Turning Colorado’s research and development strengths into new companies, jobs, exports and products

The Advanced Industries (AI) Accelerator Programs (HB 13-1001, HB 13-1193) were created in 2013 to promote growth and sustainability in these industries by helping drive innovation, accelerate commercialization, encourage public-private partnerships, increase access to early stage capital and create a strong ecosystem that increases the state’s global competitiveness.

Advanced Industries (AI) are prime drivers of the U.S. and Colorado economy, comprised of engineering and R&D intensive companies that deliver products and services in industries ranging from aerospace to medical devices.

Colorado’s advanced industries include: Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing, Bioscience, Electronics, Energy and Natural Resources (including Cleantech), Infrastructure Engineering, and Technology and Information. The economic impact of these industries account for nearly 30 percent of the state’s wage earnings, nearly 30 percent of the total sales revenues across all industries within the state and nearly 35 percent of the state’s total exports.

As part of the statewide strategy to support these critical industries in their various phases of growth, OEDIT offers four types of grants and a global business support program. Grants are available for Proof of Concept, Early-Stage Capital & Retention, Infrastructure Funding and AI Exports. A network of consultants and an export training program are also available as part of the business support program to support these industries as they strive to tap worldwide markets.

Advanced Industries Accelerator Grant Programs

**PROOF-OF-CONCEPT GRANT**

- Applied research performed at Colorado research institutions
- Grant size limited to $150,000
- Selection preference will be given to those projects that:
  - Include impacts across more than one AI
  - Involve more than one research institution
  - Involve a research institution and an AI company; or
  - Originate from a nonprofit research institution
- Collaborative projects that focus on technologies that cut across multiple AIs or include multiple research institutions may qualify for funding in excess of $150,000
- Matching funds shall be 3 (state) to 1 (institution)

**EARLY-STAGE CAPITAL & RETENTION GRANTS**

- Headquartered in or at least 50 percent of employees based in Colorado
- Less than $10 million in annual revenues and less than $20 million raised from investors
- Grant size limited to $250,000
- Selection preference will be given to a company that is:
  - Developing technology or R&D that impacts more than one advanced industry
  - Developing technology licensed from a Research Institution operating in Colorado
  - Participating, or has recently participated, in an entrepreneurship program, or engaged with an incubator/accelerator program (see Application Guidelines); or
  - Referred by a VC/Angel investor group that has prepared a written analysis (submitted with incubator/accelerator program (see Application Guidelines; or the application) that the subject technology has commercial potential, but is too early for their investment criteria
- Projects that focus on technologies that cut across multiple AIs may qualify for funding in excess of $250,000
- Matching funds shall be 1 (state) to 2 (private)

The current Bioscience Discovery Evaluation Grant (BDEG) program will operate under its current rules, guidelines and format. On January 1, 2015, the BDEG program will merge with the AI Accelerator Program and both will operate under this program’s rules and guidelines.
For more information about the Advanced Industries Accelerator Programs including guidelines and grant cycles, please visit www.advancecolorado.com/aipprograms.