

Researchers work closely on projects of common interest in a broad range of sectors, some in the so-called strategic technologies, biotechnology, information technologies, and advanced industrial materials. Important projects are underway in agriculture, energy, environment, geosciences, marine sciences, space research, transportation, and several other sectors. There is potential for expansion of cooperation in fossil-energy research because of closely related interests of both countries.

The cooperative science and technology program shared with the Federal Republic of Germany is Canada's most active. It is conducted under a bilateral agreement signed in 1971. The agreement facilitates and encourages scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges of information and personnel between agencies, organizations, public enterprises, and private companies in the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada. In addition, a number of mutually beneficial projects take place without government assistance.

In Canada, a number of organizations participate in bilateral cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany, including research arms of federal and provincial departments and agencies, provincial research organizations, universities, private laboratories undertaking contract research, and companies conducting in-house research. The Federal Republic of Germany has a similar range of public and private research organizations, including those operated or funded by the Federal and Laender (State) governments.

The Agreement facilitates exchanges of information between researchers working on similar projects. Research on scientific problems is often shared and researchers may spend time working in each others' laboratories. This is particularly beneficial during periods of restraint in scientific spending.

The Agreement also promotes exchanges of scientists with funding provided by government departments, universities, and granting agencies such as Canada's Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) or the German Research Society, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). The NSERC/DFG programs cover grants for research projects, as well as aid to researchers and academics to participate in meetings and congresses in Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany.

In recent years, Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany have focused on means to accelerate transfers of new technologies from government and university laboratories to the private sector. Joint workshops have been held in Berlin, FRG and in Waterloo, Ontario on the process of commercialization -- emphasizing benefits to small and medium enterprises. Published