

# MOVING TO AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION

Sometimes sustaining an initiative means creating a new, independent organization. Knowing if and when to move to independence depends greatly on the relationship to the home institution including the alignment of mission, the revenue structures and the leadership structures in place versus those needed moving forward. [Bio-Link Depot](#) and SpaceTEC offer lessons learned about creating independent organizations.

## Questions to Consider about Team Formation

- How does the relationship to the home institution support the initiative? In what ways might it limit opportunity?
- Who will run the new organization? What experience is necessary?
- What will the governance of the new organization look like?
- What will be the relationship to the prior host academic institution?
- Are there key partnerships that can position the organization as central to an industry?
- What will be the revenue structure? What will be covered through fee-for-service, products, or grants?

## Resources

Although not used by the ATE centers profiled, NSF does offer some support for projects looking to translate their innovations to independent organizations through the [NSF STTR program](#)

## Examples

SpaceTec provides an example of how a center grant evolved into an independent organization. [Bio-Link Depot](#) and the National Cyber League (part of [the Cybersecurity Centers](#)) are spin-off efforts for the grants.