

## Alabama Innovation Fund 2015 Awards

As part of the implementation of “Accelerate Alabama,” the State of Alabama created the Alabama Innovation Fund. The purpose of the fund is to maximize the use of the State’s economic development resources by leveraging annual research and development expenditures by Public Institutions of Higher Education to generate resources which can be used to support economic development activities. The Alabama Innovation Fund shall support and operate two distinct programs: (i) The Renewal Program: and (ii) The Research Program. The budget available for the initial disbursement was \$4M.

During the first round of AIF funding, the Alabama EPSCoR Program assisted the Alabama Department of Commerce in the management of the peer review process by providing \$3,920K in funding. At that time, sixty (60%) percent, or \$2,352K of the funding supported the Renewal Program while forty percent (40%) supported the Research Program. In 2015, the Alabama EPSCoR Program again assisted the Alabama Department of Commerce in the peer-review selection process, proposals were due in early August with the review panel meeting later that month. The program is now funding fourteen projects at six institutions across Alabama ranging from automotive metallurgy in the manufacture of engine blocks to the design of a treadmill for those with disabilities. This program hopes to advance products “Made in Alabama,” while expanding the state’s research enterprise.

PI	Org	Type	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Title
Jeffrey Suhling	AU	Renewal	\$400,646	\$400,646	Developing a High Performance Integrated Building Energy Systems Technologies (HPI-BEST) Research Program at AU Probiotic and Vaccine Development to Benefit the AL Catfish Industry
Mark Liles	AU	Research	\$250,000	\$250,000	
Brian Jordan	UA	Renewal	\$200,000	\$200,000	Friction Stir Welding System
Luke Brewer	UA	Research	\$181,480	\$181,480	High Performance and Reliability of Al-Si-Cu Alloys for Automotive Engine Block Production in AL
Curtis Carver	UAB	Renewal	\$500,000	\$500,000	PetaByte Storage Array for UAB Research
Jay Zhang	UAB	Renewal	\$500,000	\$500,000	Appointment of Dr. Jianyi "Jay" Zhang for Cardiovascular Research, Commercialization, and Economic Development
Dean Sicking	UAB	Research	\$250,000	\$250,000	Development of a W-Beam Guardrail Terminal
Yogesh Vohra	UAB	Research	\$250,000	\$250,000	Enabling Diamond-Based High Tech Industry in AL
Kannan Grant	UAH	Renewal	\$500,000	\$500,000	Support for the UAH Invention to Innovation Center
Phil Ligrani	UAH	Research	\$249,810	\$249,810	Development of the UAH TS/SS/WT (Transonic/Supersonic/Windtunnel) for Advanced Aerospace and Aeropropulsion Research
K.T. Hsiao	USA	Renewal	\$253,635	\$253,635	Expansion of Research Core for Next Generation Composite Materials Manufacturing
M. Alam	USA	Research	\$250,000	\$250,000	Nephele: A Cloud Computing, Data Storage and Network Management System
A. Mackiewicz	Hudson Alpha	Renewal	\$500,000	\$500,000	Bioinformatics Program at HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology
R. Hergenrother	SRI	Research	\$164,800	\$164,800	Force-Induced Treadmill

**Total AIF Expenditures            \$4,450,371**