



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND LICENSABLE TECHNOLOGIES PORTAL AND EXPLORATION SYSTEM

Most researchers and entrepreneurs who have ever embarked on an exhaustive quest for federal funding know the nagging feeling, the question at the back of their minds: have I looked everywhere? Have I left no stone unturned? Is there some opportunity out there that I'm missing? You might find databases that focus on one skillset, area, or agency, but you have to go looking for them, with hit-or-miss results. And even if you have an idea where to look, you can still miss out on opportunities that you simply have no way of knowing about because you're not familiar with their type of funding or research area.

The Funding Opportunities and Licensable Technologies Portal and Exploration System has been constructed to solve precisely this problem. Developed by Alan Craig and Kalev Leetaru at NCSA, it provides a powerful search tool that allows users to simultaneously search four different databases of funding opportunities: federal funding opportunities, foundation and charitable organization funding, federal procurement opportunities requiring the delivery of a product or service that meets federal needs, and licensed technologies, which make available license and full patent information for technologies from universities and other organizations.

In its current form, the system provides a powerful search tool that allows users to search all four databases from within the same interface, using a broad variety of parameters: by keyword, date of posting, type of funding, agency, category, and other search criteria. The system acquires federal funding and procurement opportunities through an existing XML schema and feed system provided by the U. S. government. Craig and Leetaru have also developed XML standards based on a common information-sharing format that organizations can use to feed information about foundation funding opportunities and licensable technologies into the other two databases.



A Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) flies above the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier. A current Broad Agency Announcement from the Office of Naval Research calls for proposals to develop technology to provide standoff detection or indicators of buried mines, mine lines or minefields from similar UAVs. This BAA and others can be found through the TRECC Funding Opportunities Portal at the TRECC Website.

The portal also provides a powerful set of analysis tools which allow users to track trends in funding opportunity posting in a specific funding agency, category, or other configuration over time. By assessing whether a particular research funding trend is increasing, declining, or going through a periodic cycle, a funding seeker can discover where the best opportunities are or when they're likely to be announced. Other useful features that help users track funding trends and manage searches include the ability to save and email searches, download searches as Excel spreadsheets, and subscribe to an RSS feed or receive email alerts for new funding opportunities that match a specific keyword or other criterion.

The analysis tools use machine processing techniques to generate detailed trending information, which allows a searcher, for example, to see the top agencies, categories, and themes matching a particular search, related categories, and even historical graphs showing temporal trends in the area. This makes it easy to see the trends and relationships surrounding particular searches and to discover potential opportunities that may not have been otherwise obvious. Some opportunities are available for only certain geographical areas. Entrepreneurs can find those opportunities that might be of special interest to them within a given distance of any zip code they specify. The Licensable Technologies Database allows organizations to quickly upload detailed information about their technologies and allows users to search both by keyword and organization to discover research in progress of which they may have previously been unaware, making it possible to purchase the technologies necessary for enterprise or form valuable, mutually beneficial partnerships.

The Funding Opportunities and Licensable Technologies Portal and Exploration System doesn't just provide a one-stop-shop for the entrepreneur, business, foundation or charitable organization, technology licensing group, or market researcher interested in funding and procurement opportunities and licensable technologies. By giving users the tools to evaluate current trends in funding and identify potential resources, this system also opens the door to new possibilities for innovation and collaboration.

Try the system online at <http://www.trecc.org/commercial/myoppportal/>

Visit our facility at the DuPage Airport Flight Center to see what resources TRECC has to offer your business, school, or organization. Or, visit our website (<http://www.trecc.org>).

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