Scientific attachés perform a dual function: as liaison officers they function as a direct link between the National Research Council of Canada and the scientific community of the country to which they are accredited; as attachés they function as an intergovernmental link to facilitate the development of national policy and action in the international field of science.

## Patents

NRC has established Canadian Patents and Development Limited, a Crown Corporation which patents NRC inventions and then licences them to industry. CPD also performs this service for other government laboratories and by agreement with a number of Canadian universities.