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Lance D. Drager, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409, Jeffrey M. Lee, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409, Efton Park* (e.park@tcu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Box 298900, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX 76129, and Ken Richardson, Department of Mathematics, Box 298900, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX 76129. Smooth Distributions are Finitely Generated.

A subbundle of variable dimension inside the tangent bundle of a smooth manifold is called a smooth distribution if it is the pointwise span of a family of smooth vector fields. We prove that all such distributions are finitely generated, meaning that the family may be taken to be a finite collection. Further, we show that the space of smooth sections of such distributions need not be finitely generated as a module over the smooth functions. Our results are valid in greater generality, where the tangent bundle may be replaced by an arbitrary vector bundle. (Received January 30, 2014)