



## ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (ERDC) SERVICE AGREEMENTS (SA) 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 Service Agreements (SA).

**What is an SA?** Under SAs, the law authorizes the directors or commanders of government laboratories, centers or other facilities to make available to any person or entity, through leases, contracts, or other appropriate arrangements, facilities, services, and equipment of any government laboratory, research center, or range, if the facilities, services, and equipment provided will not be in direct competition with the domestic private sector.

**Authority for Use?** [10 USC 2539b\(a\)\(4\)](#)

**Is there Funding?** On a reimbursable basis, paid to DOD laboratories by any person or entity (including universities) utilizing laboratory services.

**When is an SA appropriate?** An SA should be used if the service is to be provided by the laboratory with no technical collaboration by the partner. Facilities, services or equipment provided should not otherwise be reasonably and expeditiously available from the private sector. An SA is not appropriate for research studies or investigations. Neither does it authorize the sale of products – just services. The entity requesting the laboratory’s services must establish in writing that provision of the services will not constitute undue competition with the private sector and that the service requested does not involve expansion of laboratory capabilities or facilities, even if the requesting entity offers to finance the expansion.

### **Who may participate in SAs?**

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 Industry (US or foreign)**
- **Nonprofit (US)**
- **State, local, and tribal governments (US)**
- **Academic institutions (US or foreign)**

### **Resources:**

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