

IowaBio June 2015

MONTHLY UPDATE

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PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

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SBIR Road Tour

SEEDING AMERICA'S FUTURE INNOVATIONS™

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The **SBIR-STTR ROAD TOUR** is a multi-state tour that aims to fuel technology growth and development in the nation through the [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) and Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\) programs](#). This is an opportunity to learn about the Federal SBIR/STTR Program from Federal program managers in charge of administering the programs at their only event in Iowa. For more information about the tour, please visit www.sbirroadtour.com.

Participating agencies include: USDA, DOD (Air Force and Navy), Education, DOE, NIH, Homeland Security, DOT, EPA, NASA, NSF, SBA. **To register for the SBIR Road Tour on July 15 in Iowa City, [please click here](#).**

Prior to the SBIR Road Tour's July 15 stop in Iowa City, the event organizers will host two pre-meetings. Attendees may select to attend **ONE** of these pre-meetings (July 13 or July 14) at the location that is most convenient to them. **To register for one of the Pre-Meetings on July 13 or 14, [please click here](#).**

The 2015 NIH SBIR and STTR Omnibus Grant Solicitation is now live!

[Click here to learn more](#)

Main Event

[View Agenda](#)

July 15, 2015

8:00am – 2:00pm

Sheraton Hotel
210 S. Dubuque Street
Iowa City, Iowa

Pre-Meetings

[View Agenda](#)

July 13, 2015

9:00am – 4:30pm

ISU Research Park
2711 S. Loop Drive, Bldg 4
Ames, Iowa

OR

July 14, 2015

9:00am – 4:30pm

Sheraton Hotel
210 S. Dubuque Street
Iowa City, Iowa

Cuba Trade Mission: August 20-26th

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On March 3, 2015, the Iowa Senate passed Senate Resolution 6, the first resolution by any state in the United States to enhance trade relations with Cuba. From that time forward, several Iowans have been working with the Cuban officials to set up a trade mission trip to Cuba. This is due to the potential economic benefit to both Iowa and Cuba.

Carlos Portes, Special Ambassador for Latin America under President Carter, has been crucial in this endeavor. With his strong connections to Cuban Officials, Iowa has a great opportunity to be one of the first states to set up trade relations.

Ambassador Portes has stated that the Cuban Government wants to talk about agricultural opportunities and trade. They have indicated they need large quantities of products grown and made in Iowa: including pork, corn, poultry, agribusiness, animal and crop technologies, and agriculture equipment.

Senator Steve Sodders has reached out to IowaBio to see if any of our members would be interested in participating in this trade mission. He wants to insure this mission is a success for Iowa and establish long term business and professional relationships. A successful mission requires Iowans that can negotiate for their respective businesses. In addition, the Cuban officials would like the legislators as part of the mission to demonstrate Iowa's commitment to trade and to present the first in the nation resolution calling for trade.

The approximate costs at this time will be \$4,000 - \$5,000 for the 5 days. Negotiations are still taking place to determine if the Cuban Government will assume some of the travel, food or hotel costs. At this point it is advised you to plan to cover the total cost.

Cuban officials have stated meetings will be held with the actual ministers of each of the corresponding departments (i.e. Ministers of Agriculture, Commerce, Transportation, International Affairs, and Foreign Affairs), as well as heads of respective industries. In addition, all the counterparts of elected legislative officials corresponding with our own legislators will be present.

Finally, the key to getting something done is price and TERMS of payments. A Cuban official told Ambassador Portes, "If you can arrange a delegation that is willing to work with us and provide delivery and financial terms, we can get many things accomplished."

Establishing trade relations with Cuba would benefit Iowans as well as Cubans. A number of Iowa entities, including two IowaBio member companies, are currently in discussions about attending this trade mission. ***If you are interested in participating, please contact Joe Hrdlicka, Executive Director at IowaBio, to discuss your interest and options.*** Joe can be reached by email at joe@iowabio.org or by phone at (515) 327-9156.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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EcoEngineers is a global leader in developing solutions to build a sustainable world. EcoEngineers was founded 6 years ago by Shashi Menon and Jim Ramm, who started by providing a subscription based software service that assisted clients with their biofuel energy credits. Today, EcoEngineers is a 16-person consulting firm and project developer with offices in Des Moines' trendy East Village neighborhood.

In addition to its popular cloud-based compliance management platform, EcoEngineers now performs carbon analysis of fuels and they ensure product quality for the energy credit markets. EcoEngineers now leads the way in research and implementation of market based solutions that promote adoption of environmentally friendly fuels. EcoEngineers guides energy companies through the maze of regulations and improves their bottom line by ensuring continuous access to carbon markets..

