

§ 3702. Purpose

It is the purpose of this chapter to improve the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the United States by—

- (1) establishing organizations in the executive branch to study and stimulate technology;
- (2) promoting technology development through the establishment of cooperative research centers;
- (3) stimulating improved utilization of federally funded technology developments, including inventions, software, and training technologies, by State and local governments and the private sector;
- (4) providing encouragement for the development of technology through the recognition of individuals and companies which have made outstanding contributions in technology; and
- (5) encouraging the exchange of scientific and technical personnel among academia, industry, and Federal laboratories.

(Pub. L. 96-480, §3, Oct. 21, 1980, 94 Stat. 2312; Pub. L. 99-502, §9(b)(1), (f)(2), Oct. 20, 1986, 100 Stat. 1795, 1797.)

AMENDMENTS

1986—Par. (2). Pub. L. 99-502, §9(b)(1), substituted “cooperative research centers” for “centers for industrial technology”.

Par. (3). Pub. L. 99-502, §9(f)(2), inserted “, including inventions, software, and training technologies.”.

§ 3703. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the term—

- (1) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.
- (2) “Centers” means the Cooperative Research Centers established under section 3705 or 3707 of this title.
- (3) “Nonprofit institution” means an organization owned and operated exclusively for scientific or educational purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.
- (4) “Federal laboratory” means any laboratory, any federally funded research and development center, or any center established under section 3705 or 3707 of this title that is owned, leased, or otherwise used by a Federal agency and funded by the Federal Government, whether operated by the Government or by a contractor.
- (5) “Supporting agency” means either the Department of Commerce or the National Science Foundation, as appropriate.
- (6) “Federal agency” means any executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5 and the military departments as defined in section 102 of such title, as well as any agency of the legislative branch of the Federal Government.
- (7) “Invention” means any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable or otherwise protected under title 35 or any novel variety of plant which is or may be protectable under the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2321 et seq.).
- (8) “Made” when used in conjunction with any invention means the conception or first actual reduction to practice of such invention.

(9) “Small business firm” means a small business concern as defined in section 632 of this title and implementing regulations of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(10) “Training technology” means computer software and related materials which are developed by a Federal agency to train employees of such agency, including but not limited to software for computer-based instructional systems and for interactive video disc systems.

(11) “Clearinghouse” means the Clearinghouse for State and Local Initiatives on Productivity, Technology, and Innovation established by section 3704a of this title.

(Pub. L. 96-480, §4, Oct. 21, 1980, 94 Stat. 2312; Pub. L. 99-502, §9(b)(2), (d), Oct. 20, 1986, 100 Stat. 1795, 1796; Pub. L. 100-418, title V, §5122(b), Aug. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 1439; Pub. L. 100-519, title II, §201(d)(1), Oct. 24, 1988, 102 Stat. 2594; Pub. L. 102-245, title III, §304, Feb. 14, 1992, 106 Stat. 20; Pub. L. 106-404, §7(1), (2), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1745; Pub. L. 110-69, title III, §3002(c)(3), Aug. 9, 2007, 121 Stat. 586.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Plant Variety Protection Act, referred to in par. (7), is Pub. L. 91-577, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 57 (§2321 et seq.) of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2321 of Title 7 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2007—Pub. L. 110-69 redesignated pars. (2) and (4) to (13) as (1) and (2) to (11), respectively, and struck out pars. (1) and (3) which defined “Office” and “Under Secretary”, respectively.

2000—Pars. (4), (6). Pub. L. 106-404 made technical amendments to references in original act which appear in text as references to sections 3705 and 3707 of this title.

1992—Par. (8). Pub. L. 102-245 inserted before period at end “, as well as any agency of the legislative branch of the Federal Government”.

1988—Par. (1). Pub. L. 100-519, §201(d)(1)(A), substituted “Technology Policy” for “Productivity, Technology, and Innovation”.

Par. (3). Pub. L. 100-519, §201(d)(1)(B), amended par. (3) generally, substituting provisions defining “Under Secretary” for provisions defining “Assistant Secretary”.

Par. (13). Pub. L. 100-418 added par. (13).

