

dollars spent on 766 projects in 1981-82 to expenditures of 19.3 million dollars on over four thousand projects in 1985-86. This support may take the form of a few thousand dollars provided to help a firm hire a student, access a special laboratory or acquire the services of a consultant for a short period to assist them in finding the technical solution to a problem. It may also take the form of a more substantial contribution to a longer term project for which funds of up to \$30,000 dollars a year may be provided for up to three years. This type of funding is very popular and is typically used to help an individual who has a bright idea and who wants to work in a basement or garage or small workshop for a year or two to try it out and to prove the concept before embarking on a major business enterprise. All projects administered by the Field Network are offered only to small firms, that is, those with less than two hundred employees. Within these projects, access is very often provided for the firm to technical experts located within publicly-funded laboratories, although such a linkage is not mandatory.

IRAP's other arm, the Laboratory Network, has a more specific mandate to deliver publicly-funded research to the private sector for commercialization. The LabNet therefore only assists companies with projects in which there is a substantial transfer of technology from a government or university laboratory. Thus, a major element of the LabNet's role is developing familiarity with the activities of such laboratories and awareness of their emerging technologies.

Slide 6 shows a breakdown of professional staff associated with the IRAP Laboratory Network. The 28 project managers who are direct employees of the National Research Council are divided into 4 groups: I will describe the functions of these groups in more detail a little later. The 17 project managers who are employees of other federal