

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties");

Convinced that international cooperation in science and technology will strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between their peoples and will advance the state of science and technology to the benefit of both countries, as well as mankind; and

Recognizing the successful scientific and technological cooperation that developed between the two countries under the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed at Washington on September 12, 2000 and which entered into force on October 24, 2000; and

Wishing to establish dynamic and effective international cooperation among the full array of scientific organizations and individual scientists in the two countries;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

1. The Parties shall develop, support and facilitate scientific and technological cooperation between their two countries based on shared responsibilities and equitable contributions and benefits, commensurate with the Parties' respective scientific, technological, and engineering strengths and resources. Such cooperation may cover basic research, applied research, trade, development and innovation activities.

2. Cooperative activities under this Agreement may be carried out in the form of coordinated programs and joint research projects; joint scientific workshops, conferences and symposia; exchange of scientific and technological information and documentation, exchange of scientists, specialists, and researchers; exchange or sharing of equipment or materials, and other forms of scientific and technological cooperation.

3. Priority will be given to collaborations which can advance common science and technology goals; support partnerships between public and private research institutions and industry; and engage the scientific enterprise on such matters as the promotion of science-based decision-making, environmental and biodiversity protection, energy, information technologies, space, global stewardship, HIV/AIDS and other health issues, science and technology education, engineering, sustainable development, agriculture and landscape management, natural resources, human nutrition, food safety, genetics and genetic engineering, biotechnology, and improving the scientific basis for policies and regulations pertaining to trade.

ARTICLE 2

Scientific and technological cooperation pursuant to this Agreement shall be subject to the applicable national laws and regulations of the Parties and to the availability of personnel and appropriated financial resources.

ARTICLE 3

1. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate the development of direct contacts and cooperation between government agencies, universities, research institutions, private sector companies and other entities of the two countries.

2. Government agencies and designated entities of the two Parties may conclude under this Agreement implementing arrangements, as appropriate, in specific areas of science, technology and engineering. These implementing arrangements shall cover, as appropriate, topics of cooperation, procedures for transfer and use of equipment and funds, and other relevant issues.

3. The provisions of this Agreement shall not prejudice other agreements for scientific and technological cooperation between governmental agencies in the United States and governmental agencies in the Slovak Republic.

ARTICLE 4

1. Each Party shall facilitate, where appropriate and in accordance with its laws and regulations, entry into and exit from its territory of appropriate personnel and equipment of the other Party, engaged in or used in projects and programs under this Agreement.

2. Each Party shall facilitate, where appropriate, prompt and efficient access of persons of the other Party participating in cooperative activities under this Agreement to its relevant geographic areas, institutions, data, materials, and individual scientists, specialists and researchers as needed to carry out those activities.

3. Each Party shall work toward, where appropriate and in accordance with its laws and regulations, duty free entry for materials and equipment provided pursuant to science and technology cooperation provided under this Agreement.

4. The Parties do not foresee the provision of foreign assistance under this Agreement. If they decide otherwise with respect to a particular activity, the relevant implementing arrangement would need to be consistent with the requirements of laws of the United States and Slovakia that regulate activities related to foreign assistance.

ARTICLE 5

Provisions for the protection and distribution of intellectual property created or furnished in the course of cooperative activities under this Agreement are set forth in Annex A. Provisions for security of information and transfer of technology are set forth in Annex B. Annexes A and B constitute integral parts of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6

Scientific and technological information of a non-proprietary nature derived from the cooperative activities under this Agreement shall be made available, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in writing in implementing arrangements pursuant to Article 3, to the world scientific community through customary channels and in accordance with Article 5 and the normal practices and regulations of the United States and the Slovak Republic.

ARTICLE 7

Scientists, technical experts, agencies, and institutions of third countries or international organizations may be invited, upon consent of both Parties, to participate in activities being carried out under this Agreement. The cost of such participation shall be borne by the invited party unless both Parties agree otherwise in writing.

ARTICLE 8

1. The Parties agree to consult periodically and at the request of either Party concerning the implementation of the Agreement and the development of their cooperation in science, technology and engineering.

2. Each Party shall designate a representative to serve as Executive Agent to facilitate planning and coordination of activities under the Agreement, to prepare periodic reports concerning the activities undertaken pursuant to the Agreement, and to conduct other administrative affairs and oversight, as appropriate, under this Agreement. For the United States of America, the representative shall be a designated official of the U.S. Department of State; for the Slovak Republic, the representative shall be a designated official of the Ministry of Education.

ARTICLE 9

In the event that differences arise between the Parties with regard to the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Agreement, the Parties shall resolve them by means of negotiations and consultations.

ARTICLE 10

1. This Agreement shall enter into force ninety (90) days after the exchange of written notification through diplomatic channels between the Parties informing each other of completion of their relevant internal legal procedures.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force for ten (10) years and it may be amended or extended by written agreement of the Parties. This Agreement may be terminated by either Party upon at least ninety (90) days' prior written notice to the other Party. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the termination of this Agreement shall not affect the completion of any cooperative activity undertaken under this Agreement and not yet completed at the time of the termination of this Agreement.

