

SPACE ACTIVITY AND SOCIETY (E5)
Technology Transfer Trends (1)

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LEVERAGING NASA TECHNOLOGY

Abstract

NASA has a substantial technologies database for everything from advanced materials to cutting-edge software to ground-breaking power and propulsion systems. United States law and NASA policy require that all NASA personnel and contractors—onsite and offsite—report their innovations to the Innovative Partnerships Program (IPP). This ensures “appropriate dissemination of information” to the nation. At the same time, these technologies offer important value within the Agency. In short, NASA programs and projects can leverage some of these technologies beyond their originally intended use to solve technical challenges across the Agency. A focus of the IPP Office is tapping into these technology resources to augment their benefits for NASA. IPP employs a New Technology Assessment (NTA) process, analyzing both the “external market” value and “internal strategic” value of a technology. This paper discusses the technology assessment process and provides case studies demonstrating the value added to NASA and the public through this process. Specific examples will be cited, including the technology infusion into the Cloud-Aerosol Transport System (CATS) lidar, a contender for the proposed Aerosol-Cloud-Ecosystems (ACE) mission.