southern growth policies board

Charting Southern prosperity with innovative ideas and collaborative action.

InterTech Science Park

Program Info
Web Address: http://www.intertechsciencepark.org
Organization Type: Public-private Partnership
Contact: Dennis Lower Vice President, Planning and Development
Phone: 318-675-4171
Fax: 318-675-4120
Email: dlower@biomed.org

Initiated in 1998,InterTech Science Park is a community response to the need to diversify the economy of northwest Louisiana by encouraging the growth of technology-based industries. Sponsored by the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana, InterTech's comprehensive approach is unique in technology-based economic development. Located in an urban Brownfields area proximate to 80% of the region's scientific/medical personnel, the InterTech Master Plan is a 25-year strategy to create an environmentally friendly, worker-amenable, and technology-stimulating campus that enables the proliferation of life sciences and other emerging industries. InterTech atrategies include:

· Engaged Research Institutions. InterTech collaborates with Louisiana State University's (LSU) Health Sciences Center-Shreveport in acquiring sophisticated scientific equipment, encouraging faculty to pursue commercialization opportunities, and sponsoring a Ph.D. Biotechnology Program to promote entrepreneurship. Louisiana Technical University also partners with InterTech on bioinformatics and technology transfer projects.

· Intensive Networking. As a member of the Consortium for Education, Research and Technology of North Louisiana (CERT), InterTech reaches out to all the region's higher education institutions by promoting technology-based workforce development and research opportunities. Staff members are active participants of Louisiana Economic Development Council, Southern Growth Policies Board and other industry and advocacy groups.

· Available Risk Capital: InterTech worked with the State of Louisiana to establish several seed/early stage venture funds, including InterTech tenant Louisiana Ventures. Furthermore, InterTech has established its own tenant venture fund.

· Discretionary Funding: InterTech receives funding from numerous federal agencies, the State of Louisiana, Caddo Parish and local corporations.

· Workforce/Talent Pool: InterTech is an active participant in CERT, and in the Math, Science and Technology K-12 program and the Biotechnology Magnet Academy in Caddo Parish. The Biomedical Research Foundation also supports SMART, a program for advanced high school seniors who spend a year working in a research laboratory at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.

· Access to Specialized Facilities/Equipment: InterTech's three incubators can house 25 start-up companies. Each incubator has shared and specialized equipment. LSU's Health Sciences Center provides access to advanced instrumentation for InterTech companies through its Research Core Facility, supported by the Biomedical Research Foundation and InterTech.

· Supportive Business/Tax/Regulatory Policies: InterTech staff worked for the passage of Louisiana tax incentives for technology businesses. Such legislation passed in 2005.

· Patience and Long-Term Perspective: InterTech Science Park's 25-year Master Plan illustrates a shift in the region's traditional reliance on the oil, gas and timber industries by facilitating the proliferation of life sciences and other emerging industries. These large changes will take time to complete, as leaders and the community embrace and prepare for innovative enterprises.

Southern Growth Policies Board, P.O. Box 12293, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Phone: (919) 941-5145, Fax: (919) 941-5594, Email: