

116W.04 POWERS AND DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Duties.** The Science and Technology Authority shall:

- (1) coordinate public and private efforts to procure federal funding for collaborative research and development projects of primary benefit to small-sized and medium-sized businesses;
- (2) promote contractual relationships between Minnesota businesses that are recipients of federal grants and prime contractors, and Minnesota-based subcontractors;
- (3) work with Minnesota nonprofit institutions including the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and the Mayo Clinic in promoting collaborative efforts to respond to federal funding opportunities;
- (4) develop a framework for Minnesota companies to establish sole-source relationships with federal agencies;
- (5) provide grants or other forms of financial assistance to eligible recipients for purposes of this chapter;
- (6) coordinate workshops, assistance with business proposals, licensing, intellectual property protection, commercialization, and government auditing with the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; and
- (7) develop and implement a comprehensive science and technology economic development strategy for the state.

Subd. 2. **Technology matchmaking.** The authority must assist businesses in identifying qualified suppliers and vendors through a program to serve as a conduit for Minnesota-based companies to network with firms able to support their success. Firms outside Minnesota can participate in the technology matchmaking network if one of the participating companies is located in Minnesota.

Subd. 3. **Commercialization assistance.** The authority must provide commercialization assistance to Minnesota firms that have received a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or a Phase I Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) award and are submitting a Phase II proposal. Local service providers must assist the applicant with developing and reviewing the required commercialization plan prior to Phase II submission. The authority may provide SBIR Phase I proposal technical review.

Subd. 4. **Power to sue; enter contracts.** The authority may sue and be sued. The authority may make and enter into contracts, leases, and agreements necessary to perform its duties and exercise its powers.

Subd. 5. **Gifts; grants.** The authority may apply for, accept, and disburse gifts, grants, loans, or other property from the United States, the state, private sources, or any other source for any of its purposes. Money received by the authority under this subdivision must be deposited in the state treasury and is appropriated to the authority to carry out its duties.

Subd. 6. **Contract for services.** The authority may retain or contract for the services of accountants, financial advisors, and other consultants or agents needed to perform its duties and exercise its powers.

Subd. 7. **Fees.** The authority may set and collect fees for costs incurred by the authority, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Department of Management and

Budget, the Department of Revenue, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor and Industry, and the Department of Agriculture, including costs for personnel, professional, and administrative services.

Subd. 8. **Reports.** (a) The authority shall report by February 1 each year to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over finance and economic development on its progress to design, coordinate, and administer a strategic science and technology program for the state to promote the welfare of the people of the state, maximize the economic growth of the state, and create and retain jobs in the state's industrial base through enhancement of Minnesota's:

- (1) high-technology research and development capabilities;
- (2) product and process innovation and commercialization;
- (3) high-technology manufacturing capabilities;
- (4) science and technology business environment; and
- (5) science and technology workforce preparation.

(b) The report must include a complete operating and financial statement covering the authority's operations during the year, including amounts of income from all sources. Books and records of the authority are subject to audit by the legislative auditor in the manner prescribed for state agencies.

Subd. 9. **Consultative and technical services.** The authority may provide general consultative and technical services to assist eligible projects and enter into agreements or other transactions concerning the receipt or provision of those services.

Subd. 10. **Financial information.** Financial information, including credit reports, financial statements, and net worth calculations, received or prepared by the authority regarding financial assistance, is private data with regard to data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, and nonpublic data with regard to data not on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 9.

Subd. 11. **General.** The authority shall have all powers necessary and appropriate to fulfill its responsibilities under this chapter.

History: 2010 c 347 art 1 s 14