

Agency Purpose

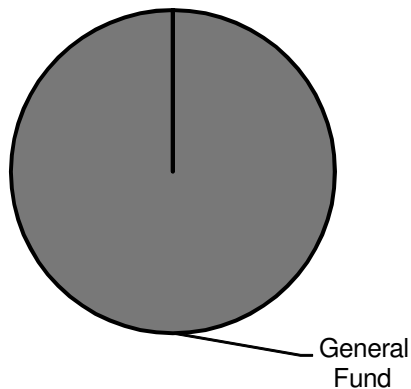
The Minnesota Science and Technology Authority (STA) was created by Laws of 2010, Chapter 347, Article 1 effective July 1, 2010. The STA will bring together government, industry and academia to develop a long-range science and technology economic development plan that addresses job creation, workforce preparation and commercialization of critical technology. STA’s statutory authority resides in M.S. Chapter 116W.

STA membership consists of the commissioners of employment and economic development, management and budget, revenue, commerce, and agriculture. The commissioner of employment and economic development serves as the chair and chief executive officer of the STA.

At a Glance

- Created July 1, 2010
- The Science and Technology Economic Development Plan will be submitted to the Legislature by January 15, 2011.

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund



Source data for the previous charts is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 08/20/10.

Strategies

The Science and Technology Authority was created to:

- coordinate public and private efforts to obtain federal funding for collaborative research and development projects of primary benefit to small and medium-sized businesses;
- promote contractual relationships between Minnesota businesses that are recipients of federal grants and prime contractors, and Minnesota-based subcontractors;
- work with Minnesota nonprofit institutions including the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and the May Clinic in promoting collaborative efforts to respond to federal funding opportunities;
- develop a framework for Minnesota companies to establish sole-source relationships with federal agencies;
- provide grants or other forms of financial assistance to eligible recipients;
- coordinate workshops, assistance with business proposals, licensing, intellectual property protection,

- commercialization, and government auditing with the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; and
- develop and implement a comprehensive science and technology economic development strategy for the state.

Operations

The STA is served by an executive director and small business innovation research (SBIR) and small business technology transfer (STTR) program director. The executive director works with the 18-member advisory commission to prepare and implement the long range science and technology economic development plan. The SBIR/STTR program director assists high-tech entrepreneurial companies to obtain federal grant funding for proof of concept studies through prototype development.

The Science and Technology Advisory Commission of 18 members was established to advise and assist the STA and is comprised of:

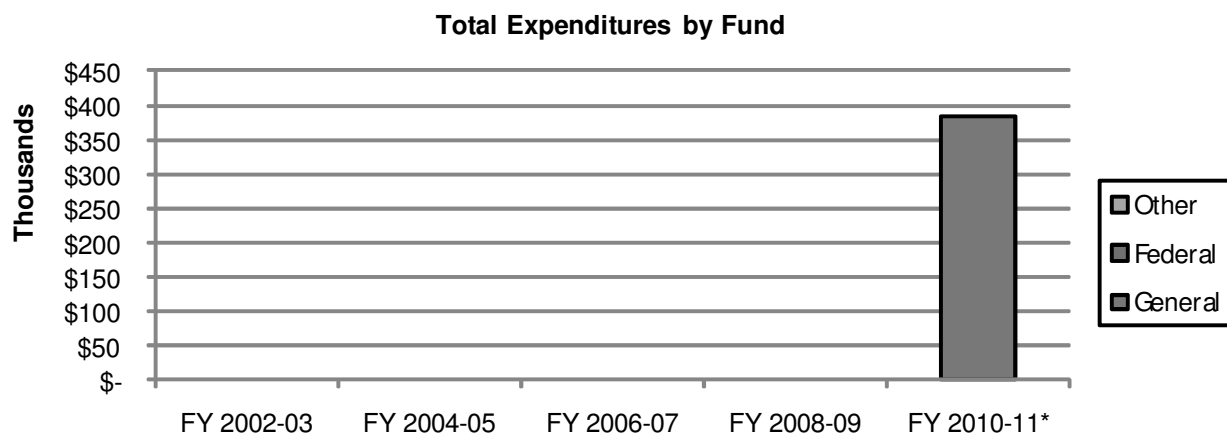
- two representatives of the University of Minnesota, selected by the president of the university, including a faculty member actively involved in science and technology research;
- two representatives of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, selected by the chancellor, including a faculty member actively involved in science and technology research;

- the chief executive officer of Mayo Clinic or a designee;
- six chief executive officers or designees from science-oriented or technology-oriented companies;
- four representatives from science-oriented and technology-oriented organizations;
- one representative of organized labor;
- a venture capital representative; and
- a representative of angel investors.

Key Activity Goals & Measures

The Science and Technology Authority supports the Minnesota Milestones goal that Minnesota will have sustainable, strong economic growth. Performance measures are under development and will be recommended to the legislature in 2011.

Budget Trends



* FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual. Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 08/20/2010.

With regards to science and technology (S&T) innovation, Minnesota faces a crisis of competitiveness. Once a state that led the nation in S&T innovation, Minnesota now ranks 14th – 17th and is accelerating downward in key measures of S&T leadership¹. Global competition has increased as well, making it difficult for the United States as a whole to maintain its leadership. Planning and investment in S&T impacts industries from manufacturing and agriculture to support services. S&T innovation helps to create a robust, self-sustaining economic development and economic growth leading to high paying technology jobs and increased productivity.

Contact

Science and Technology Authority
 Executive Director
 (651) 259-7441

¹ See the 'Recommendations for a Minnesota Science and Technology Initiative' report available at http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/Data_Publications/Publications/All_Other_DEED_Publications/PDFs/Recommendations_f_or_a_Minnesota_Science_Technology_Initiative_Report_1-15-10.pdf