

# ISTC Fact Sheet

An International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) in Moscow is being established through an international agreement between Russia, the United States, the European Community, and Japan. The Center will serve as a clearinghouse for projects to engage weapons scientists and engineers in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in peaceful civilian work. The agreement was initialled in Lisbon on 24 May 1992.

The Center's objective is to minimize the potential for weapons proliferation by providing non-military research and development opportunities for weapons specialists during the transition to a market economy in the CIS, as well as to facilitate this transition by utilizing the special skills of these highly trained scientists and engineers. The ISTC is primarily intended to provide opportunities for scientists and engineers who have been engaged in activities associated with nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, ballistic missiles, and advanced conventional weapons technologies.

The ISTC will have an international staff of approximately 25 to 35 experts to facilitate the development, approval, monitoring, and auditing of projects. The ISTC's Governing Board, which will include representatives from each of the four founding members, will determine the overall policy of the Center and approve projects for funding. The Board is assisted in these tasks by a Scientific Advisory Committee.

Project proposals from individuals, universities, companies, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies are welcomed. The proposals can be submitted to the governments that are party to the agreement or directly to the ISTC. Project proposals will be reviewed by the ISTC staff and the parties to the agreement to determine their scientific merit, and whether they advance the objectives of the Center. In addition, the government of the state in which the project will be conducted must grant its approval. Proposals that are judged to have merit and are approved by the host government will be forwarded to the ISTC Governing Board for final approval. If approved, the Board members then indicate whether their governments will fund all or part of the project.

Initial funding for the Center pledged by the US, the European Community, Japan, Sweden, Canada, and Switzerland totals over \$75 million. Russia

has agreed to provide in-kind support for the ISTC, including a rent-free facility in Moscow, as well as maintenance, utilities, and security for the facility.

For more information, please contact The Senior Coordinator, PM/SC, Room 5214, US Department of State, Washington DC, 20520.