

Technology Assistance Program

Developing your technology-based business with free service from federal government experts

“The suggestions PNNL researchers made were helpful in reaching our goals of improving our pH sensor’s performance and accuracy. Having the opportunity to exchange ideas with PNNL researchers turned out to be immeasurably beneficial. They would build on our ideas and have resources and leads available for us to track down samples or information.”

– Steve Geelhood, Blood Cell Storage, Inc., Seattle, WA



What it's all about

Does your technology-based business have a technical challenge, but lack the necessary resources or expertise to find a clear path forward? Perhaps technical assistance from a knowledgeable and experienced scientist or engineer would help your company. If so, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory’s (PNNL) Technology Assistance Program (TAP) may be just what you’re looking for.

The U.S. Department of Energy sponsors the TAP program at PNNL to help grow and diversify the nation’s economy. The program helps technology-based companies improve their competitiveness by providing free assistance or information to help businesses with specific technology questions or needs.

Each year, dozens of TAP projects help small, technology-based firms answer specific technology

How can your business apply for a TAP project?

If your technology-based business could benefit from the expertise and knowledge of a national laboratory’s scientist or engineer, follow these easy steps:

- First, contact PNNL’s Economic Development Office to ensure your company’s eligibility.
- If eligible, you will receive access to an online, one-page request form (password required).
- PNNL quickly reviews the request and contacts you for any needed additional information. An agreement is signed by both parties and then work can begin.
- Apply anytime, but requests are funded on a first-come, first-served basis each fiscal year (beginning October 1).

questions or solve specific challenges using PNNL's experts and resources. TAP technical specialists can assist your company by providing technical advice and information and connections to other expertise, resources, or programs.

How could the TAP improve your business?

Created in 1994, the program has helped 500+ companies through more than 800 projects with a stellar satisfaction rating—many companies have even come back to the Laboratory for additional assistance. More than 94 percent of businesses in the program surveyed gave PNNL high ratings for usefulness and delivery of assistance.

Examples of the Program's assistance 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.

Additionally, businesses that use the TAP can get a royalty-free, nonexclusive license for any inventions made during the course of technology assistance. Also, intellectual property associated with a preexisting product or invention remains the property of the business.

PNNL is prohibited from providing assistance that is readily available in the private sector.



SAFER Services Corporation, a small business in Kennewick, Washington, provides emergency communications and notification systems to government and private entities. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory helped the business expand with technology and entrepreneurial assistance.

"Pooling" of technology assistance requests by more than one firm to develop a single product is prohibited.

Is your business TAP-ready?

Technology-based businesses anywhere in the United States that have fewer than 500 employees are eligible for this program.

If your request for assistance is accepted, a technical specialist will be assigned to work on your project for up to one staff-week. Firms are eligible once per fiscal year, October 1 – September 30.

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@pnl.gov
<http://www.pnl.gov/edo/assistance.techassist.stm>

June 2008

PNNL-SA-58708