



Minnesota Science & Technology Authority

# MINNESOTA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT

Report to the Legislature  
as required by 2010 M.S. 116W.04, Subd. 8

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In 2010, the Minnesota Legislature enacted into law the establishment of the Minnesota Science and Technology Authority (MnSTA). The MnSTA was created as an entity that would craft strategies for innovation-based economic development and act as a trusted agent to help ensure active collaboration among industry, academia and government.

This report, as mandated by the Minnesota Legislature under Statute 116W.01, outlines the Authority's progress to design, coordinate, and administer a strategic science and technology program for the state. This program is designed to promote the welfare of the people of the state, maximize the economic growth of the state, and create and retain jobs in the state's industrial base. These outcomes are to be accomplished through enhancement of Minnesota's high-technology research and development capabilities, product and process innovation and commercialization, high-technology manufacturing capabilities, science and technology business environment, and workforce preparation.

The MnSTA received \$500,000 in one-time funds available until spent. This funding provided:

- The salary for one staff person
- Provided 48 internships for students - the SciTechsperience Internship program, awarded to the Minnesota High Tech Association to administer and implement
- Phase II Commercialization Plan Preparation – supported 15 companies submitting commercialization plans via the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs
- Leverage for additional funding available through the Federal Government

During 2012, \$120,000 of this funding allowed the Scitechspexperience Internship Program to provide 48 interns from Minnesota Colleges and Universities a glimpse into their possible futures. Given the growing need of qualified workers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM fields) and the estimate of our state requiring 188,000 STEM workers by 2018, the internship program immediately received 250 applicants and awarded the internships. The Minnesota High Technology Association (MHTA) is responsible for the administration and implementation of the program. For 2013, the remaining \$30,000 will be used by MHTA and the Scitechspexperience to provide internships for at least 12 students in small businesses across the state.

The MnSTA also received a one year grant from the United States Small Business Administration for \$55,000. The purpose of the grant is to provide workshops and webinars, Phase I and II proposal reviews and Phase II commercialization plans for small technology businesses. In 2012:

- MnSTA coordinated 7 workshops and webinars with more than 149 businesses attending
- Provided 4 SBIR proposal reviews
- Completed 2 Commercialization plans

More than 200 clients worked directly with MnSTA in 2012. The collaborative nature of the MnSTA engaged more than 25 other Minnesota based Entrepreneurial Organizations.

In 2012, both the Executive Director and the staff person resigned from the MnSTA to take positions out of state. To date, DEED has not back-filled these positions as the future of the MnSTA is being discussed in the 2013 Legislature session. All funds have been allocated from the one-time appropriation and will be fully spent in 2013.

Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben of the Department of Employment and Economic Development and the MnSTA Board Chair has provided this annual report on behalf of the Minnesota Science and Technology Authority. If you have any comments regarding this report or would like additional information, contact Kevin McKinnon, the author and Executive Director of Business and Community Development Division at 651-259-7432.