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Analysis****Business News/Analysis****NHIRC awards grants for
research partnerships**

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Grants totaling more than \$506,000 are being awarded by the New Hampshire Innovation Research Center to underwrite eight research partnerships involving New Hampshire companies and scientists and engineers at the University of New Hampshire and Dartmouth College.



Names of the companies involved won't be released until early next year, pending official approvals.

The Granite State Technology Innovation Grants leverage an investment by the state with federal dollars from the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR program (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research). Companies applying for the grant are required to provide matching funds or services. Grants range from \$20,000 to \$150,000, with an average of about \$60,000. Projects vary from proof-of-concept to a substantial investment in engineering or process design.

According to Robert Dalton, director of the NHIRC, the latest projects reflect a total investment of more than \$1 million, when the contributions of all three parties — the state, the federal government and the private sector — are added up.

"The long-term gain will be measured in technological advancement which allows these companies to grow, to create new high-paying jobs, and contribute to the state's economy. We call this technology-based economic development, and it's a guiding principle for both the NHIRC and the New Hampshire EPSCoR program," said Dalton.

More information about the grant program is posted at nhirc.unh.edu. — JEFF FEINGOLD/NEW HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS REVIEW

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