Contact: Andy Baumert

BATTELLE INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS

Action Requested: Consider approval of the universities' proposals for use of Battelle infrastructure funding.

Executive Summary: House File 2782 appropriated $6.8 million to the Board of Regents to be used by the Regents universities for infrastructure improvements associated with the implementation of the Battelle economic development recommendations. The universities propose the funds be allocated in the following proportions:

SUI: $2.72 million
ISU: $2.72 million
UNI: $1.36 million

The universities propose using the funds for a variety of infrastructure improvements which include acquisition of buildings for technology commercialization initiatives, new and renovated laboratory space and appurtenant equipment to be used for research leading to commercialization of technology in the biosciences, advanced manufacturing and information technology. The universities' proposals are summarized below. The universities' complete proposals are available at the Board of Regents office.

University of Iowa: $2.72 million

The University of Iowa proposes a two-part strategy to invest $2.72 million in technology development infrastructure. The university reports a great need for additional biotechnology company incubator space at the SUI Technology Innovation Center (TIC) and Oakdale Research Park.

Myriad Building Two purchase and fit out: $1.4 million
SUI proposes to allocate $1.4 million to expand infrastructure available for current university biotech enterprises by purchasing and fitting out the Myriad Building Two at the Oakdale Research Park. Under Agenda Item 2d, the university proposes allocating $1 million in Battelle platform funding for additional cost in the fit out of the building. (See also Agenda Item 3e.)

The university currently leases approximately half the building. The facility is currently being fit out to house a new biological materials production facility for the university's Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing. The current fit out construction was made possible by a previous $3 million Grow Iowa Values Fund award. The facility will produce biopharmaceuticals suitable for use in human clinical research trials.

The university proposes to lease half the space to a new biotechnology startup company called Dermacia/National Genecular Institute for a period of approximately 18 months. The company plans to expand its California-based operation at the Oakdale Research Park. Dermacia projects creating 178 new jobs in the Iowa City/Coralville area within three years with an annual payroll of $7.7 million. After Dermacia vacates space, it will be used by the College of Pharmacy's Center for Advanced Drug Development to attract small to medium sized pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to Iowa.

Technology Incubation Center: $1.32 million

The university proposes to allocate $1.32 million in Battelle infrastructure funds to develop a new Technology Incubation Center (TIC) multi-tenant facility at the Oakdale Research Park. The new TIC is still in the planning phase. The university will submit a specific proposal to the Board of Regents in the near future.

Iowa State University: $2.72 million

Iowa State University proposes allocation of $2.72 million in Battelle infrastructure funding in two parts. The first part is related to specific projects for which Battelle platform funding is also requested in Agenda Item 2d. The second part is for infrastructure grants at four ISU colleges for support of laboratory and appurtenant equipment acquisition and renovation in research areas with significant potential to develop commercializable technology.

College Infrastructure Requests: $1.6 million

The Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, Human Sciences and Liberal Arts and Sciences request a total of $1.6 million of Battelle infrastructure funding for the cost of laboratory and appurtenant equipment upgrades that support research and commercialization in the areas of biosecurity, the bioeconomy and information technology.

In the area of biosecurity, a total of $161,000 is requested for a field building that will accommodate research in soybean rust and soybean nematode disease research, for laboratory renovation and related genome scan equipment.

In the area of the bioeconomy, a total of $712,000 is requested for a Mass Array Liquid Handler Station as well as DNA extraction and diesel combustion equipment.

In the area of information technology, a total of $727,000 is requested for high performance computing clusters and equipment related to electron and atom probe microscopes.

Infrastructure Requests Related to Platform Requests: $1.058 million

Agenda Item 2d describes in detail several specific projects for which ISU proposes Battelle platform funding. These projects also include requests for a total of $1.058 million in Battelle infrastructure funding for laboratory renovation and remodeling and for appurtenant equipment to carry out the projects. Those projects (see Agenda Item 2d for detail) for which infrastructure funding is also requested include:

- Bioeconomy platform proposals for syngas fermentation pilot plant and bio-oils pyrolysis reactor: $390,000.

- Bioscecurity platform proposals for development of a Biosafety Level Two laboratory and renovation of laboratory space: $271,000.

- Animal Systems platform proposals for renovations to animal rooms and cages: $47,000.

- Information Technology platform proposals for space at the former Engineering Animation building at the ISU Research Park: $350,000.

University of Northern Iowa: $1.36 million

The University of Northern Iowa proposes to allocate $1.36 million for infrastructure and appurtenant equipment to support research and commercialization work in the Battelle platform areas. The university reports the allocation would leverage several ongoing projects that have received federal, state and private funding, including nearly $4.5 million in federal funding. The specific proposal is as follows:

- Greenhouse renovation: $250,000. The renovation would provide space for research with tissue cultures and would support the work of new hires in biotechnology and biochemistry.
- Equipment to support commercializable research activity in biotechnology and biochemistry: $350,000.
- Equipment for commercializable research in nanotechnology: $300,000.
- Equipment for commercializable research in industrial technology in the Battelle platform areas and laboratory renovation to support new hires in information technology: $360,000.
- Hardware support to develop neural-based algorithms to stimulate Enterprise Resources Planning systems and to expand NASA-sponsored research on satellite monitoring of water quality: $100,000. This is intended to develop commercializable programs with bio-terror defense applications.