foreign collaborators and facilitating travel was acknowledged as another successful aspect. About 20 percent of respondents had begun a joint project with either a Western university or firm.

—Source: Deborah Yarsike Ball and Theodore P. Gerber, *A Survey of Russian Scientists: Is the ISTC Effective?* April 2004; and *A Survey of Russian Scientists: Assessing Willingness to Work for Rogue States and the Effectiveness of Western Aid*, December 2004.