

Technology Transfer

Technology transfer formally refers to the transitioning of marketable technologies developed in the federal sector to private industry via the patent, license, and CRADA (Cooperative Research and Development Agreement) process. It is governed primarily by the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 and the Technology Transfer Act of 1986, and is codified in Title 14 (Commerce and Trade). Chapter 162 (Technology and Innovation) of the United States Code.

The NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) and its predecessor organizations (the NOAA Wave Propagation Laboratory and NOAA Environmental Technology Laboratory) have a long history of technology transfer, with over 41 patents awarded, six companies formed, and 18 product lines developed since the early 1970s. This activity has decreased substantially in recent years due to a shift in priorities away from broader technology development toward maintaining a more narrowly focused expertise in weather and climate science-based observations critical to the PSL mission.

PSL currently maintains only one active patent and associated license:

- **Operational Bright-Band Snow Level Detection Using Doppler Radar**, # 6615140, Patent issued September 2, 2003; Licensed to Scintec on March 19, 2015.

PSL also continues to maintain a CRADA with Scintec Corporation (<http://www.scintec.com>), which is focused on the development and refinement of 915 MHz wind and temperature radar profiling technologies. This CRADA was recently transferred from Vaisala (<http://www.vaisala.com>), which held it for over 20 years. It has been extended through August 30, 2021. The focus is on ensuring interoperability and access by PSL scientists and engineers to new signal and post-processing schemes and other system outputs so that they can be evaluated and potentially improved.