



REAUTHORIZATION OF THE AMERICA COMPETES ACT

With the America COMPETES Act pending reauthorization, the SSTI community believes in three main principles:

1. **The America COMPETES Act should be reauthorized in the 113th Congress.**
2. **The Regional Innovation Program must remain in the legislation.**
3. **The bill should be amended to include language focused on the commercialization of federally-funded research.**

Reauthorize the America COMPETES Act

The America COMPETES Act was developed "to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States." In the five years since its original authorization in 2007, the America COMPETES Act has provided critical investments in science, space, energy, STEM education, and innovation all with the goal of increasing this country's global competitiveness. SSTI supports this legislation and calls for its reauthorization in the 113th Congress.

Regional Innovation Program

The America COMPETES Act, provided the Department of Commerce with the authority to 'establish a regional innovation program to encourage and support the development of regional innovation strategies...' Programs, such as the i6 Challenge and the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge (JIAC), are a direct result of this authorization, and to date, both the i6 and JIAC have gone through three rounds of funding – the i6 has provided 19 projects with \$33 million in funds and the JIAC has provided 43 projects with \$66 million. Already, these programs are experiencing results on the ground in Missouri at the BioGenerator in St. Louis and in Pennsylvania under the direction of the Ben Franklin Technology Partnership.

Commercialization of Federally-Funded Research

Between 1993 and 2009, 65% of all net new jobs can be attributed to small business, and much of this job creation was experienced within high-growth firms. At the same time a significant number of new startup companies are generated as a result of research successfully commercialized from federally-funded research. SSTI believes that the best approach to fostering commercialization and diffusion of federally-funded research is one that is tailored to address local circumstances, such as the specific capabilities, conditions, and needs of an area. Funding for non-profit organizations, state agencies and universities to commercialize federally-funded research will result in the creation of more companies and jobs across the country. The Georgia Research Alliance and USTAR in Utah both offer impressive results as a result of their efforts to commercialize technology from universities.