

ALABAMA EPSCOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACCELERATE ALABAMA 2.0

In 2009 the Alabama Research Alliance sponsored the development of the Alabama Science and Technology Roadmap (2009 Roadmap). The update of that Science and Technology (S&T) Plan described in this document will be incorporated into Accelerate Alabama 2.0 to address support for statewide Renewal of industry through the growth of innovation and research and development activities that are directly related to the expertise and strength of the Alabama's universities and laboratories. This document identifies areas of research expertise across Alabama and maps these expertise areas to targeted industry clusters in the State. We anticipate that these resources will help describe a pathway for utilizing the skills and resources at Alabama's universities and private and public laboratories to achieve the goals of Accelerate Alabama 2.0.

This S&T Resource Plan for Renewal is designed to i) identify current technology expertise and planned focus areas in S&T resident at Alabama universities and institutes as well as map this expertise to potential industry sectors; ii) make recommendations for enhancing and expanding Alabama's infrastructure and list resources needed to "Accelerate Alabama" and ensure that the state is nationally and internationally competitive; iii) and provide Point of Contact information for each Alabama research university, Southern Research and HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology (HudsonAlpha).

The recommendations are:

- Recommendation #1: Increase level of funding for the Alabama Innovation Fund to \$20 million annually and ensure that funds are distributed competitively in support of R&D that enhances Alabama's economic growth.
- Recommendation #2: The Alabama Department of Commerce should charge a Statewide Standing Committee with implementing the Renewal component of Accelerate Alabama. This Committee would include the Vice Presidents for Research and Economic Development at Alabama universities, Southern Research (SR) and HudsonAlpha, representatives from the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama Foundation, and individuals from industry and government appointed by the Alabama Secretary of Commerce.
- Recommendation #3: Organize a Renewal conference in a major manufacturing region of Alabama to synergize and expand university/industry collaborations. The conference proceedings would lay the foundation for a strategic roadmap for future collaborations and provide a vehicle for communication between industries, universities, and laboratories.