

University Innovation Grant



Seeding Economic Growth in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Advancing University R&D toward Commercialization

The world-renowned universities in the Pittsburgh region are a vital source of research and ideas, a starting point for innovation.

“Our universities and medical community are truly at the cutting edge of scientific innovation. The UIG program helps us move innovations beyond that edge into the commercial realm where they can change lives.”

Marc Malandro, Ph.D.

Director,
Office of Technology
Management
University of Pittsburgh

“The UIG fund bridges a critical gap which lies between the output of a university research lab and a commercial product. We must provide our researchers with both the resources and the careful analysis necessary to make more qualified assessments of whether a start-up is the appropriate vehicle for technology commercialization.”

Robert Wooldridge

Director,
Carnegie Mellon Center
for Technology Transfer
Carnegie Mellon University

With an annual research cache of nearly \$1 billion in federal grant money, the universities have vast potential for technologies and companies to spin out for commercialization.

While the technology transfer officers at local universities work with researchers to produce hundreds of licenses and potential commercial spin-outs each year, hundreds more remain nascent, lacking the funding and hands-on business assistance to help them achieve critical business development milestones. To help turn more of this potential into businesses, Innovation Works (IW) has developed the University Innovation Grant (UIG) program to assist technology transfer officers and researchers in identifying and cultivating high-potential ideas and speed their commercialization.

Working in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, and Robert Morris University, IW is providing grants for key tasks and milestones that must be achieved for successful product and company development, including:

- Technology validation
- Prototype development
- Market research
- Intellectual property clarification

How to Apply

- Applications may be submitted by any college or university located in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Washington or Westmoreland counties.
- Information required on the application includes:
 - a brief description of the technology
 - the scope of activities to be undertaken and their importance to validating commercialization potential
 - executed engagement documentation for any third-party recipients of funds from the grant
 - budget and schedule
- IW's application process is streamlined to ensure quick response. Approval decisions are generally made within 2 - 3 weeks of receipt of completed application.

UIG fills a critical need. These grants bridge the gap between research dollars and private investment by funding activities that validate commercialization potential.

Researchers in fields ranging from life sciences and robotics to alternative energy and electronic entertainment are already benefiting from the UIG program.

"By providing discretionary funds for business plan development, market reports and expertise, IW's UIG program fills a critical need for inventors trying to commercialize their technology. This is exactly the kind of seed funding that is necessary to get promising technologies out of the laboratory and on their way to commercialization."

Dottie Clower, PhD

Vice President,
Business Development
and Operations
Cohera Medical, Inc.

Contact us

For more information about University Innovation Grants and to see if your project qualifies for funding, visit us on the web at www.innovationworks.org or call Patricia Rogan at 412.681.1520.

As one of four Ben Franklin Technology Partner centers in Pennsylvania, Innovation Works works to accelerate the region's economy by investing capital and expertise in emerging technology companies, university spin-outs trying to commercialize their innovations, and manufacturers adopting new technologies.

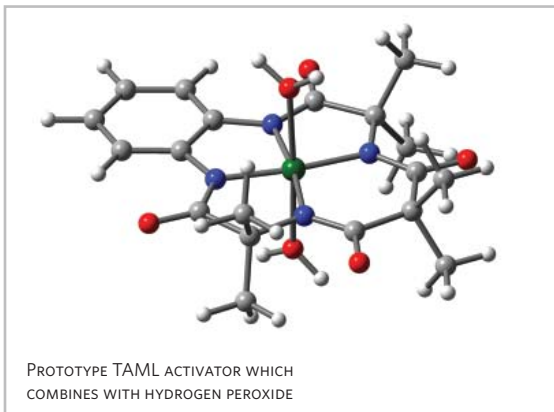
University of Pittsburgh
Cohera Medical, Inc.



Bio-absorbable surgical glue

Cohera's TissuGlu™ meets the surgeon's need for a strong, easy-to-use surgical glue that is safe for use inside the body to assist in the deep wound closure process. It is synthetic, biodegradable and requires no preparation, unlike other products on the market. With IW's UIG of \$25,000, Cohera was able to hire experts to help develop the business plan and regulatory approval strategy. Cohera's progress and potential have been so promising that IW subsequently made a \$100,000 investment in the company.

Carnegie Mellon University
GreenOx Catalysts, Inc.



Environmentally-safe bleaching

TAML catalysts are a unique family of oxidation activators that replace harmful chemical bleaches with environmentally-safe hydrogen peroxide activated by the catalyst. Hydrogen peroxide breaks down to oxygen and water, with no toxic byproducts. Funds of \$25,000 from the UIG program were used to assess the business and technical feasibility of the catalysts as an alternative to chlorine bleach for use in laundry detergents, and paper and pulp bleaching.

Robert Morris University
Sustainable Systems, Inc.



High-efficiency wind energy

A researcher at Robert Morris University has developed a new vertical axis windmill design that could output five times the power of conventional systems while costing less to build and maintain. The potential markets include North America which is expected to increase wind power plants fourfold by 2010. IW's UIG of \$25,000 is providing funding to assess the market potential and complete a prototype including testing and simulation to prove the commercial viability of the design.