

How Canada reviews ISTC proposals

DFAIT coordinates a multi-faceted project review system for ISTC proposals. Proposals for funding consideration by Canada are submitted to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for a technical and scientific review. An NSERC committee, composed of experts from government and academia, ranks these proposals in order of scientific merit and identifies the commercialization potential as well as dual-use risks or ethical concerns. DFAIT also submits these proposals to representatives of Canada's science-based departments and agencies, to ensure consistency with Canadian science and technology policies and priorities and to identify potential Canadian collaborators. Primary emphasis in this process is placed on consistency with and promotion of Canadian non-proliferation goals and the objectives of the *Global Partnership*. The applicability of Canadian environmental legislation is also assessed.



As a result of ISTC redirection programming a scientist proudly displays the Institute's recently developed biological products



Scientist at work at Pushchino Laboratory, using equipment funded by the ISTC

The International Science and Technology Center

The Moscow-based ISTC was established as a non-proliferation organization in November 1992 through an international agreement between the European Union, Japan, Russia and the United States. Norway and the Republic of Korea subsequently became funding members, while six FSU countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan) joined as recipients. Through the Center's political, legal and financial frameworks, ISTC parties are able to contribute to programs that redirect scientists away from WMD research and toward sustainable, peaceful employment. In doing so, they enable the exceptional pool of talent in Russia and other FSU countries to make a meaningful contribution to scientific advancement, while helping to reduce the risk of WMD expertise proliferation.

The ISTC serves as a project clearinghouse, offering a pool of research project proposals from FSU scientists to ISTC parties for funding consideration. The ISTC conducts funding sessions in March, July and October of each year. In addition to managing research projects, ISTC activities include commercialization support initiatives, information technology upgrades, training, partner development, and workshops and seminars to better integrate former weapons scientists into the global science and technology and industrial communities.

The ISTC's Partner Program enables governments, academic institutions and NGOs to employ scientific experts at relatively low cost to conduct research and development. The initiative focuses on addressing existing global problems through research and development in many areas, including environmental rehabilitation, alternative energy sources and life sciences.