

STATE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

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FROM:

Dan Berglund

RE:

In developing the operating plan for the State Science and Technology Institute, one of the highest priorities expressed by the states was securing better information on what was occurring in Washington. The FYI reports that Chris Coburn has been e-mailing or faxing you has been one means of addressing that need. We will now begin supplementing those reports with weekly briefings on activities occurring in Washington that we think you would want to be aware of.

By Monday morning of each week you will receive a brief fax (1-2 page) providing a synopsis of key reports, announcements, events, funding opportunities, and other items of interest. The attached is the first briefing. We anticipate that the Digest's content, form, and style will change over time, and we hope you will let us know what you find most useful, areas that you have special interest in that we should track, and information sources we can tap into. The Digest's purpose is to assist you, so please let us know how we can do that.

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in the briefing, please contact Cheryl Lyman, Ellen Moore or me at 614/421-SSTI (7784). Thanks.

SSTI WEEKLY DIGEST

A Publication of the State Science and Technology Institute

March 1, 1996

ATP Reviews Released

Two separate reviews of the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) were released in the last two weeks, one by an independent research firm under contract to NIST and the other by the General Accounting Office (GAO).

The Silber study prepared for ATP focused on the early effects of the ATP awards. All 125 companies and consortia that participated in 60 ATP-funded projects from 1990 to 1992 were interviewed.

Without the ATP, most companies indicated that they either would not have developed the technology at all or would have scaled back their goals and level of effort and proceeded at a slower pace. Of the 30% who would have gone ahead with the ATP award, 90% said their goals would have been different, their level of effort significantly

less, and that because of the ATP award they are ahead in the R&D cycle.

The GAO study examined the impact of ATP, focusing on whether: (1) research projects would have been funded by the private sector if they had not received ATP funding; and (2) ATP aids in the formation of joint ventures.

GAO surveyed 123 ATP applicants from 1990 to 1993 who had received highly rated bids (89 received funding).

The GAO found about half of the applicants that did not receive ATP funding continued their projects using other funding sources, but generally met their project goals later than scheduled.

Applicants that received ATP funding were evenly divided on whether they would have pursued their projects without ATP funding.

While more than 60 percent of the applicants did not request funding from other sources before applying to ATP, those that did were often told by prospective funding sources that their projects were too risky or pre-competitive.

The GAO also found that ATP satisfied its goal of aiding in the formation of joint ventures, as 26 of 34 joint venture applicants reported joining forces solely to pursue ATP projects.

Copies of the Silber study can be obtained by contacting ATP at 301/975-4332 or from NIST's home page at <http://www.nist.gov>

Copies of the GAO report are available by calling 202/512-6000 or from GAO's home page at <http://www.gao.gov>

NIST Funds Manufacturer Financing Pilots

NIST announced that it is providing \$2.9 million for four pilot projects to help smaller manufacturers better understand, identify, and access sources of financing and credit to enhance their ability to compete.

The hope is that the projects will help meet the financing demands of center clients.

The pilots are to be conducted at four Manufacturing Extension Partnership affiliates: Chicago Manufacturing Center, Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center/ Industrial Technology Institute, Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center, and New York City Industrial Technology Assistance Corporation.

The centers are expected to provide an additional \$1.3 million to match the NIST funds.

Pilot start-up activities include establishing relationships with local, regional, and national sources of capital and learning the processes needed for companies to secure financing.

\$128 Million to Magnet Lab

The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (NHMFL) is slated to receive up to \$87.5 million in support from the National Science Foundation over 58 months. The State of Florida is also to support the facility with \$41 million over the same period.

Established in 1990 as a cooperative venture between the University of Florida, Florida State University, and Los Alamos National Laboratory, the NHMFL is already operating several world-class high field magnets.

Such magnets support the development of materials such as the semiconductors, superconductors, and magnetic materials used in computers, visual displays, and magnetic resonance imaging, among other applications.

In 1995, more than 200 user groups performed experiments at the facility, covering pure and applied research in a variety of disciplines -- condensed matter physics, chemistry, biology, materials science, engineering, and others.

NSF has provided \$66 million to the facility since 1991, while the state of Florida has contributed \$81 million to construct and equip the facility, along with funding a visitors' program and new faculty and laboratory staff.

NEWS BRIEFS

PEOPLE

Gov. Mike Lowry (D-WA) has announced he will not run for re-election; his successor will be elected this November..... Alexander MacLachlan, the head of the US Department of Energy's Office of Technology Partnerships, is leaving DOE in March.....Pete Didisheim, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Science and Technology, at US DOE is also leaving the agency.....Ismail Akbay, formerly of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, has been appointed interim executive director of the National Technology Transfer Center

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The National Technology Transfer Center is offering several courses in the month of March:

"Intellectual Property Negotiation," Mar 13-14 in Austin, TX;

"Fundamentals of Industrial Extension," Mar 14-17 in Ogden, UT;

"Mastering Technology Marketing," Mar 20-21 in Wheeling, WV.

For more information on the courses, please contact Melanie Griffith at 304/243-2535 or e-mail: training@nttc.edu

The Modernization Forum's National Conference will be held from April 14-17 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis; the conference attracts more than 700 manufacturing extension practitioners from around the country. Registration ranges from \$195 to \$525. Contact Elizabeth Shepard at 313/271-2790 ext 6 for more information.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SBIR solicitations from the following agencies are currently open:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Department of Education	March 28
Dept of Health & Human Services	
Admn for Children & Families	March 15
Public Health Service	April 15
Department of Transportation	May 1