

CHAPTER 116O

MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY, INC.

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116O.02 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 6. **Technology-related assistance.** “Technology-related assistance” means the transfer of technological information and technologies to assist in the development and production of new technology-related products or services or to increase the productivity or otherwise enhance the production or delivery of existing products or services. “Technology-related assistance” includes assistance in utilizing and developing processes and products that conserve energy.

History: 1993 c 163 art 2 s 2

116O.03 CORPORATION; BOARD OF DIRECTORS; POWERS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 1a. **Purpose.** The purpose of the corporation is to foster long-term economic growth and job creation by stimulating innovation and the development of new products, services, and production processes through energy conservation, technology transfer, applied research, and financial assistance. The corporation’s purpose is not to create new programs or services but to build on the existing educational, business, and economic development infrastructure. The primary focus of the corporation’s activities must be to benefit new or existing small and medium-sized businesses in greater Minnesota.

[For text of subds 2 to 11, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 163 art 2 s 3

116O.04 CORPORATE PERSONNEL.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** The board shall appoint and set the compensation for a president, who serves as chief executive officer of the corporation, and who may appoint subordinate officers. The president’s salary may not exceed 95 percent of the governor’s salary. The board may designate the president as its general agent. Subject to the control of the board, the president shall employ employees, consultants, and agents the president considers necessary. The staff of the corporation must include individuals knowledgeable in commercial and industrial financing, energy conservation, research and development, economic development, and general fiscal affairs. The board shall define the duties and designate the titles of the employees and agents.

[For text of subds 2 to 4, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 163 art 2 s 4

116O.05 POWERS OF THE CORPORATION.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 2. **Duties.** (a) The primary duties of the corporation shall include:

- (1) applied research; and
 - (2) technology transfer and early stage funding to small manufacturers.
- (b) The corporation shall also:

(1) establish programs, activities, and policies that provide technology transfer and applied research and development assistance to individuals, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, other business entities, and nonprofit organizations in the state that are primarily new and existing small and medium-sized businesses in greater Minnesota;

(2) provide or provide for technology-related assistance to individuals, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, other business entities, and nonprofit organizations;

(3) provide financial assistance under section 116O.06 to assist the development of new products, services, or production processes, to assist in energy conservation, or to assist in bringing new products or services to the marketplace;

(4) provide or provide for research services including on-site research and testing of production techniques and product quality;

(5) establish and operate regional research institutes as provided for in section 116O.08;

(6) make matching research grants for applied research and development to public and private post-secondary education institutes as provided for in section 116O.11;

(7) enter into contracts for establishing formal relationships with public or private research institutes or facilities;

(8) establish the agricultural utilization research institute under section 116O.09; and

(9) not duplicate existing services or activities provided by other public and private organizations but shall build on the existing educational, business, and economic development infrastructure.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 163 art 2 s 5

116O.06 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. **Financial assistance; types.** The corporation may provide financial assistance to individuals, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, other business entities, or nonprofit organizations that have (1) received research assistance from a corporation research facility or as a result of a research grant under section 116O.09, subdivision 4, or 116O.11; or (2) received favorable review through a peer review process established under guidelines developed under section 116O.10, subdivision 2. Financial assistance includes, but is not limited to, loan guarantees or insurance, direct loans, and interest subsidy payments. The corporation may participate in loans by purchasing from a lender up to 50 percent of each loan. Financial assistance under this section is for assisting in the financing of a business's debt financing, energy conservation, product development financing, or working capital needs.

[For text of subds 2 to 5, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 163 art 2 s 6

116O.08 REGIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 2. **Purpose.** The purpose of the institutes is to provide applied research and development services to individuals, businesses, or organizations for the purposes of developing the region's economy through the utilization of the region's resources and the development of technology. Research and development services may include

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energy conservation consultations, on-site research, product development grants, testing of production techniques and product quality and feasibility studies.

[For text of subds 3 to 7, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 163 art 2 s 7

1160.091 PROJECT OUTREACH.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment; purpose.** Project outreach is established. The purpose of the project is to (i) facilitate the transfer of technology and scientific advice from the University of Minnesota and other institutions to businesses in the state that may make economic use of the information; and (ii) to assist small and medium-sized businesses in finding technical and financial assistance providers that meet their needs.

