

Partnering with NREL

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory uses a variety of agreement mechanisms to develop new partnerships with domestic and international industry, state and local government, universities, and other government agencies. The most appropriate partnering mechanism is determined by the goals of the Partner, coupled with funding sources and NREL's mission and strategic business objectives.

Agreement	Purpose	Funding	Benefits	Requirements
Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)	Collaborate and share the results of a jointly conducted research and development project	Private and/or Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborate: Leverages research efforts and funding by NREL and Partner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventions: NREL and Partner may own their respective inventions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality: Generated information can be protected for up to five years; Partner's proprietary information can be protected <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> License: Partner has option to negotiate license to NREL subject inventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial U.S. manufacturing requirements (or benefit to U.S.) for products embodying CRADA-generated intellectual property (IP) • 90-day advance payment for privately-funded Lab work • Government use license to project-generated IP • Signature approval by DOE required
Funds-In Agreement (FIA)	Allows NREL to perform mission-related, reimbursable work	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access: Highly specialized or unique DOE facilities, services, or technical expertise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventions: IP ownership is subject to project parameters <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality: Generated information treated as proprietary when marked; Partner's proprietary information can be protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Preference: Partners agree there will be no exclusive 3rd-party license to project-generated IP unless manufactured substantially in the U.S. • 90-day advance payment • Government use license to project-generated IP • Approval by DOE required
		Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access: Highly specialized or unique DOE facilities, services, or technical expertise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventions: Terms of government funding agreement apply <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality: Generated information treated in accordance with government funding agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Preference: see above • 90-day advance payment • Government use license to project-generated IP • Approval by DOE required
Technical Services Agreement (TSA)	Allows NREL to perform mission-related, reimbursable work	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access: Highly specialized or unique DOE facilities, services, or technical expertise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality: Generated information treated as proprietary when marked; Partner's proprietary information can be protected <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easy: Quick to execute for projects that meet certain parameters <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient: Ideal for consulting, testing and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms are non-negotiable • Less than \$500,000 estimated cost and three years of performance • Not intended for research and development where project-generated IP is expected to result • Pre-approved by DOE under most circumstances • 90-day advance payment
Interagency Agreement (IAG)	Perform work for non-DOE federal agencies	Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access: Highly specialized or unique DOE facilities, services, or technical expertise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventions/Generated Information: Prime contract terms/govt. rights apply <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic: Partner with other agencies to assist in implementing large federal projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signature approval by DOE required • DOE field office negotiates agreement terms • Work with another federal agency only
Agreements for Commercializing Technology (ACT)	Allows NREL to perform mission-related, reimbursable work	Private funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access: Highly specialized or unique DOE facilities, services, or technical expertise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flexibility: Negotiable agreement terms, provided DOE required IP provisions and disclaimer are used <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Optional: Limited govt. R&D license 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pricing structure differs from other agreement types • U.S. Preference: see above • Approval by DOE required

Notes: Certain exceptions or restrictions may apply (e.g. International FIA Sponsors may be granted the right to own inventions after DOE approval; projects that meet certain criteria may require full-payment up front)

NREL is a national laboratory of the U. S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.