3. Upon entry into force of this Agreement, the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed at Washington on September 12, 2000 is terminated. The termination of the 2000 agreement shall not affect the completion of any cooperative activity initiated under it and not yet completed.

Done at Washington D.C., in duplicate, this 8th day of November, 2007, in English and Slovak languages, each text being equally authentic.



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
SLOVAK REPUBLIC

ANNEX A
Intellectual Property Rights

I. General Obligation

The Parties shall ensure adequate and effective protection of intellectual property created or furnished under this Agreement and relevant implementing agreements or arrangements. Rights to such intellectual property shall be allocated as provided in this Annex.

II. Scope

- A. This Annex is applicable to all cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to this Agreement, except as otherwise specifically agreed by the Parties or their designees.
- B. For purposes of this Agreement, "intellectual property" shall mean the subject matter listed in Article 2 of the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization, done at Stockholm, July 14, 1967 and may include other subject matter as agreed by the Parties.
- C. Each Party shall ensure, through contracts or other legal means with its own participants, if necessary, that the other Party can obtain the rights to intellectual property allocated in accordance with this Annex. This Annex does not otherwise alter or prejudice the allocation between a Party and its nationals, which shall be determined by that Party's laws and practices.
- D. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, disputes concerning intellectual property arising under this Agreement shall be resolved through discussions between the concerned participating institutions, or, if necessary, the Parties or their designees. Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, a dispute shall be submitted to an arbitral tribunal for binding arbitration in accordance with the applicable rules of international law. Unless the Parties or their designees agree otherwise in writing, the arbitration rules of United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) shall govern.
- E. Termination or expiration of this Agreement shall not affect rights or obligations under this Annex.

III. Allocation of Rights

- A. Each Party shall be entitled to a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free license in all countries to translate, reproduce, and publicly distribute scientific and technical journal articles, reports, and books directly arising from cooperation under this Agreement. All publicly distributed copies of a copyrighted work prepared under this provision shall indicate the names of the authors of the work unless an author explicitly declines to be named.

B. Rights to all forms of intellectual property, other than those rights described in paragraph IIIA above, shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Visiting researchers shall receive rights, awards, bonuses and royalties in accordance with the policies of the host institution.

(2) (a) Any intellectual property created by persons employed or sponsored by one Party under cooperative activities other than those covered by paragraph III.B (1) shall be owned by that Party. Intellectual property created by persons employed or sponsored by both Parties shall be jointly owned by the Parties. In addition, each creator shall be entitled to awards, bonuses and royalties in accordance with the policies of the institution employing or sponsoring that person.

(b) Unless otherwise agreed in an implementing agreement or arrangement, each Party shall have within its territory all rights to exploit or license intellectual property created in the course of the cooperative activities.

(c) The rights of a Party outside its territory shall be determined by mutual agreement considering the relative contributions of the Parties and their participants to the cooperative activities, the degree of commitment in obtaining legal protection and licensing of the intellectual property and such other factors deemed appropriate.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraphs III.B(2)(a) and (b) above, if a particular project has led to the creation of intellectual property protected by the laws of one Party but not the other, the Party whose laws provide for this type of protection shall be entitled to all rights to exploit or license intellectual property worldwide although creators of intellectual property shall nonetheless be entitled to awards, bonuses and royalties as provided in paragraph III.B(2)(a).

(e) For each invention made under any cooperative activity, the Party employing or sponsoring the inventor(s) shall disclose the inventions promptly to the other Party together with any documentation and information necessary to enable the other Party to establish any rights to which it may be entitled. Either Party may ask the other Party in writing to delay publication or public disclosure of such documentation or information for the purpose of protecting its rights in the invention. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the delay shall not exceed a period of six months from the date of disclosure by the inventing Party to the other Party.

IV. Business Confidential Information

In the event that information identified in a timely fashion as business-confidential is furnished or created under this Agreement, each Party and its participants shall protect such information in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and administrative practices. Information may be identified as "business-confidential" if a person having the information may derive an economic benefit from it or may obtain a competitive advantage over those who do not have it, and the information is not generally known or publicly available from other sources, and the owner has not previously made the information available without imposing in a timely manner an obligation to keep it confidential.

ANNEX B
Security Obligations

I. Protection of Information

Both Parties agree that no information or equipment requiring protection in the interests of national defence or foreign relations of either Party and classified in accordance with applicable national laws and regulations shall be provided under this Agreement. In the event that information or equipment that is known or believed to require such protection is identified in the course of cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to this Agreement, it shall be brought immediately to the attention of the appropriate officials and the Parties shall consult concerning the need for and level of appropriate protection to be accorded such information or equipment.

II. Technology Transfer

The transfer of unclassified export-controlled information and equipment between the Parties under this Agreement shall be in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of each Party to prevent the unauthorized transfer or retransfer of such information and equipment provided or produced under this Agreement. If either Party deems necessary, detailed provisions for the prevention of unauthorized transfer or retransfer of such information or equipment, and any information or equipment derived from such information or equipment, shall be incorporated into the contracts or implementing agreements or arrangements under this Agreement. Parties shall identify export-controlled information and equipment as well as any restrictions on further use or transfer of such information or equipment.