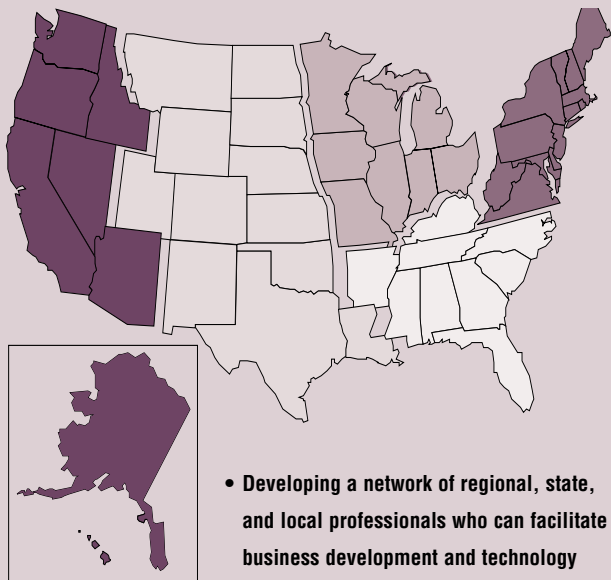


U.S. Department of Energy

Office of Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy

Office of Industrial
Technologies

REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS FOR INNOVATION



- **Developing a network of regional, state, and local professionals who can facilitate business development and technology commercialization**
- **Helping Inventions and Innovation Program (I&I) grantees connect with this network of experts to advance their technologies to the next stage**
- **Providing access to information and tools in the Office of Industrial Technologies (OIT) programs that promote energy efficient and clean production in the industrial manufacturing sector**



INVENTIONS & INNOVATION

Innovation Through Small Businesses

New technology is the engine of American economic development. Since World War II, new technology has accounted for approximately half the U.S. economy's growth. Yet the process of technology development is challenging; only a few new technologies reach their full commercialization potential. DOE recognizes that small businesses are an important part of innovation and new technology development. By encouraging the development of energy-saving, low emissions technologies, DOE fosters solutions that lower greenhouse gas emissions and reduce U.S. dependence on imported fossil fuels to meet basic energy needs.

Through the I&I Program, the Regional Resource Centers for Innovation (RRCI) help the developers of innovative, energy efficient technologies navigate the difficult journey from idea to marketplace.

DOE understands the value that regional, state, and local business professionals can provide in facilitating business development, and the importance of creating a network among these individuals.

Regional Resource Centers for Innovation Provide:

- Regional networking among business professionals interested in the research, development, commercialization, and investment of energy-efficient technologies
 - Direct assistance for small business grantees in the I&I Program to move toward commercialization or adoption of energy-efficient technology
 - Access to information on OIT Programs
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Networking Among Business Development, Commercialization, and Financial Experts and Small Business Innovators

The RRCIs promote networking among the various regional, state, and local specialists who provide services to inventors and small business innovators. This networking facilitates the rapid deployment of I&I technologies that provide solutions for the energy challenges facing the U.S.

The RRCIs are developing partnerships with interested individuals and organizations specialized in the following areas:

- Small Business Development
- Small Business Investment
- Project and Product Definition
- Intellectual Property
- Economic Development
- Business Planning
- Market Assessments
- Manufacturing
- Economic Analysis
- New Venture Financing
- Licensing
- Overall Commercialization Process

Notable Achievements

- More than 500 inventions have received financial support from DOE, with nearly 25% reaching the marketplace.
- Cumulative sales have reached nearly \$710 million.
- Cumulative energy savings have reached 0.6 quad.

Commercialization Assistance to I&I Grantees

The Inventions and Innovation Program (I&I)

This program provides individual inventors and small businesses with financial assistance to establish technical performance and promote development of innovative ideas and inventions. Ideas that have a significant energy impact and future commercial market potential are chosen for financial support through a competitive solicitation process.

The I&I Program, through the RRCIs, also gives grantees nonfinancial support by helping them find commercial sponsors, business plan resources, and additional funding sources through a network of business development, commercialization, and financial experts. Examples of potential program support and resources include:

- Feedback and support during the development and commercialization process
 - Mentoring for project development planning and management
 - Access to training and learning centers for business planning
 - Facilitation of regional, state, and local level support for economic development
 - Access to incubation centers specializing in small technology businesses
 - Internet sites and information relevant to energy-related innovations
 - Information on appropriate technology conferences and trade shows
 - Forums with financial investors interested in energy-related businesses
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Access to Information on OIT's Other Programs

OIT- Industries of the Future (IOF)

OIT encourages industry-wide efforts to boost resource productivity through a process called Industries of the Future. Participants in the process represent the agriculture, aluminum, chemicals, forest products, glass, metalcasting, mining, petroleum, and steel industries.

National Industrial Competitiveness through Energy, Environment, Economics (NICE³)

The NICE³ Program funds state and industry partnerships for the first full-scale commercial demonstration of energy-efficient, clean production technologies.

Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC)

IACs provide industrial assessments for small- and medium-sized manufacturers at no cost. They provide recommendations to help the manufacturers identify opportunities to improve productivity, reduce waste, and save energy.

BestPractices

The BestPractices Program provides integrated delivery of energy-improving products, services, and emerging technologies to the Industries of the Future—the Nation's most energy intensive industries. BestPractices works with industry partners and across the Office of Industrial Technologies to improve plant-wide energy efficiency, waste reduction, and productivity. The team looks at energy delivering and consuming components as part of a total system where significant savings can be found and emerging technologies best applied.



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For Additional Information on DOE/OIT Programs

Information on upcoming events, workshops, requests for proposals, and deadlines is posted on the Internet at <http://www.oit.doe.gov>. You can also learn more by requesting materials from the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse (EREC) at (800) DOE-EREC.