

<b>General Information</b>	
What is Tradespace?	Tradespace is a secure, AI-enabled platform for managing the lifecycle of intellectual property (IP) from disclosure through commercialization. It is used by the world's top research institutions including Princeton, Case Western, University of Texas, Georgia Tech, SUNY, and more. Hear what their customers say <a href="#">here</a>
Why are we requiring Tradespace as part of the Pipeline Program?	NCInnovation is required by the State of North Carolina to report consistent metrics across all funded projects (e.g., TRL progression, invention disclosures, follow-on funding, industry engagement). Tradespace provides a standardized environment for capturing these metrics without adding workload to already resource-constrained technology transfer offices.
What if an institution just had its own instance of Tradespace?	It is not uncommon for technology transfer offices to maintain their own version of Tradespace as their dedicated IP Management and docketing system. However, there is still value in leveraging the NCInnovation Pipeline program to identify opportunities to bundle technologies for licensing or co-development. Participants can choose to make non-confidential summaries of their ALREADY PATENTED inventions discoverable by other institutions. Tradespace can then recommend partnership and bundling opportunities. Additionally, Tradespace provides a white-labeled marketplace where all participating NC Universities can market their available technologies to industry partners. These technologies will be searchable on the web.
Why can't an institution just have its own instance of Tradespace?	Funding individual licenses at each partner institution would increase the cost to NCInnovation by an order of magnitude and therefore not be feasible.
Will all NCInnovation funding programs and initiatives be tied to the Tradespace implementation, or only the Pipeline Development Program?  Must all university IP be entered into Tradespace for sharing with NCI, or only the pipeline projects and project for which applications are being submitted?	While all funded projects will be required to be entered into Tradespace, the reality is that if a university partner fully implements Tradespace, all projects will be already in the system when funded (regardless of the funding program).  We encourage universities to input all university IP into the system but, at a minimum, any project receiving any NCInnovation funding would be expected to be entered into the system.
<b>Data, Privacy, and Security</b>	

<p>Who (NCI, UNC System, other institutions, external parties) have access to the data entered and/or generated by Tradespace?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each university, through their campus liaison, controls access within its own Tradespace “campus.” In no situation will another campus or external partner have the ability to see any data that doesn’t belong to their institution.</li> <li>• NCInnovation has access only to program-level metric fields (TRL stage, funding amounts, inventor name, disclosure date, technology area, invention disclosure status, follow-on funding).</li> <li>• Universities may <i>optionally</i> share non-confidential summaries of already patented inventions for marketplace or bundling opportunities.</li> <li>• Detailed invention disclosures, claims drafts, attorney notes, and unpublished research remain confidential and are not accessible unless explicitly authorized by the university.</li> <li>• While the UNC System is excited and supportive of the benefits of Tradespace, no System Office personnel will have access to the Tradespace system or the data contained within. NCInnovation may periodically report aggregate innovation activities to the UNC System office using non-confidential summary information pulled from Tradespace.</li> <li>• All access is logged and auditable.</li> </ul>
<p>Who owns the data generated by Tradespace (i.e., reports, analyses, etc.)</p>	<p>Institutions will own their content and outputs produced for them; Neither Tradespace nor NCInnovation have any claim of ownership of any institution content.</p>

