

The Business of Nanomanufacturing: State/Regional Partnerships, Commercialized Research, and Entrepreneurial Startups

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Presentation

Abstract: Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute grew from the firm conviction that innovation in the form of commercialized micro- and nano-scale technologies was going to be the key to Oregon's high-wage future, enabling or touching many, if not most, of our industrial and manufacturing sectors. The selection of this field was unambiguous, based on an inventory of Oregon's remarkable set of industrial R&D assets, but it remained to develop operating models that would efficiently convert state investment to accelerated growth in research and commercialization. These successful models have proven to be (1) large inter-institutional collaborative projects in carefully chosen categories (e.g. green nanotechnology) and (2) a closely-tied, investor-advised "gap grant" fund intended to assist existing small businesses or newly formed companies through the crucial proof-of-concept stage to the point where they become attractive private investment opportunities. To date, 14 companies, in partnership with ONAMI-affiliated researchers and facilities, have received gap grants, and have collectively leveraged over \$14M to date in additional grants and private investment. Several of these companies have significant ties to projects associated with our Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative.