

PRESS RELEASE

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Texas Funding of Emerging Technology Firms Seen as *Best Practice* by VCs and Other States

Study author to be featured on Science News Network, as Trybula Foundation Evaluates Drivers of Technology Commercialization in Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS (APRIL 10, 2009) According to an independent evaluation prepared by Dr. Walt Trybula of the Trybula Foundation, Inc., Texas funding programs that promote economic development and research commercialization have accelerated growth within the state and are considered “best practice” by other states, as well as by venture capitalists. The report, which focuses primarily on Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF) and other vehicles that drive commercialization and business expansion, outlines findings and recommendations built on a compilation of information from nearly 100 topic experts throughout the state.

The ETF, which was created in 2004 as a \$200 million fund for technology ventures, is a unique vehicle for industry development, company development, and providing support to institutions of higher learning. Trybula’s research leads him to believe that the ETF is a leading tool for technology commercialization, but has room for improvement. The report lists key findings and recommendations as follows:

Findings

Texas has improved in technology job creation but must focus on higher skill jobs

Texas Industry Clusters are crucial to future job growth and economic development

Texas development activities have fostered new university/industry collaborations and networking

State funding programs to promote economic development and research commercialization in Texas have accelerated growth and are considered “best practice”

by other states and Venture Capitalists

Opportunity exists to improve critical elements of the innovation-ecosystem in Texas

Commercialization activities in universities have accelerated

Texas universities’ story of innovation and commercialization is not being heard

Recommendations:

1. Fund to appropriate levels [\$220M for current ETF, which includes an additional \$20M for Proof-of-Concept [POC] efforts, plus full funding for TEF]

2. Reduce the time to complete the ETF review and approval process
 3. Re-focus ETF Subchapter "E" [Matching Grants]
 - a) Support Public Private Partnerships [PPP's] for commercialization impact
 - b) Support Proof-of-Concept [POC] funding to accelerate development of ETF commercial venture opportunities
 4. Establish and implement criteria, procedures, and a review board for Subchapters "E" & "F" [Research Superiority] funds
 5. Increase staffing support for expanding ETF asset management needs
 6. Facilitate business development support for ETF applicants state-wide
- "In conducting research for this report, it has become crystal clear that Texas has built a winning formula for driving economic prosperity that other states and regions throughout the United States are emulating," said Trybula. "The recommendations outlined are designed to enhance the formula with the objective of surpassing our current benchmarks, further strengthening our position as a technology rich state that provides opportunities to innovators."

The evaluation also outlines the importance of nurturing a broad and diverse economic base in spite of Texas' geographic size and regional diversity, as well as the significance of having a liaison at the state level that can bridge the knowledge domains of business and science, and the politics of academia, government and the private sector to help drive coordination.

Research for the report was conducted with six Texas university systems, private higher educational schools, Regional Centers of Innovation and Commercialization (RCIC), EcoDev organizations, and numerous individuals involved in economic development efforts throughout the state.

Trybula will talk about the report with Broadcast Radio Science News Moderator Colonel Maso on Sunday, April 12, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on KMNY Rational talk radio Dallas/Fort Worth, 1360 on the AM dial, and then archived on www.PromiseOfTomorrow.biz.

A PDF version of this report is available at <http://www.tryb.org/2008Update.pdf>.

About Dr. Walt Trybula

Dr. Trybula is truly a technology futurist. Current activities focus on evaluating current trends and applications in nanotechnology, mesomaterials, MEMS/NEMS, and semiconductors for profitable business insertion. He is leading an effort to identify and address NANO-SAFETY issues, and has a 2007 white paper on the topic that has circulated among some elected officials.

An IEEE Fellow, a SPIE Fellow, and an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer, he has taught "Introduction to Nanotechnology" at major conferences. Most recent published material is on nanotechnology, cleaning/contamination issues, nano patterning and cost effective application of technology. Has served on various committees and workshops for nanotechnology and MEMS at the State and Federal level and presented nanotechnology at informational meetings on Capitol Hill.

Trybula is also serving as Director of the Nanomaterials Application Center at Texas State University-San Marcos. Previously, he was with SEMATECH (Senior Fellow) for 13 years, General Electric (Senior Consultant Corporate) for 12 years, Ivy Systems (President and Founder), and Compunetics (Director).

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The radio program, *The Promise of Tomorrow* with Colonel Mason, studies the commercial business of emerging science and nanotechnology, and has a history of keeping abreast of breaking commercial advances. It is aired in Dallas and Fort Worth with a possible audience of over two million, then archived on the Web to an audience that is world-wide, www.PromiseOfTomorrow.biz

About *The Promise of Tomorrow* radio program:

The award-winning creator and host of the program is veteran news reporter, Colonel Mason. The past 54 programs featured reports on how nanotechnology has led to human gum regeneration; nanotechnology in Iran, Singapore, China, Israel, and around the world; how nanotech coatings bring protection from graffiti; how Texas is funding new firms in emerging technologies.

Other important topics covered include biodegradable plastics; atomic manipulation and building things with atomic precision for practical uses; medicine; nerve regeneration, human tissue interfacing with bionics; artificial muscles; the fallacy of BioFuels; targeting cancer tumors with nanotechnology and colloidal gold based compounds administered directly at the site of the disease while not affecting other organs; water purification using nanotechnology; how hydrogen is abundant and easy to collect, and (in solid form) the next fuel needed to replace gasoline, jet fuel, and generate electricity; plus views from scientific living legends and Nobel Laureates.

The hour long program is a wealth of information each week, also featuring headline news in emerging science, the latest tiny tech jobs, and what has become the very popular *Voice of Reason*. It is aired each Sunday from 7 to 8 pm on KMNY 1360AM radio www.RationalRadio.org, then promptly archived on the Web where its content is consumed world-wide at www.PromiseOfTomorrow.biz. Colonel Mason welcomes suggestions on topics and/or guests. Email to colonel@prfirm1.com or contact directly by phone at 214.329.4949

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