EcoEngineers also develops renewable energy projects in partnerships with waste water plants, industrial food processing facilities and the agricultural sector, driving recovery and reuse from all residual organics. In 2013, EcoEngineers collaborated with the Iowa Economic Development Authority and Iowa State University to study the feasibility of producing biogas as a fuel using residue from crop and animal farming and industrial operations in Iowa. The study results suggested that Iowa could be a top destination for investments in biogas production, and currently, EcoEngineers is leveraging those results to bring investment dollars to Iowa's rural economy.

"We are currently touring all 99 of Iowa's counties to talk about the value of biogas and how Iowans can benefit," says Menon. "Biogas projects in other states are also underway."

The company offers the following to fit a customer's needs.

- Regulations & Policy: Compliance management, facility planning, federal liaison, EU certifications
- Renewable Fuel Credits: RIN QAP, price indexing and trends, CAGREET analysis, LCFS verifications
- Engineering: Design reviews, RFS reviews, process improvements, new pathways petitions
- Project Development: Feasibility studies, project finance; engineering; build-own-operate

EcoEngineers is located 300 E. Locust Street, Suite 313, in Des Moines.

For more information, contact Teresa Zilk, tzilk@ecoengineers.us or call 515-309-1279.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Midwest Events

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SBIR Road Tour

July 15, 2015 / Iowa City, IA

The SBIR Road Tour is a national outreach effort to convey the non-dilutive technology funding opportunity provided through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Federal and State Program Managers representing the \$2.5 billion in early stage funding have been invited to attend a series of events alongside technology entrepreneurs and innovation supporters from across the United States.

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KC Animal Health Investment Forum

September 1, 2015 / Kansas City, MO

The KC Animal Health Investment Forum provides a unique opportunity for venture capital funds, investment firms and animal health companies to hear from emerging companies with the newest technology. It offers one of the only opportunities in the world for early stage companies in the animal health sector to present their vision and business plan to potential investors. Companies presenting at the Forum have raised nearly \$130 million. Several have also received licensing agreements or distribution contracts.

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Innovation Expo 2015

October 21, 2015 / Coralville, IA

Innovation EXPO 2015 events are designed for entrepreneurs, creatives, financial resources and business leaders in Iowa to connect, help our region grow more new business, create jobs, keep our region vibrant and globally competitive - and to celebrate entrepreneurs. It's really all about the entrepreneurs. Budding or existing - they are our future. See & touch their products. Connect with potential partners.

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Iowa Women Lead Change – Central Iowa Conference

October 28, 2015 / Des Moines, IA

The theme for IWLC's 2015 slate of four conferences is "Transforming Journeys." The Central Iowa Conference features the general track session, as well as the Student Track Program. The IWLC Central Iowa Conference has been tailored specifically to the Des Moines community by a local steering committee with IWLC staff assistance.

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Global Events

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BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology

July 19-22, 2015
Montreal, Canada

Sustainable Chemicals & Plastics Adoption & Applications Summit

September 1-3, 2015
San Diego, CA

Analytics for Biologics Conference

September 10-11, 2015
Philadelphia, PA

Drug Development Boot Camp

November 17-18, 2015
Boston, MA

**View All Upcoming
Events on our
[Events Calendar](#)**



INDUSTRY NEWS

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News stories containing company logos indicate IowaBio members

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Food & Agriculture

Food & Ag



- ❖ **BIO Opposes H.R. 9, The Innovation Act**
- ❖ **Leath: Looming hunger demands more ag research**
- ❖ International visitors experience **Iowa agriculture**
- ❖ **Agriculture** Playing Large Role in **Retaining Iowa's Youth**
- ❖ **EuropaBio's** Position on Proposal for **Imports of GM** Products
- ❖ **Genetic engineering** helps plants survive in **drought**
- ❖ UN Report: **Fewer Hungry People Worldwide**
- ❖ **Scientists** must lead way on **GM**

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Healthcare & Pharmaceutical

Health & Pharma



- ❖ **J&J** unlocks trial data for **schizophrenia research** forum
- 
- ❖ **Spotlight Innovation** acquires majority stake in **Memcine Pharmaceuticals**
- 
- ❖ **BIO Opposes H.R. 9, The Innovation Act**
 - ❖ **K-State** researchers build **avian-flu protection** into existing poultry vaccine
 - ❖ This **blood test** can tell you **every virus** you've ever had
 - ❖ USDA says deadly **avian flu virus on the wane in the Midwest** as weather warms
 - ❖ **OpGen** Releases **Next-Generation Molecular Testing** and Bioinformatics Solution for Combating **Multi-Drug Resistant Infections**

News stories containing company logos indicate IowaBio members

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Industrial & Environmental

Industrial & Environmental



- ❖ **BIO Opposes H.R. 9, The Innovation Act**
- ❖ **BIO World Congress** agenda shows **industrial biotech** spreading, evolving, scaling
- ❖ **Iowa Legislature OKs EI 5 infrastructure investments** for Iowa Renewable Fuels grants
- ❖ **Novvi** launches first-ever **100 percent renewable base oils**
- ❖ **Nebraska** Governor Signs **Alt-Fuel Vehicle Rebate Bill**
- ❖ USDA Announces Restart of **BCAP for Renewable Energy**
- ❖ Renew **America's Renewable Future** releases **coalition list**
- ❖ **Bio-identicals**, the next step in **sustainability**
- ❖ From tea bags to Miatas, **bioplastics on the rise**
- ❖ Shatter the Blend Wall with **High Performance Bio-gasoline**

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STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

STEM



- ❖ Should **Iowa** schools **require computer science?**
- ❖ **STEM Council** awards **Scale Up programs** across Iowa
- ❖ **SCI Girls in Science** recognizes two women for **STEM achievement**
- ❖ **Iowa governor** gets a **STEM** lesson from **Siouxland** students
- ❖ **Branstad, Reynolds** visit fourth annual **STEM camp**
- ❖ **Reynolds** visits **Quad Cities** to encourage **STEM for girls**
- ❖ **STEM**, party politics bring **governor** to area
- ❖ **Simpson College** gets Grant for **STEM Scholarships**

Funding Opportunities

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2015 NIH SBIR & STTR Omnibus Grant Solicitation is Live

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The **2015 NIH SBIR and STTR Omnibus Grant Solicitation** is now live, and the National Cancer Institute Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer ([NCI SBIR & STTR](#)) Programs have expanded the list of research areas of interest under these funding opportunities.

The [Omnibus Solicitations](#) are intended to support small business innovation across a broad spectrum of topic areas. [Eligible U.S. small businesses](#) that have the capabilities and expertise to contribute to the research and development missions of the identified topics are encouraged to submit investigator-initiated SBIR & STTR grant applications.

The next application due date is September 8, 2015. We encourage you to start preparing your application now, and are happy to provide feedback on your project. If you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity, please email the NCI SBIR [program director](#) listed in your relevant technology area. *New to SBIR & STTR? Use this [interactive infographic](#) to guide you through the NIH application process.*



International Trade Assistance Grant Funds Available

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The International Trade Office is happy to announce the availability of FY16 Export Trade Assistance Program (ETAP) and Domestic Trade Assistance Program (DTAP) funds. The goal of the grant programs is to support and enable Iowa companies to expand their global markets and increase export sales. There are currently three programs companies may submit an application:

Export Trade Assistance Program (ETAP) FY15

Exhibiting at a trade show in another country between now and September 29, 2015.

Export Trade Assistance Program (ETAP) FY16

Participating in an IEDA trade mission between now and June 30, 2016 or are exhibiting at a trade show in another country taking place between September 30, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Domestic Trade Assistance Program (DTAP) FY16

Exhibiting at an INTERNATIONAL trade show taking place in the U.S. between July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016. *(Two changes to the program this year: 1. There is a maximum of two times you can receive a grant for the same trade show. 2. A show must be determined to be eligible (There is a list of shows that have already been determined as eligible. You can submit the necessary information to have an event added to the list.)*

Each qualified company may receive up to three grants in a funding period (combination of ETAP & DTAP) and each grant is up to a maximum of \$4,000. Remember, you must apply AT LEAST 30 days PRIOR to the event taking place.

More information is available at: <http://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/InternationalAssistance/ETAP>

- Instructions on the page with .pdf documents including screen shots
- At the bottom under Resources, the International Trade Assistance program fact sheet, a list of some of the eligible DTAP events, along with the additional support forms needed to apply.

Please contact Lisa Longman, Program Coordinator, with any questions at lisa.longman@iowa.gov or 515-725-3139.

SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION

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Monthly Newsletter

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This message was sent to you as a benefit of membership with IowaBio and/or a subscriber of our monthly newsletter. If you know of a company that would benefit from the Association's advocacy, financial savings and education/workforce focus, please have them contact the Association at 515-327-9156 or email info@iowabio.org. Membership details are also available at www.iowabio.org/membership.

If you would like more information on any topic or no longer wish to receive these messages, please email melissa@iowabio.org or call 515-494-9242.

Capitol Report

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IowaBio began issuing a Capitol Report in February 2015. It is a legislative update issued on a periodic basis and allows readers to learn more about our legislative activities and bills that may affect the biotechnology industry. If you would like to receive these reports by email, please visit www.iowabio.org/capitolreport - a link to subscribe and view archives is available on this page.

SPEAKER OPPORTUNITIES

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IowaBio staff members are available to give 15-60 minute speeches to interested groups, such as Rotary Clubs, trade associations, or civic groups. A broad range of topics could be discussed, included biotechnology, healthcare, food vs. fuel, legislative policy, investment and more. Contact Joe Hrdlicka at (515) 327-9156 or joe@iowabio.org.