

July 2007

The following excerpts are from an agreement for the Assistive Technology Commercialization Initiative. This grant opportunity will facilitate development of student projects in the fields of **Electronics, Robotics, and Embedded Systems** that have commercialization potential, in an effort to increase the likelihood that such technology will be commercialized within the Commonwealth. **For details, please contact Dr. George E. Klinzing, Vice Provost for Research at: klinzing@pitt.edu or call 412-624-4604.**

THE TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION INITIATIVE GRANT (AT/QoL T)

The Assistive Technology Commercialization Initiative Grant is between The Technology Collaborative ("TTC"), a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation and the University of Pittsburgh. TTC is a non-profit organization that was created for the purpose of fostering economic development in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the fields of Electronics, Robotics, and Embedded Systems. In an effort to further such economic development, TTC established an Education and Training Program, pursuant to which TTC facilitates the development and implementation of various education programs. These programs further economic development in Pennsylvania by creating opportunities for student entrepreneurship and by enhancing the regional pool of trained engineers, technologists, and technicians. These professionals may start their own companies, or are available to work at start-ups and existing companies, thereby making Pennsylvania a more attractive location to establish or expand their business.

One of the markets targeted for economic development by TTC is Assistive Technology and Quality of Life Technologies ("AT/QoL T"). Demand for AT/QoL T is significant, with a large barrier to access being affordability and availability. A National Institute of Health survey reports more than 2.5 million Americans say they need assistive technology that they do not have, with about 70% citing cost as the primary reason. Technology innovations that have driven down the cost of computing and communications can likewise drive down the cost of many assistive technologies, and the economies of scale for these markets will improve with changing demographics. Students at Pennsylvania Universities offer significant resources for innovation within the Commonwealth. In an effort to leverage these resources into significant regional economic growth in the field of AT/QoL T, TTC is relying on grant funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to a contract with the Department of Community and Economic Development (the "DCED Contract") and grants provided by certain other organizations (collectively, the "Program Grant").

TTC shall grant to University a portion of the Program Grant to facilitate development of student projects in AT/QoL T that have commercialization potential, in an effort to increase the likelihood that such technology will be commercialized within the Commonwealth.

TTC shall grant to the University the sum of up to \$20,000 during the first year of the Term (the "First Award"). Provided that University performs its obligations under this Agreement in a satisfactory manner during the first year of the Term, and provided further that sufficient funds continue to be available under the Program Grant.

TTC shall grant to University up to \$20,000 during the second year of the Term (the "Second Award" and together with the First Award, the "Grant"), solely for the purpose of funding student project teams work in connection with AT/QoL T that has significant commercialization potential.

The University shall designate Dr. George Klinzing, Vice Provost for Research as principal investigator and TIC contact for project administration and reporting. The designated faculty member shall serve as lead among the program coordinators. The Program Coordinators shall work with University faculty and departments to coordinate selection and awarding of funds to student teams.

Unless otherwise agreed by TTC, projects funded by the Grant must be AT/QoL T projects with commercialization potential, but will not be restricted to any particular academic department or major. University shall be responsible for selecting the student teams to receive funding in a manner that is consistent with the goals of this Agreement and TTC.

TTC anticipates typical funding of \$2,000 to \$4,000 per project team; however University shall allocate funds to individual student teams according to the needs of the project, the potential for commercialization, and other University-specified criteria that are consistent with this Agreement. University shall be responsible for administering the Grant and making funds available for student team use, and will use reasonable efforts to leverage University's existing entrepreneur programs to assist the student teams in furthering the commercialization potential of the applicable technologies.