

The EDB is working with foreign research organisations and the research centres of multi-national corporations to make Singapore a hub in their worldwide R&D networks. A*STAR and EDB are jointly encouraging public R&D organisations to collaborate more with the private sector in their commercial R&D work. Also, Exploit Technologies has been established specifically to promote the effective transfer of R&D efforts to local industry.

5. Singapore: International S&T Activities

Much of Singapore's international activity is carried out through A*STAR, which has signed Memoranda of Understanding with various countries, provinces, states and leading national research bodies, with the objective of fostering scientific cooperation with other world-class research organisations. Regular Joint Calls for Proposals that are conducted have resulted in numerous international research collaborations. In addition, international symposia, exchanges, seminars and workshops are also held to facilitate opportunities to network and discuss major Science and Technology issues.

A*STAR partners are typically government ministries, research councils and institutions that are in charge of the funding and development of S&T in their respective countries. Singapore has S&T ties with Canada on various levels, highlighted by the existence of three S&T MOUs between Singapore and various Canadian parties, including the National Research Council (NRC). The partnership between A*STAR and NRC focuses on joint research collaboration and the exchange of management and staff, and includes a Joint Research Agreement.

A*STAR also has agreements at the provincial level, which include the Agreement on S&T Cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology and the associated Joint Research Program. This Joint Research Program aims to encourage pre-competitive research and to develop platform technologies. As well, A*STAR and the Singapore Productivity and Standards Board (now renamed SPRING Singapore) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on S&T Cooperation with the Alberta Ministry of Innovation. From this, there have been agreements signed between various institutes in Singapore and Canada in the spirit of S&T cooperation, such as that between the Center for Wireless Communication (now called Laboratories for Information Technology) and TRILabs to establish a pan-Pacific ICT research consortium, Technobridge. As well, other agreements were signed between the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering (IMRE) and the Alberta Research Council, and the Faculties of Engineering at both the National University of Singapore and the University of Calgary.

Multilaterally, Singapore also actively participates in various S&T fora which act as