

Contact: Andy Baumert

**TECHNOLOGY AND COMMERCIALIZATION RESOURCES ORGANIZATION
AND SUGGESTED REVIEW CRITERIA**

Action Requested: Receive information on suggested review criteria for Technology and Commercialization Resources Organization evaluation of Battelle infrastructure and platform project proposals.

Executive Summary: House File 2782 outlines the intent of the Legislature in providing \$20 million to the Board of Regents for implementation of the Battelle recommendations. The bill requires the Board of Regents to do the following: "Recruit employees, build capacity, and invest moneys to ensure rapid scientific progress in the core platform areas, create endowed chairs and employ persons with entrepreneurial expertise, invest in technology development infrastructure to strengthen and accelerate the scientific and commercialization work...provide financial assistance in the form of grants for the purposes of accelerating the transformation of new and ongoing research and development in the core platform areas and actively participate in advisory groups dedicated to the areas of bioscience, advanced manufacturing and information solutions."

In soliciting proposals for Battelle infrastructure and platform proposals, the three universities have identified a number of criteria to be used to ensure the Battelle appropriation is used efficiently, in compliance with the provisions of House 2782 and in a manner that leverages the universities' existing research capabilities. The components of the criteria are included as background.

House File 2782 also created an entity called the Technology and Commercialization Resources Organization (TCRO) to review proposals from the Regent universities for the use of a portion of the \$20 million appropriated for implementation of the Battelle report.

- The TCRO is to be comprised of eight persons, including the President of the Board of Regents, three members of the Board of Regents Economic Development Committee, the state's Chief Technology Officer, and three persons named by the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED).
- After reviewing proposals from the Regents universities, the TCRO is to forward recommendations on the proposals to the Board of Regents for a final decision.

The Board of Regents, in consultation with IDED, will establish the TCRO as a non-profit entity under Iowa Code Chapter 504 and will develop criteria with which to evaluate the proposals received from the universities. The three Regent universities have identified several criteria that will be used at the campus level to select proposals which will be submitted to the Board of Regents for consideration and ultimately for consideration by the TCRO. These criteria could also form a starting point for the review process to be adopted by the TCRO. Additional detail can be found in attachments A, B, and C in Agenda Item 2b.

Background:

Guiding Principles

1. Build on institutional priorities, strengths and opportunities.
2. Provide leadership in implementing the Battelle priorities in all three platform areas.
3. Focus investments on establishing significant foundations for discovery which will result in first class research leading to commercial application in Iowa.
4. Enhance and sustain economic impact and growth.

Project Evaluation Criteria (not in ranked order)

1. Capability to generate significant large scale research collaboration between multiple faculties.
2. Potential that funding will generate additional research support from state, federal, and private sources.
3. Potential that the investment will create a sustainable research enterprise.
4. Evidence of past commercial success.
5. Inclusion of future commercialization strategy including ongoing and relevant participation by private sector partners.
6. Potential for Iowa startup businesses and jobs.
7. Increased sales and profitability of Iowa companies utilizing university technology.
8. Improvements in products and practices by Iowa companies.
9. New university technologies licensed to companies with an Iowa presence.
10. Collaborative research with companies with an Iowa presence.
11. Clear performance benchmarks.
12. Innovative scientific and creative merit.
13. Likelihood of continued viability of commercialized project after the funding period.
14. Potential for increasing the number of university technologies in the marketplace/pipeline.
15. Potential to enhance learning opportunities for students.