<p>What level of access does Tradespace, NCInnovation, and/or anyone else have institutional level data?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCInnovation has program-level visibility to non-confidential summaries and reports for patented inventions. They also have access to basic metadata on inventions (Inventor name, disclosure date, technology area) for reporting. Detailed invention information remains restricted unless explicitly shared by the institution.</li> <li>• Tradespace has access necessary to operate and support the service under their privacy and security controls. Ownership remains with the institution. Tradespace ensures all employees are US-citizens and conducts background checks consistent with SOC2 Type 2 and FEDRAMP High Controls. Tradespace currently handles data up to a confidential classification for the Department of Energy, Department of Defense, as well as Defense Contractors including Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, and BAE Systems.</li> <li>• No one else has access unless the institution grants access. Data is isolated by campus with tiered permissions.</li> </ul>
<p>How is the confidential information housed in Tradespace protected from open records requests? Will our information be disclosed due to it losing its institutional research protection (since it's under an NCInnovation license)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custody of confidential invention information remains with the university. NCInnovation only has access to aggregated metric-level data. Institutions remain the decision-makers on what is disclosed under NC public records law. Trade secret and research exemptions remain fully intact.</li> <li>• Your confidential information in Tradespace remains protected to the same extent it would be on your own systems. The presence of an NCInnovation license does not, by itself, remove institutional research protections or trade secret exemptions; your institution remains the decision-maker on what is released and what is exempt under law.</li> </ul>
<p>How is our data kept private and secure? Has any analysis of Tradespace been performed by an external cyber/data security firm?</p>	<p>Tradespace is SOC 2 Type 2 certified. Most recent audit is available on request through the Tradespace Trust Center (<a href="https://trust.tradespace.io">https://trust.tradespace.io</a>). Annual third-party penetration testing is performed; executive summaries are available to campus IT under NDA. Tradespace also aligns with NIST 800-171.</p>
<p>How do we explain to industry or other academic partners where the data lives and how it is protected?</p>	<p>Data is hosted in our secure cloud environment under SOC 2 Type 2 controls. Each university operates in its own secure “campus,” with role-based permissions and restricted cross-institution visibility. Data retention and deletion are governed by documented policies.</p> <p>See <a href="#">Tradespace's Trust Center</a> for more in-depth information on data, security, and privacy</p>
<p><b>AI and IP Concerns</b></p>	

<p>In what manner, if any, is the data utilized by Tradespace and/or Tradespace’s AI algorithm? Does Tradespace utilize institutional data to improve their AI algorithm or for any other purposes?</p>	<p>Tradespace does not train its models on customer or account data, nor does it use customer data to improve its services. AI functions primarily as a research assistant that suggests applications and provides citations within the permissions set by the institution. Institutions may also disable AI features at the campus or project level (default is OFF).</p>
<p>Does the use of AI in Tradespace pose a challenge to an institution’s IP ownership claims?</p>	<p>No - AI outputs in Tradespace are limited to summarization, application suggestions, and literature citation. They do not generate original claims or inventions. USPTO guidance confirms that only human contributions can establish inventorship. Institutions may also disable AI features at the campus or project level (default is OFF).</p>
<p>Does NCInnovation’s enterprise level license create any IP ownership claims?</p>	<p>No - neither NCInnovation nor any other participating University will have claim of ownership to your institution’s IP.</p>
<p>Does an institution relinquish any rights, whether intended or not, by utilizing Tradespace?</p>	<p>No - Tradespace SaaS Agreement ensures each user has rights to both their own inputs and outputs from the Tradespace platform.</p>
<h3>Training and Support</h3>	
<p>What training and onboarding do we get?</p>	<p>Tradespace is available to provide team trainings at no cost to the institution, as well as additional resources upon request.</p>
<p>How much time and effort will be required to successfully implement Tradespace?</p>	<p>Tradespace implementation depends on your volume of inventions and can range from one week to 3 weeks. This process is managed entirely by Tradespace. University's may choose to provide tradespace an export from their current IP Management Platform to seed their confidential tradespace instance, but this is not required.</p>
<p>How do we request features or report issues?</p>	<p>Institutions may submit requests through an assigned customer support contact at Tradespacesor leverage the help button.</p>
<h3>Implementation and Previous Experiences</h3>	
<p>Have any UNC System Schools implemented Tradespace? If so, did any of those IT departments or legal departments voice concerns over Tradespace IP or data security policies?</p>	<p>Yes. UNC Charlotte completed a one-year pilot of Tradespace with NCInnovation support. Their technology transfer office and IT/legal departments reviewed and approved implementation. Additionally, multiple institutions with the UNC System have piloted Tradespace and provided positive feedback on the platform.</p>

