

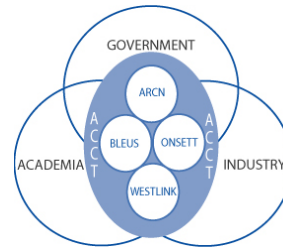
**ACCT: The Alliance for Commercialization of Canadian Technology /
Alliance Canadienne pour la Commercialisation des Technologies**

Purpose

In today's environment, the importance of effective knowledge management and mobilization of key resources is paramount – a strong research capacity, a well-educated workforce, innovative knowledge dissemination tools, sound intellectual property management, and a healthy technology transfer system. ACCT has been created to bring together the four regional commercialization networks and form a solid foundation for a healthy Canadian “innovation eco-system”.

Specifically, ACCT will work in partnership with industry and government to achieve a common national mission:

To implement programs and services to enhance Canada's technology commercialization infrastructure, capacity, and collaboration and serve as the focal point for exchange with government and industry.



Structure

ACCT is a national “network of networks” that represents the four regional networks in Canada – ARCN, Les BLEUs, OnSETT, and Westlink. ACCT will support the growth of all regional networks at varying stages of development and provide a structure for sharing best practices, pooling resources and focusing on common needs, achieving a critical mass of funding, encouraging relationship-building with industry, and disseminating consistent knowledge across the country. ACCT will be governed by an industry-led Board and its membership will be comprised of the 84 member institutions of the regional networks (including research universities, hospitals, and community colleges from across Canada).

History

ACCT was founded by Canadian AUTM members with the full support of the AUTM board of trustees. With the increasing complexity of the research and business environments and the intense focus on commercialization in Canada, AUTM's Canadian members recognized that there was a need for cooperation and networking at an institutional level, above what can be achieved by an individual-membership organization. The creation of ACCT is a natural progression for the Canadian technology commercialization community and represents a maturing of the important academic-industry interface.

Proposed Activities

ACCT initiated its formal operations early 2005. The necessary steps have been completed to incorporate the organization and an initial mandate has been defined for year one:

- Annual meeting of members to be a forum for exchange and a showcase for Canadian success (November 6 – 9, 2005)
- Delivery of a basic and an advanced licensing course to build the expertise in the profession (November 2005 and May 29 – 31, 2005, respectively)
- Analysis of Canadian statistics and metrics to accurately monitor activity and fully capture the socio-economic impact of commercialization
- Development of a communication strategy and web presence

Impact

ACCT will work with Statistics Canada and AUTM to develop a set of standard metrics for reporting that will lead to a consistent assessment of overall performance impact. Above all, ACCT aims maximize the value of the public investment in research to help Canada achieve its target of tripling commercialization performance by 2010.