

# Internet enabled technology transfer

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Technology transfer has received a major boost with the growth of the internet. The speed of the web, along with its facility of searching through large numbers of databases, has enabled agencies and companies to facilitate the transfer and licensing of technologies and patents around the world. This article lists some major technology transfer agencies and their websites, including that of the organization that the authors represent, and describes the specific services that each provides.

## Introduction

The Internet has revolutionized the transfer of technologies across borders and around the globe. In the last five years, there has been a dramatic growth in the number of companies facilitating the transfer and licensing of patents and technologies across cyberspace.

Predictions abound over how this faster and more efficient method of technology transfer will affect the overall speed of innovation and development. Dr. Phillip Jones of Foley & Lardner in Washington, DC, however, points out that "the Internet is useful for intelligence gathering and for information exchange, and yet the key to successful technology transfer remains the establishment of personal contact".<sup>1</sup>

Although there have been some initial concerns over recent declines in computer and internet company stock prices, industry insiders generally agree that the web-based model for technology transfer is here to stay. Also, as seen in other on-line industries, from book retailers to pet stores, weaker companies,

with higher burn rates of cash and weaker delivery methods, will eventually be forced to close. This article takes a look at some of the more well-known technology transfer companies on the web to compare their strategies for success in this exciting new industry.

## National Technology Transfer Center

The US Congress founded the National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC) in 1989 in order to facilitate the exchange of technologies between government agencies, universities and private industry. The website (NTTC.edu) offers many of the same services found in competitive sites but does have some unique advantages and focus areas. Along with the facility of searching their data-base for technologies available for licensing, the NTTC offers on-line and real-life classes in various technology transfer subjects.

What makes this site unique are the strong ties it has with government research and development (R&D)

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