

# Technology Assistance Program

*Growing technology-based business with free service*

---

Is your small, technology-based business faced with a specific challenge, but lacking the necessary resources or expertise to pave a clear path forward? Would technical assistance from a world class scientist or engineer help your company? If the answer is yes, the Technology Assistance Program (TAP) at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) may be just what you're looking for.

*"PNNL provided us with the research knowledge and expertise we needed to move forward for potential commercial development and application for our product. Their suggestions gave us the confidence we needed to have a market-facing production process."*

— Dr. James Batdorf, InEnTec LLC

Created in 1994 and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the TAP program at PNNL helps grow and diversify the nation's economy by providing free assistance or information to technology-based businesses seeking to improve their competitiveness in some way. To date, the program has helped more than 500 companies with specific technology challenges—many of which have since returned to the Laboratory for additional assistance.

The Technology Assistance Program leverages PNNL's expertise in a variety of scientific disciplines to help members of the tech-based small business community solve important challenges—free of charge.



## How the TAP helps improve business

The assistance each business receives through the TAP is customized to their unique needs, however some examples of how we might help include:

- » advising on existing or emerging products
- » providing advanced technology for hardware and software applications
- » improving production and manufacturing processes
- » resolving technical problems
- » performing scientific peer reviews
- » recommending energy conservation and environmental technologies.

In some cases, new or enhanced intellectual property results from the TAP process. Businesses participating in the TAP are eligible for a royalty-free, non-exclusive license for technology developed in this way. Additionally, intellectual property associated with a preexisting product or invention remains the property of the business.



*A company co-founded by a PNNL retiree, recognized internationally as an expert in medical isotopes, has developed a long-standing relationship with PNNL that has led to commercial production of potentially life-saving cancer treatment seeds. Over the course of more than seven years, PNNL staff assisted IsoRay Medical Inc with six projects to test their Cesium-131 radiochemical brachytherapy seeds and more fully understand the regulatory process involved with bringing them to market. The company—which developed and holds all patents to the intellectual property—is now producing and marketing the seeds, which are being used in medical centers and clinics across the nation.*

## Applying for a TAP project

If your technology-based business is located in the United States, has fewer than 500 employees, and could benefit from the specific expertise of a national laboratory's researcher, follow these easy steps to get involved with the TAP:

- » First, contact PNNL's Economic Development Office to confirm your company's eligibility.
- » If eligible, you will receive a password to access and complete a brief online request form.
- » PNNL will quickly review the request and contact you for any needed additional information.
- » If your request is accepted, an agreement will be signed by both parties and work can begin. A technical specialist will be assigned to work on your project for up to one staff-week.

### Additional guidelines

- » Applications are accepted at any time; however requests are reviewed and funded on a first-come, first-served basis each fiscal year—October 1 to September 30.
- » Firms are eligible once per fiscal year.
- » PNNL is prohibited from providing assistance that is readily available in the private sector.
- » Technology assistance will not be provided specifically for advertising or raising investment capital.
- » "Pooling" of technology assistance requests by more than one firm to develop a single product is prohibited.

#### For more information, contact:

Gary Spanner  
Economic Development Office  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 999; K1-73  
Richland, WA 99352  
Phone: (509) 372-4296 • Fax: (509) 372-4589  
E-mail: Gary.Spanner@pnnl.gov  
<http://www.pnnl.gov/edo/assistance/techassist.stm>