

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

FACT SHEET



4,500+

Projects Funded



\$1.6bn+

In Funding



80,000+

Grants to
Scientists



100

Countries &
Activities
Globally

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ABOUT ISTC

The International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) was established in Moscow by the international agreement of November 1992 as a non-proliferation program coordinating the efforts of numerous governments, international organizations, and private sector industries, providing former weapons scientists (FWS) from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Georgia with new opportunities for sustainable, peaceful employment.

In 2015, the ISTC agreement was renewed with an updated mission of supporting activities that address the global security threat of the proliferation of WMD-applicable chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) knowledge and materials worldwide.

ISTC's activities fall in two broad categories: (research) projects, which engage experts in the development of new science and technology (S&T), and Supplemental Programs, which include workshops and training events to address non-proliferation issues and integration of experts in the global S&T and industrial communities. During almost 30 years, ISTC has worked with over 80,000 experts in more than 800 research institutes spread across CIS and Georgia.

Since 2015, ISTC projects and activities are being implemented worldwide in the Middle East, Far East, South America, Africa, South East and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucuses. In total with 100 countries worldwide.

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VISION

To be the partner of choice in creating, facilitating, and expediting impactful world-class, peaceful multilateral S&T collaboration aimed at making the world safer, more secure, and more sustainable.

MISSION

Creating peaceful multilateral S&T collaboration for a safer, more secure, and sustainable world.

GLOBAL IMPACT

ISTC is recognized as an effective multilateral coordination partner for countries implementing cooperative security projects honoring commitments in support of the G7 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

The diverse government and private sector membership of the ISTC facilitates the coordination of technical expertise and co-funding to increase the impacts of these important nonproliferation and security activities. Strategic partnerships with international and regional organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Union, CBRN Centers of Excellence and the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security, as well as with leading global scientific institutions including the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), and the United States Department of Energy National Laboratories, Bio Weapons Convention (BWC), Chemical Weapons Convention/ Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, OPCW, AFCONE, NSSC and many more, strengthen the ISTC's technical expertise and implementation capabilities.

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CURRENT NOTABLE PROJECTS

Strengthening CBRN Medical Emergency Preparedness and Response in Southeast Asia

This project is focusing on strengthening CBRN medical preparedness and response to CBRN-related hazards and threats. Specific attention will be given to Point of Exposure sites and facilities. CBRN incidents at Point of Exposure facilities have the capacity to compromise public safety and security and to undermine assets essential to daily life and the economy.

The project will be implemented in the following countries upon demonstrating their willingness to participate: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Enhance of CBRN Critical Infrastructure protection and security in the South East and Eastern Europe, Central Asia

This project aims in particular to strengthen and enhance protection and security measures for national CBRN Critical Infrastructure facilities and practices in the South East and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and potentially Middle East region partner countries in order to ensure minimization of any of Chemical, Biological or Radiological / Nuclear hazard induced health consequences, human and economic losses following the violation of physical protection and security regimes on any of facilities of national CBRN Critical Infrastructure.

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TARGETED INITIATIVES (TI)

Targeted Initiatives focus on areas of thematic interest allowing a guided approach to addressing pressing global issues of common concern. Targeted Initiatives are identified collaboratively in response to members' needs and priorities and are used to help direct the selection of new co-funded projects. Current TI focus areas include, but are not limited to:

- Biosafety & biosecurity
- Seismic monitoring & hazard mitigation
- Nuclear non-proliferation, security & safety capacity building
- Radioactive source risk mitigation
- Renewable energy & energy efficiency
- Nuclear forensics
- Southern Africa Nuclear Industry
- Dual-use export control
- Water and Food Security
- Preparedness and response to Mass Gathering and other health threats in Central Asia
- Civil Protection / Disaster Risk Management
- CBRN Critical Infrastructure Protection & Security

JOIN ISTC

The ISTC is open for business and actively seeking new membership. Under the ISTC Continuation Agreement entered into force in December 2017, non-member governments may now apply to become new members with a seat on the ISTC Governing Board.

MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Diplomatic privileges and immunities
- Exemptions from certain customs duties
- Professional project management
- Proven project delivery
- International accounting standards
- Turnkey project services
- Technical expertise
- Direct, tax-free grant payments
- Intellectual property protections
- Low-cost implementation
- Trusted scientific partnerships
- Bilingual, cross-functional teams
- On-site monitoring
- Matchmaking capabilities

For more information about how you can join or partner with the ISTC, contact:

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REGARDING RUSSIA'S DISINFORMATION AGAINST THE ISTC

- The Russian government's allegations that the ISTC is involved in a biological weapons program are patently false and have been repeatedly refuted by the Parties to the ISTC and many others in the international and scientific communities.
- The ISTC is an intergovernmental, science cooperation organization dedicated to the peaceful application of science and the promulgation of best practices, responsible science, scientific ethics, and a code of professionalism.
- The ISTC's mission has always been to advance global peace and prosperity through cooperative Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation by supporting civilian science, technology partnerships and collaboration that address global security threats and advance non-proliferation.
- The ISTC as a multi-government organization has collaborated closely with the Government of Kazakhstan, and especially with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science, and with Kazakhstan's scientific Institutes and community for 30 years in a fully transparent manner.
- ISTC's biotechnology priorities in Central Asia are to help Central Asian Countries enhance the safety of the day-to-day work of existing laboratories and to continue to ensure that Countries can detect and report, internally and internationally, disease outbreaks before they pose security or stability threats to those specific Countries or other countries in the region - including the Russian Federation. All ISTC's efforts have been peaceful in nature and subject to rigorous control measures and vetting processes. ISTC has never sponsored any gain of function research or "human experimentation", as alleged by the Russian Federation.
- Over the years, the ISTC has worked to enhance the safety and security of Bio laboratories and facilities and veterinary laboratories in Central Asia. ISTC is just one of many organizations providing equipment and training to these facilities. Other supporters include, among others, the European Union, the United States, Canada, World Health Organization, international universities, and research institutions.

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- Kazakhstan itself is a State Party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC). All Kazakhstan's facilities are owned and operated by the government of Kazakhstan, which aims to improve human and animal health capacity for the people of Kazakhstan.
- The ISTC, in all its work on public health, medicine, and biotechnology, complies with all international legal, professional, and ethical standards, as well as those established by the individual governments that are party to the ISTC.
- The ISTC does not conduct any classified work. Over the past 30 years, ISTC projects have funded and contributed thousands of peer-reviewed publications to many of the world's leading scientific journals.
- ISTC operations are open and transparent. All ISTC projects are approved by a Governing Board of member state officials and are regularly subject to review and audit, including regular site visits for monitoring purposes to facilities where ISTC projects are implemented. The ISTC's commitment to transparency is often exploited by the Russian Federation. Much of the information provided by the Russian Federation as "evidence" as part of its allegations against ISTC is innocuous and can be simply downloaded from the ISTC website.
- As part of its ongoing disinformation campaign, the Russian Federation has accused the ISTC, as well as its sister center, the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU), of being involved in the development of biological weapons. These accusations are part of the Russian government's absurd attempt to provide a plausible rationale for its unjust and unprovoked war against Ukraine. They are blatantly false and have been discredited numerous times.
- Until 2015, the Russian Federation hosted the ISTC and benefitted from approximately \$1.5 billion of funding; including 206 Russian Biotechnology Projects totaling \$86 million, from state parties to the ISTC, including the United States and the European Union, to support Russian weapons scientists—including Russian biological scientists - in their transition to peaceful research.
- During the two-plus decades that Russia was an ISTC Party and ISTC Governing Board member, the Russian Federation directly approved the very same ISTC biological research and infrastructure projects that Russia is now slandering and Russian personnel at the ISTC were routinely involved in managing and overseeing these projects.