The Oregon Innovation Council
In 2005, the Governor and Legislature brought together more than 50 leaders from the private sector, the state’s four research universities, venture capitalists and government to create a new way to build innovation into the DNA of how Oregon does business.
Oregon InC’s Mission

Bring together the expertise of private business, the creativity of our universities and the resources of government to:

- Support innovative research leading not only to new discoveries, but new companies built around it
- Increase access start-up companies have to public and private funding
- Grow and keep jobs by making existing industries more competitive and sustainable
- Make Oregon a global leader in the 21st Century economy.
Innovation isn’t just another way to say “high tech.” It’s not confined to the I-5 corridor.

- Innovation increases the value of existing Oregon products, making the forestry industry more efficient at growing and transporting timber, and helping fishermen develop new products and new markets for their catch.

- Innovation creates new jobs, helping coastal communities prosper by building a new industry from clean wave energy that will need welders, construction workers and ship captains.

- Every Oregonian who wants to see our economy grow stronger has a stake in innovation.
Oregon InC was funded for the first time in 2007 for $28.2 million. After a highly competitive process reviewing 25 industry-led proposals, the Council chose 6 economic development initiatives focused in three areas of innovation:

1. Build 3 Signature Research Centers with a mission to support and commercialize university research.
2. Help existing industries become more profitable and competitive by using innovation to make them more sustainable and efficient.
3. Create a clean, green industry from wave energy.
How does a small state compete with national research institutions like MIT? By building Signature Research Centers that:

- Focus on areas where Oregon is already strong, like green building and nanoscience
- Concentrate scarce R&D dollars by building unique labs open to all researchers

Oregon InC’s 3 Signature Research Centers bring together the research power of 450 scientists and researchers working collaboratively in eight shared laboratories open to researchers from every campus and private industry
SRC research grants support ideas with commercial potential, such as creating building insulation from recycled styrofoam or strong 2x4s from very fast-growing but weak Poplar trees.

SRC gap grants help companies survive until outside funding is available, giving start-ups like Puralytics the chance to perfect a water purification project using ultra-violet light and nano-materials.

SRC support and expertise help university researchers compete for government grants, bringing $150 million in federal and private dollars to Oregon.
SRC Advantages

- SRCs are open to private industry, providing them critical R&D without the added cost of hiring in-house staff or building new facilities.

- SRCs keep valuable research dollars and talent inside Oregon, giving local businesses the chance to grow here instead of looking outside the state for R&D resources and early stage capital.

- SRCs keep home-grown research talent in Oregon rather than leaving for Seattle or California.
ONAMI’s 3 shared labs in Eugene, Corvallis and Portland are nationally recognized. ONAMI grants support university research that has commercial potential. Its gap grants help fledgling companies survive the “valley of death” between lies between a great idea and funding from outside investors.
HD+ used ONAMI’s labs and funding help to create a portable kidney dialysis machine that allows patients to treat themselves at home rather than spending days every week at the hospital, improving care and saving money. HD+ just secured new private funding that allowed it to hire 26 Oregonians at an average salary of $90,000.

Northwest Unmanned Aerial Vehicles of McMinnville used ONAMI researchers and labs to develop a revolutionary fuel injector that allows their drones to fly for 14 hours instead of 2 – and NWUAV to hire 8 workers to build them.
ONAMI’s success has:

- Helped create 15 companies
- Leveraged $100 million in federal/private grants
- Gap grant companies have raised $50 million in private capital
- Facilities include the internationally-recognized Lokey Nanotechnology Labs
- More than 110 private industry clients using ONAMI labs for research, saving time and money and keeping companies in Oregon
Oregon BEST connects the state's building industry to its shared network of university labs that are helping transform green building and renewable energy research into on-the-ground products, services, and jobs that power Oregon's green economy. Like ONAMI, it provides grants to support research with commercial potential.
The Green Building Research Lab at Portland State is showing how to make buildings more efficient. Wind tunnels show how designs interact with the wind, sun and rain. Geothermal imaging scanners show engineers where heat is leaking out of a building or water is trying to get in. The research is critical since buildings account for nearly 40 percent of both energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.

The lab and its equipment are already being used by private industry as well as researchers.
Oregon BEST:

- Builds on Oregon’s national reputation in green building
- 4 shared labs will be operational in Summer 2010 offering unique equipment in solar, wind and green building testing to researchers and private industry
- Grants to 140 “faculty researchers” to find commercial, exportable applications for green building research
- Leveraged $12.9 million in federal and private grants
OTRADI’s shared lab provides university researchers and small biotech companies with access to previously out-of-reach drug discovery equipment and expertise, speeding up research and allowing companies and their ideas to remain in Oregon. OTRADI is key to helping Oregon tap into the $38 billion market in therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostics to fight infectious diseases like malaria, bacterial infections and West Nile virus.
DesignMedix, a small spin-off company started at Portland State University, needed a lab to test chemical compounds it believed could fight malaria – a disease that annually kills 1 million people worldwide. OTRADI researchers and its “high throughput screening” lab not only confirmed the chemicals malaria fighting potential, but also uncovered their potential to kill E.coli and Staph bacteria. Armed with this new data, DesignMedix has received new funding from the National Institutes of Health and is expanding its Oregon operations.
OTRADI:

- High performance lab facilities can perform thousands of drug screenings and analysis in a matter of days rather than months.
- Like ONAMI and Oregon BEST, it provides grants to support research with commercial potential.
- Leveraged $30.8 million in federal/private grants.
Oregon InC

Helping Established Industries

- Working with $6 billion food processing industry and the iconic seafood industry.
- Using innovation and research to find new products and create new markets for established companies.
- Performing energy and efficiency audits to increase companies’ productivity and profitability.
- Greater efficiencies saved 660 jobs in first biennium.
- Providing educational support – for instance, showing seafood processors how to move from cans to more convenient sealable pouches.
Innovative research being conducted by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories is helping Oregon food processors develop a new, rapid test for Lysteria, making foods much safer while saving processors time and money.

Researchers are helping Oregon seafood processors develop a coating made from chitosan, a byproduct of shrimp shells, that can not only keep fish fillets fresher longer, but also boost the amount of healthful Omega 3’s – creating a bigger market for Oregon fresh fish.
Oregon possess the three key ingredients to become a global leader in extracting clean, sustainable energy from restless ocean waves – coastal access, technological knowledge and the ability to supply energy to an existing electrical grid. OWET is a bridge between federal, state, local and private needs, regulations and opportunities.
Ocean Power Technologies of New Jersey, armed with a $200,000 OWET matching grant and critical research, will launch a commercial-scale buoy off Newport in Summer 2010. The buoy will be the first of its type in North America, generating 1.5 megawatts of electricity and creating 30 family-wage jobs. Phase II is expected to create 150 jobs in fabrication, assembly, installation and maintenance and 10 times the electricity. The 140-foot buoys will be built by Oregon Iron Works in Clackamas.
OWET:  

- OWET helps companies choose Oregon by providing scientific research at no cost (sediment transport, crab tagging, whale migration patterns, etc), streamlining and speeding up federal permitting process.
- OWET works as a bridge between companies and coastal residents by providing outreach and education.
- OWET helped create the federal Northwest Marine Renewable Energy Center in Newport, one of 2 in the U.S. with test facilities and environmental research.
For more information, contact:

- Marian Hammond
  Global Strategies Manager
  503-229-5226
  marian.j.hammond@biz.state.or.us
  or

- John Doussard
  Policy Analyst
  503-229-5116
  john.doussard@biz.state.or.us