

# UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

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*Science* readers may be interested in another effort to break through the Russian and Western bureaucratic and political thickets—an Entrepreneurial Training Workshop held in Moscow this past June for a group of scientists and managers from the Russian nuclear weapon design laboratories in the closed cities of Arzamas-16 and Chelyabinsk-70. Their livelihood is threatened by funding shortages and poor economic conditions, posing a considerable danger of nuclear proliferation and possibly compromising nuclear weapons safety in the former Soviet Union.

Sponsored by the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) and the U.S.

Department of Energy in conjunction with the laboratories' parent agency, the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy (MINATOM), this workshop brought together a group of Boston University and Harvard professors, venture capital investors, legal experts, scientists from the American nuclear weapon laboratories (who are themselves interested in a similar process of conversion from defense work), and nearly two dozen scientists and mid-level executives from the Arzamas and Chelyabinsk laboratories. The workshop trained the Russian participants in the basics of market research, research and development capability assessment, product development, business plans, business organization, evaluation and protection of intellectual property rights, and funding plans. The participants developed several business plans (case studies) for possible defense conversion projects. If successfully implemented, they could be the basis for new business enterprises that could contribute to commercial economic development and job creation. Additional workshops have been requested by MINATOM.

These workshops are part of ACDA's contribution to U.S. efforts to promote conversion to civilian activity of the defense industry of the former Soviet Union. ACDA is exploring the possibility of further workshops in the former Soviet Union, along with other measures to help redirect nuclear weapon scientists and other defense industry personnel to economically viable civilian activities.

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