

KEY ORGANIZATIONS

The principal S&T organizations are:

- Governor's Commission on Science and Technology (Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs) which was established as a link between university research facilities, government, and private business.
- Chicago High Tech Association (not-for-profit) which serves as a resource for information on numerous programs and provides technical assistance.
- Argonne National Laboratory which is dedicated to energy research and related scientific studies.
- Fermi National Laboratory which is one of the world's foremost facilities dedicated to the study of elementary particles.
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign which houses two supercomputer centers and conducts extensive research programs in supercomputing, microelectronics, and agriculture.
- University of Illinois at Chicago which has developed the Chicago Technology Park to commercialize biotechnology research.

KEY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

One of the primary focuses in Illinois has been on the cooperation between universities and technology-based businesses in the area of research and development. The State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs has established several programs in which the government can operate as a link between academic research facilities and private businesses. Through the Technology Transfer and Commercialization Program, universities and federal laboratories obtain funding to help identify and support emerging Illinois businesses by making their faculty and research facilities available for collaboration on technical and management problems. In addition to

two new university-associated technology parks - the Chicago Technology Park and the Evanston/University Research Park - several Technology Commercialization Centers have been established:

- the Basic Industry Research Institute at Northwestern University
- the Biotechnology Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago
- the Center for Supercomputing Research and Development at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign
- the Materials Technology Center at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- the Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Production at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- the Microelectronics Technology Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign
- the Plant Molecular Biology Center at Northern Illinois University and Argonne National Laboratory
- the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

In addition to the commercialization program, the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs has targeted several other programs to assist high-tech businesses in R&D:

- Development Assistance Programs aimed at providing below-market interest rate loans with flexible payment schedules to small businesses and assisting beginning companies as an "incubator" to lower their start-up costs
- Financial Assistance Programs provide financing for projects which may not otherwise attract traditional lenders or venture capitalists and for technology-based companies for buildings, machinery, equipment, working capital, and organizational expenses associated with research and development