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 4. **Duties.** The corporation shall:

(1) establish a technology assistance system to assist business, specifically new and other small and medium-sized businesses across the state, in gaining access to technical information, including but not limited to technologies developed by the University of Minnesota and other higher education systems and their personnel; and in gaining access to technology-related federal programs;

(2) establish and maintain a data base or data bases that provide information for the technology assistance system under clause (1) that may include information on (i) science and technology experts, (ii) technical research projects underway at public higher education institutions in the state, (iii) licensable technology available at public higher education institutions in the state, (iv) access to federal technology and technical information, and (v) access to technical and business education;

(3) provide literature search and document retrieval services through the technology assistance system under clause (1);

(4) establish and continually update a business assistance referral system which includes a data base of economic development related technical assistance and financial assistance providers or programs sponsored by federal agencies, state agencies, educational institutions, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, community development groups, local governments, private industry associations, and other organizations and individuals that provide assistance;

(5) establish and maintain or contract for the establishment of a toll-free telephone number operated by trained staff familiar with the business assistance referral system and data base;

(6) maintain a marketing and outreach program informing persons interested in starting, operating, or expanding small business and assistance providers of the technology assistance system and the business assistance referral system;

(7) establish, where possible, regional bases and referral systems for the business assistance referral system, and a system to reference experts in the state university system; and

(8) make available the data base of the business assistance referral system to the legislature, the department of trade and economic development, and other state agencies for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the provision of economic development-related technical and financial assistance in the state.

Subd. 5. **State agency cooperation.** The corporation shall consult with the department of trade and economic development in the development and marketing of the business assistance referral system. The corporation shall assist the department of trade and economic development in establishing an evaluation mechanism for the business assistance referral system which at least includes a process for determining the effectiveness of the economic development related technical or financial assistance provider's service in meeting the needs of the client referred to the provider.

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Subd. 6. **Charges to clients.** (a) The corporation may charge reasonable fees to a client for the technology assistance system. The corporation shall establish a fee structure for the technology assistance system and may base the fee structure on the type of service provided, the size of the client based on number of employees or amount of annual revenues, the length of time the client has been in operation, and other criteria.

(b) The corporation shall provide the business assistance referral system at no cost to the client and may not charge the client a fee or any other compensation for the referral to a provider. This subdivision does not prohibit the technical or financial assistance provider from charging a fee or other compensation to a client that has been referred to the provider by the business assistance referral system.

Subd. 7. **Advisory committees.** An advisory committee is created to assist in selecting vendors and evaluating the corporation's project outreach activities. The advisory committee shall include the president of the University of Minnesota or the president's designee, the commissioner of trade and economic development or the commissioner's designee, the chair of the Minnesota Technology, Inc., board of directors or the chair's designee, a member of the state senate appointed by the subcommittee on committees of the senate rules and administration committee, a member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker, and at least five users of project outreach services appointed by the named members.

[For text of subds 8 and 9, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 363 s 4

NOTE: The amendments to this section by Laws 1993, chapter 363, section 4, are effective July 1, 1994. See Laws 1993, chapter 363, section 9.

NOTE: Subdivisions 2, 3, 8, and 9 are repealed by amendment by Laws 1993, chapter 363, section 4, effective July 1, 1994. See Laws 1993, chapter 363, section 9.

1160.15 ANNUAL REPORT.

The board shall submit a report to the chairs of the senate economic development and housing and the house economic development committees of the legislature and the governor on the activities of the corporation by February 1 of each year. A copy of the report shall also be provided to the president of the University of Minnesota. The report must include at least the following:

(1) a description of each of the programs that the corporation has provided or undertaken at some time during the previous year. The description of each program must describe (i) the statement of purpose for the program, (ii) the administration of the program including the activities the corporation was responsible for and the responsibilities that other organizations had in administering the program, (iii) the results of the program including how the results were measured, (iv) the expenses of the program paid by the corporation, and (v) the source of corporate and noncorporate funding for the program;

(2) an identification of the sources of funding in the previous year for the corporation and its programs including federal, state and local government, foundations, gifts, donations, fees, and all other sources;

(3) a description of the distribution of all money spent by the corporation in the previous year including an identification of the total expenditures, other than corporate administrative expenditures, by sector of the economy;

(4) a description of the administrative expenses of the corporation during the previous year;

(5) a listing of the assets and liabilities of the corporation at the end of the previous fiscal year;

(6) a list and description of each grant awarded by the corporation during the previous year;

(7) a description of any changes made to the operational plan during the previous year; and

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(8) a description of any newly adopted or significant changes to bylaws, programmatic or administrative guidelines, policies, rules, or eligibility criteria for programs created or administered by the corporation during the previous year.

Reports must be made to the legislature as required by section 3.195.

History: *1993 c 363 s 5*

NOTE: The amendment to this section by Laws 1993, chapter 363, section 5, is effective July 1, 1994. See Laws 1993, chapter 363, section 9.