

Science and Technology in the
United States of America
By
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1. United States: S&T Opportunities for Canada

Although there is no treaty-level umbrella Science and Technology Agreement between the United States and Canada, there are literally thousands of agency-to-agency agreements, too numerous to list in this report, that provide assistance in bilateral collaborative projects. The following may be helpful in addressing collaborative issues.

US Scientific Information:

This report provides a summary of the various areas of scientific research being conducted in the United States. Further information is published in regular S&T newsletters (about nine per year) issued from the Canadian Embassy in Washington. To receive these e-mail newsletters send an e-mail message to: st-usa@dfait-maeci.gc.ca. In addition to the department and agency websites listed below, a good source of current and future US science activities is available on the following websites:

- The American Association for the Advancement of Science: <http://www.aaas.org>
- The National Academies: <http://www.nas.edu>
- The Association of American Universities: <http://www.aau.edu/> click on Research Issues

Also, for those wanting to understand the US science environment in detail, it is highly recommended that you attend the key annual science conference organised by the AAAS in February every year (see: <http://www.aaas.org/meetings>). This is one of the best networking events in the US science community.

The best opportunities for Canadian researchers to collaborate are in the areas of

- Biotechnology (medical with the NIH and food within USDA programs)
- Space including GIS (with NASA perhaps through CSA)
- ICT (high-speed Internet, computing and wireless), processes (materials, nanotechnology, lasers, enterprise software development, fuel research, and renewable and solar energy programs, mainly through DOE/DOD)
- Oceans and atmospheric programs (DOC/NOAA)
- E-commerce or metrology through (DOC/NIST)

It should be noted that the largest budgets rest with the departments of health (through NIH) and defence, which represent about 70% of the federal R&D budget. However, much of this research is carried out by universities that receive funding passed to them from these two departments and the USDA. Opportunities exist for researchers to collaborate in projects working with US universities by combined NSF/NSERC or NSF/SSHRC funding. To locate the websites of US departments and agencies refer to: <http://www.ssti.org/resources.htm>. (Note all the above acronyms are detailed in this report.)

Working in the area of defence with either the Department of Defence (DOD), or their prime