1986—Par. (1). Pub. L. 99-502, §9(b)(2)(A), substituted “Productivity, Technology, and Innovation” for “Industrial Technology”.

Par. (3). Pub. L. 99-502, §9(b)(2)(B), substituted “‘Assistant Secretary’ means the Assistant Secretary for Productivity, Technology, and Innovation” for “‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Industrial Technology”.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 99-502, §9(b)(2)(C), substituted “Cooperative Research Centers” for “Centers for Industrial Technology”.

Par. (6). Pub. L. 99-502, §9(b)(2)(D), (E), redesignated par. (7) as (6), substituted “owned, leased, or otherwise used by a Federal agency and funded” for “owned and funded”, and struck out former par. (6) which defined “Board” to mean the National Industrial Technology Board established pursuant to section 3709 of this title.

Pars. (7) to (12). Pub. L. 99-502, §9(b)(2)(D), (d), redesignated pars. (7) and (8) as (6) and (7), respectively, and added pars. (8) to (12).

§ 3704. Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology

(a) Program establishment

(1) In general

Beginning in fiscal year 1999, the Secretary shall establish a program to be known as the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (referred to in this subsection as the “program”). The purpose of the program shall be to strengthen the technological competitiveness of those States that have historically received less Federal research and development funds than those received by a majority of the States.

(2) Arrangements

In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

(A) enter into such arrangements as may be necessary to provide for the coordination of the program through the State committees established under the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research of the National Science Foundation; and

(B) cooperate with—

(i) any State science and technology council established under the program under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) representatives of small business firms and other appropriate technology-based businesses.

(3) Grants and cooperative agreements

In carrying out the program, the Secretary may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to provide for—

(A) technology research and development;

(B) technology transfer from university research;

(C) technology deployment and diffusion; and

(D) the strengthening of technological capabilities through consortia comprised of—

(i) technology-based small business firms;

(ii) industries and emerging companies;

(iii) universities; and

(iv) State and local development agencies and entities.

(4) Requirements for making awards

(A) In general

In making awards under this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that the awards are awarded on a competitive basis that includes a review of the merits of the activities that are the subject of the award.

(B) Matching requirement

The non-Federal share of the activities (other than planning activities) carried out under an award under this subsection shall be not less than 25 percent of the cost of those activities.

(5) Criteria for States

The Secretary shall establish criteria for achievement by each State that participates in the program. Upon the achievement of all such criteria, a State shall cease to be eligible to participate in the program.

(b) Coordination

To the extent practicable, in carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall coordinate the program with other programs of the Department of Commerce.

(c) Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Program

(1) In general

The Secretary shall establish a Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Program that awards grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to eligible institutions to enable the eligible institutions in acquiring, and augmenting the institutions’ use of, digital and wireless networking technologies to improve the quality and delivery of educational services at eligible institutions.

(2) Application and review procedures

(A) In general

To be eligible to receive a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this subsection, an eligible institution shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. Such application, at a minimum, shall include a description of how the funds will be used, including a description of any digital and wireless networking technology to be acquired, and a description of how the institution will ensure that digital and wireless networking technology will be made accessible to, and employed by, students, faculty, and administrators. The Secretary, consistent with subparagraph (C) and in consultation with the advisory council established under subparagraph (B), shall establish procedures to review such applications. The Secretary shall publish the application requirements and review criteria in the Federal Register, along with a statement describing the availability of funds.

(B) Advisory council

The Secretary shall establish an advisory council to advise the Secretary on the best approaches to encourage maximum participation by eligible institutions in the program established under paragraph (1), and on the procedures to review applications submitted to the program. In selecting the members of the advisory council, the Secretary shall consult with representatives of appropriate organizations, including representatives of eligible institutions, to ensure that the membership of the advisory council includes representatives of minority businesses and eligible institution communities. The Secretary shall also consult with experts in digital and wireless networking technology to ensure that such expertise is represented on the advisory council.

(C) Review panels

Each application submitted under this subsection by an eligible institution shall be reviewed by a panel of individuals selected by the Secretary to judge the quality and