



## ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (ERDC) MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENTS (MTA) INFORMATION SHEET

The Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Office of Research and Technology Transfer (ORTT), Technology, Knowledge, & Outreach (TKO) Division offers expertise in understanding and constructing Material Transfer Agreements (MTA).

**What is an MTA?** An MTA is an agreement under which a quantity of a unique, specialized or experimental material (natural or synthetic) may be transferred between the Federal laboratory and another party for research, commercial evaluation, testing or other uses.

**Authority for Use?** [15 USC 3710a](#)

**Is there Funding?** There is typically no funding associated with MTAs.

**When is an MTA appropriate?** An MTA is appropriate for transfer of materials between institutions for use in research and when no collaboration between the parties is planned. The provider of the material maintains ownership rights. Neither rights in intellectual property nor rights for commercial purposes may be granted under this type of agreement

**Who may participate in MTAs?**

The legislation defines “person or entity” to be an individual, partnership, corporation, association, state, local or tribal government, or an agency or instrumentality of the United States. Thus, the only limitation on participants is that they may not be agencies of foreign governments.

- **Private corporations (US or foreign)**
- **Nonprofit and not-for-profit institutions (US or foreign)**
- **State, local, and tribal governments (US)**
- **Other Federal agencies (US)**

**Resources:**

If you have further questions, please contact us at: [TTO@usace.army.mil](mailto:TTO@usace.army.mil).