

government departments handle projects in which the technology has originated in laboratories of their own departments. Within Canadian universities, IRAP funds Technology Transfer Officers who are employees of the universities, tasked with identifying new technology within the university which is ripe for commercialization, locating appropriate industrial partners, and managing the resulting collaboration. IRAP has stepped in to provide funding for these functions in the early stages where there is some risk, little funding available from other sources, and insufficient revenue in the form of royalties and licensing fees for the function to be self-supporting. It is an experiment which seems to be working.

Some of the history of the IRAP Laboratory Network is shown in slide 7, from its beginnings in 1975 as PILP, the Program for Industry/Laboratory Projects. As you see from the many changes introduced over these 11 years, our program has been far from static, and has always been ready to implement new elements to improve service to our clientele. Originally established to transfer to industry technology developed in NRC laboratories, the program now transfers technology originating in any publicly-funded laboratory in Canada or overseas. In the early days, the program offered 100% of project R&D costs to a company and later, in 1982, adopted the contribution mode in which only a percentage of project costs is paid to companies. Although this contribution was originally fairly high, typically 90%, it has subsequently declined to its present day level of 50%. However, a major principle was involved in the change, namely that the intellectual properties developed during the course of the project now belong to the client company whereas in the contract mode they became the property of the Crown, and available to the company only under licence.