

KEY ORGANIZATIONS / SUPPORT PROGRAMS

In 1983, the Missouri Corporation for Science and Technology was created to strengthen the state's economy by encouraging the development of science and technology through various programs.

Private firms have underwritten sources of seed capital, such as in the Capital for Business Fund and the Gateway Mid America Fund I and II.

The Higher Education Applied Projects (HEAP) Fund was established in 1982. This program assists businesses in bringing new technologies to the market by using the higher education institutions in the area. The Missouri Department of Economic Development is in charge of administering this fund.

In Missouri, there are four Innovation Centers which started in 1984. The centers are located at University of Missouri campuses at Columbia, Rolla, St. Louis, and Kansas City. They were set up as support programs for entrepreneurs and innovators, helping firms at various stages of their projects. Approximately \$33 million in private funds have been made available for these centers.

In addition to these four innovation centers which assist industry, research oriented Centers for Advanced Technology have been created through the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Washington University and University of Missouri at Rolla. Each institution will target specific technologies: telecommunications, plant technology, and manufacturing research, respectively.

The Center for Advanced Technology in Telecommunications/Computer Networking is being organized at the University of Missouri in Kansas City which will emphasize research, technology transfer, education/training and innovation.

The Center for Advanced Plant Technology at Washington University will genetically engineer plants to be stress resistant in their environment, thus leading to improved crop productivity and decreased cost. This technology will be transferred for commercial use.

On a larger scale, there are centers being organized by the private sector and the State of Missouri. In 1985, the St. Louis Technology Center opened as an incubator for smaller firms trying to establish themselves in the high technology industry. This center is the first enterprise of its kind in the area, capitalized with a \$4 million seed fund.

Most recent is the Missouri Research Park being built just outside of St. Louis. This park is the project of the University of Missouri in cooperation with other universities in the area. The park will concentrate its efforts on attracting companies that will use the strength of the universities in the areas of agriculture, computer sciences, robotics, aerospace technology, biotechnology, and engineering.

A similar project is in the planning stages through the University of Missouri at Kansas City, where a 62 acre research park of similar capacities is being designed.