

Awardee Moves Toward Commercialization

Acoustic Concentrator for Engine and Machine Exhaust

Tech Mat funds helped move this technology, which generates focused, resonance-based sound pressure to concentrate aerosols, closer to a marketable state. The grant enabled the inventors to use sound pressure to locally concentrate many types of aerosols ranging from smog particulates to suspended microorganisms. By isolating hazardous and toxic pollutants for analysis, they demonstrated very promising pollution prevention results. Today, they are working with a commercial enterprise interested in testing the concentrator for its effectiveness on diesel exhaust systems.

We can help you move your idea from concept to prototype, from the bench to the marketplace.

Tech Mat is a great seeding mechanism to facilitate the development of LANL intellectual property. The quick funding allowed us to reduce the proposed concept into proof-of-principle practice in six months, facilitating two patent applications and one publication. The initial prototype development based on the Tech Mat funding enabled us to attract further funding opportunities.

—Hong Cai (Bioscience Division)

In my opinion, the Technology Maturation Program has been the most efficient and red tape-free program among all Laboratory operations/initiatives to which I have been exposed since I came here in 1997...The whole process was extremely well-organized...

—Piotr Zelenay (Materials Science and Technology Division)

All interactions with the selection panel, from project inception to final report, were pleasant and effective. I would strongly encourage any LANL employee with an idea that has commercial potential to consider applying for Technology Maturation funding.

—John Ramsey (Materials Science and Technology Division)

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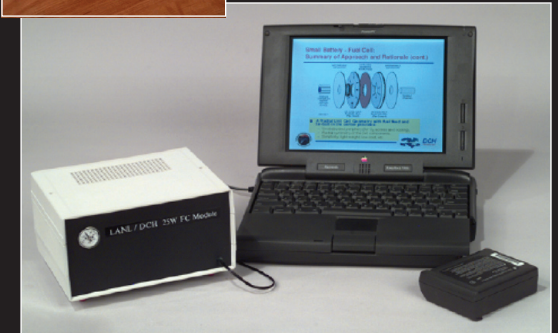
www.lanl.gov/partnerships

Technology Transfer Division:

Technology Maturation Fund

Direct methanol fuel cell/battery hybrid integrated power system developed by Mesoscopic Devices LLC in collaboration with Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Photo courtesy of Mesoscopic Devices LLC



Maturing Technology at Los Alamos National Laboratory

What is the Technology Maturation Fund?

This is a modest grant program managed by the Technology Transfer (TT) Division to support Laboratory technologies identified as having high commercial potential. The goal is to move promising technologies to proof-of-concept or prototype stage to attract potential licensees or investors interested in funding a startup company or commercializing a new technology. The fund is similar to a venture capital fund, but rather than investing in startup companies, we invest internally in LANL technologies.

What do I need to know about the Tech Mat Fund before I apply?

- Funds are allocated from the prime contract through an appendix in the prime contract and a portion of TT-retained license income.
- Approximately \$450,000 is available annually in the Technology Maturation Fund.
- Awards are made in amounts up to \$50,000 per project/milestone.
- A panel of TT staff reviews proposals monthly.
- Proposals are accepted throughout the year.
- Funds are awarded based on commercial potential, *not* scientific merit, of the technology.

Funding is exempt from G&A, however, organizational support is applied.



What else should I consider before applying?

- Funds allocated may not be used to substitute or increase funding from other sources (i.e., work funded by DOE or Work-for-Others programs).
- Participation in TT commercialization classes are helpful but not required. (Contact Shandra Clow, clow@lanl.gov, for information on classes.)
- The technology must have been disclosed to the Laboratory. This can be done through the IDEAs system at ideas.lanl.gov.
- Letters of interest from commercial entities—particularly those with U.S. manufacturing operations—are highly valued.

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Electrotint windows, developed by LANL in collaboration with a small southwestern company, can quickly go from a colorless to a deeply colored—or mirrored—state and back again. The windows are designed to let in 75% of visible light during fall and winter and block 90% of light during spring and summer. Use of this technology in commercial buildings, optimizing heat gains and losses through windows, could reduce U.S. energy consumption by up to 5% annually. A Tech Mat Fund award enabled the inventor to test the technology in the lab and on automobile rear- and side-view mirrors. ElectroChromix Inc. licensed all four patent applications covering the technology and is currently exploring options with major automotive parts manufacturers to do large-scale manufacturing of the technology for the auto industry.

How do I apply for a Tech Mat award?

Brief proposals using a standard format are accepted at any time. The proposal form and instructions can be found on the Technology Transfer Web site: www.lanl.gov/partnerships

For additional information, contact the Technology Maturation Fund administrator, at tech-mat-proposals@lanl.gov.