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Tucson firm wins federal award for guarding ideas

Breault Research Organization is given the Export Achievement Award by the U.S. Commerce Department. Optics software firm's work to guard its intellectual property is cited.
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With customers in 35 countries, Kathleen Perkins says safeguarding ideas of her team of highly skilled scientists is critical to the success of her **Tucson**-based software company.

"All of our intellectual properties are folded into a single piece of software designed for physicists around the world," said Perkins, chief executive of Breault Research Organization, an optics software developer at 6400 E. Grant Road.

Breault was given the Export Achievement **Award** yesterday by the U.S. Commerce Department.

Tucson's "strong lock on optical technology" and Breault's efforts to safeguard its designs are partly why the **firm** was honored, Perkins said.

The **award** was presented to Breault by Jon Dudas, undersecretary of commerce for intellectual property and director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Dudas was in **Tucson** yesterday for a gathering of business leaders chaired by Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., at the **Tucson** Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

Kolbe and Dudas discussed with the group of 46 business representatives the importance of intellectual property to the U.S. economy and the need to increase efforts to safeguard it.

Intellectual property enjoys legal protection and stems from the exercise of the mind.

It includes patents, trademarks, copyright and design protection.

The impetus for the scientific research performed by Breault's company of 45 scientists, Perkins said, is an eventual financial payoff.

But technological benefits for customers are jeopardized if ideas and designs are pirated, Perkins said.

Such protections require guidance and support from local, state a **federal** lawmakers, she said.

"Intellectual property is the driving force of our economy and it's vital that we stay ahead of the game with excellent IP protection," Dudas said.

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