

TechStart Program

Purpose:

Experience has shown that licensing technology to university spin-out companies for commercialization has significant local economic impact. TEDCO has worked closely with the university technology licensing offices to identify barriers to new business formation, among them sophisticated market analysis and business strategy development. The TechStart Program is designed to increase the number of university start-ups annually, elevating the State's national ranking to the top tier of States.

Total Budget: \$150,000 for FY07

Program Proposals:

The TechStart Program will fund university-based teams to determine whether specific technologies proposed by the universities would have the potential to be commercialized through a startup company. A university having decided through its standard invention evaluation process whether a disclosed technology may have the potential to be a startup company submits a proposal to TEDCO for further evaluating the opportunity. An award would defray those costs of evaluating the feasibility of the startup opportunity approved by TEDCO. Proposals would initially be capped at \$15,000 per technology.

Eligible Applicants:

All universities in the State are eligible for funding. To be eligible, a university or federal lab is required to assemble a team consisting, at a minimum, of the following:

- an experienced entrepreneur who can provide business guidance for the team as they pursue the due diligence process;
- an inventor or inventor team willing to assist in evaluating the feasibility of a startup and willing to collaborate with a startup, if one is formed; and
- a technology transfer manager.

This team is responsible for developing an initial evaluation of the potential for a startup and submitting a proposal to the TechStart Program.

Eligible Expenses:

Eligible expenses that could be covered by the Program would include but are not limited to:

- in-depth evaluation of the potential market;
- IP competitive analysis;
- development of an initial business strategy for a startup company; and
- other analytic tasks critical to determining the viability of a startup company.

Service providers will be selected by the universities or federal labs.

Funding of the entrepreneur team member is allowable, but can not exceed 50% of the total cost. Results of the TechStart Program evaluation will be available to all team members.

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