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2014-15 Governors Budget - Science and Technology Authority

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Mission:

The Minnesota Science and Technology Authority (STA) will promote a business climate that fosters lasting and inclusive prosperity through the growth of innovation-based businesses and jobs.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Science and Technology Authority supports the following statewide outcome(s).

A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities.

Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals.

Context:

The Minnesota Science and Technology Authority was established by the state legislature in 2010 to advance the growth and competitiveness of the state's high-value industries. Innovation-based companies are key to the state's economy. Each year 160,000 jobs in Minnesota's core industry sectors of science and technology have a payroll of over \$12 billion and spend over \$6.3 billion on research.

The primary customers of the STA are entrepreneurial innovation-based individuals and companies seeking to commercialize technology and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) students seeking internship opportunities. The Advisory Commission is made of up leaders from: the Mayo Clinic, the University of Minnesota, MnSCU, large and small companies, trade organizations and labor and are all partners in providing key services to innovation-based entrepreneurs. The STA is funded by the general fund.

Strategies:

The Minnesota Science and Technology Authority is designed to build a robust innovation ecosystem through a set of coordinated initiatives in four investment areas that offer immediate and long-term economic benefits:

- Accelerating our ability to commercialize ideas: Build Minnesota's research and development (R&D) capacity and infrastructure to generate ideas and commercialize new products.
- Attracting investment for new and existing businesses: Leverage investments that drive speed and scale of new company formation and existing company growth.
- Enhancing our science & technology talent & workforce: Continue to grow the talent and workforce to support the jobs that will drive recovery and grow our economy.
- Creating supportive policies and collaborative networks: Foster a competitive business climate and dynamic network that helps entrepreneurs build strong businesses and seize global opportunities.

The STA provides one-on-one guidance to entrepreneurial individuals seeking to access federal grants for R&D and to complete feasibility studies and commercialization. Eleven federal agencies participate in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) and staff works with entrepreneurs to target and access the various agencies and funding opportunities.

The activities provided by the STA support growing a thriving economy by supporting business growth; supporting internship programs to expand the education received at two- and four- year colleges and universities into real life experiences. Internships support both the student in gaining work experience and employers in obtaining the latest talent for future hiring potential.

Results:

In FY2012, the STA gave a competitive grant to the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) to implement SciTechsperience, a college internship program that provides wage support and connections between companies and students. Sixty internships were fully subscribed in 90 days, with interns placed all over the state in small innovative companies. <http://www.mhta.org/work/scitechexperience-internships/>.

The SBIR/STTR Phase II Commercialization Plan Support Program provides funding for contracts with expert service providers to develop commercialization plans for small businesses to assist them in applying for grants. During FY 2012, 15 plans were developed, with two awards received (\$2.35 million) and 12 still pending federal approval.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
# of internships provided through SciTechsperience Internship Program	N/A	60 interns	N/A
# of plans developed through SBIR/STTR Phase II Commercialization Plan Support Program	N/A	15 plans	N/A

Performance Measures Notes:

These two programs were created in FY 2012, so there is no previous activity or trend to report.

Science and Technology Authority
Current, Base and Governor's Recommended Expenditures

(Dollars in Thousands, Biennial Totals)

	General Funds	Other State Funds	Federal Funds	All Funds
Current Biennium Expenditures (FY 2012-13)	\$214	\$510	\$55	\$779
Current Law Expenditures (FY 2014-15)	\$214	\$10	\$0	\$224
Governor's Recommended Expenditures (FY2014-15)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$ Change from FY 2014-15 Current Law to Governor's Rec	(214)	(10)	\$0	(224)
% Change from FY 2014-15 Current Law to Governor's Rec	(100%)	(100%)	0%	(100%)

Science and Technology Authority

Governor's Changes

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 14	FY 15	FY 14-15 Biennium	FY 16	FY 17	FY 16-17 Biennium
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Repeal the Science and Technology Authority

The Governor recommends eliminating the Science and Technology Authority to achieve efficiencies. These duties would be transferred to the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Performance Measures:

This proposal provides savings to the overall budget solution through agency efficiencies.

General Fund	Expenditure	(107)	(107)	(214)	(107)	(107)	(214)
Other Funds	Expenditure	(5)	(5)	(10)	(5)	(5)	(10)
Other Funds	Revenue	(5)	(5)	(10)	(5)	(5)	(10)
	Net Change	(107)	(107)	(214)	(107)	(107)	(214)
Net All Change Items	General Fund	(107)	(107)	(214)	(107)	(107)	(214)
	Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Net Change	(107)	(107)	(214)	(107)	(107)	(214)

Science and Technology Authority
All Funds FTE by Program

	Current	Forecast Base	Governor's Recommendation
Program	FY 2013	FY 2015	FY 2015
Program: Mn Science And Technology Auth	1.0	1.0	0.0
Science and Technology Authority	1.0	1.0	0.0