



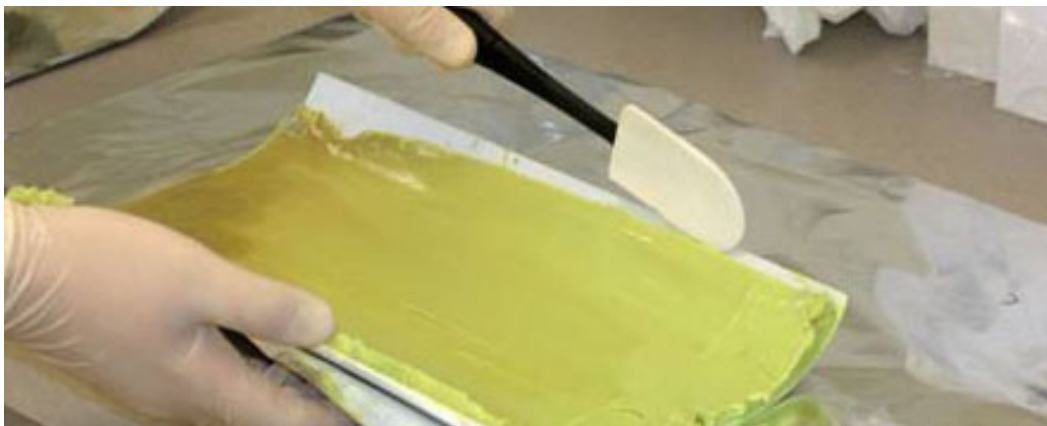
UNIVERSITY OF  
NEBRASKA

# TECHLINK

## TECHNOLOGY PARK

4TH QUARTER 2010

## Nature Tech receives DHHS grant for vector platform



DNA vectors are thought to be safer than viral vectors. Nature Technology has been working to develop quality non-viral vectors for use in DNA vaccination and gene therapy. DNA vectors are manufactured by E. coli cells which are harvested from the fermentor by centrifugation. The Teflon pallet (above) contains approximately one trillion cells, equivalent to a quadrillion plasmid DNA molecules

Nature Technology Corporation (NTC) was awarded \$244,479.25 in grant funding from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Internal Revenue Service through the Qualifying Therapeutic Discovery Project for its non-viral gene therapy/vaccination vector platform. Thirty-two companies received a total of more than \$17 million through the IRS program, which provides tax credits or grants for the tax years 2009 and 2010.

According to the IRS website, projects submitted for consideration had to “show reasonable potential to result in new therapies to treat areas of unmet medical need; prevent, detect, or treat chronic or acute disease and conditions; reduce long-term healthcare costs in the United States; or significantly advance the goal of curing cancer within a 30-year period.” Those projects that would create

quality jobs in the United States were also given preferential consideration. Award recipients were selected by the Treasury Department and the Department of Health and Human Services.

NTC’s non-viral gene therapy/vaccination vector platform aims to create a safe and effective vector that can be used for DNA vaccination and in therapeutic applications. A vector is an agent that transfers genetic material from one cell to another. Vectors are primarily derived from viruses. There are concerns, however, about the ability to control and ensure the safety of such vectors. NTC is working to develop effective non-viral vectors created instead from DNA plasmids.

“This funding allows us to complete the development of the technology, which has

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SBIR/STTR Phase 0 RFP and Application Available **page 2**

NBDC receives FAST award for 2011 fiscal year **page 2**

Dell receives LEED Silver certification **page 3**

Invest Nebraska: upcoming New Venture Competitions **page 3**

Tech Park grad MetaLogic a finalist in educational software competition **page 4**

University of Nebraska Technology Park 2010 highlights **page 5**

Neogen named to Forbes Best Small Companies list **page 5**

Meet the Interns **page 6**

### TECHNOLOGY PARK MISSION:

- To promote synergy among the Technology Park companies

- Facilitate technology transfer

- Facilitate collaboration between the private sector via university and research of technology-based products or services

**The results are intended to foster economic development and new jobs for the state of Nebraska.**

applications across diverse fields of human genetic medicine,” said NTC founder Clague Hodgson.

The Qualifying Therapeutic Discovery Project was created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. A total of \$1 billion is allocated to the project. The credits and grants are only available to companies with fewer than 250 employees. A complete list of awards can be found on the IRS website.

Jim Williams, Ph. D. is the principle investigator in charge of the grant.

## SBIR/STTR Phase 0 RFP and Application Available

Nebraska Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase 0 RFP and Application forms are now available on the Nebraska Business Development Center’s website.

Phase 0 grants can provide funding up to \$2,500, and are

now available to small businesses with new innovative ideas who want to qualify for the SBIR or STTR program.

Funding is used for direct costs associated with strategizing, drafting or reviewing an SBIR or STTR proposal. More information is available online at [nbdc.unomaha.edu/SBIR](http://nbdc.unomaha.edu/SBIR).

# NBDC receives FAST award for 2011 fiscal year

The Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) recently became one of 20 state recipients of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Federal and State Technology Partnership (FAST) Program award. The award is for the amount of \$100,000 in the federal fiscal year 2011, which NBDC Program Manager Lisa Tedesco says will help NBDC strengthen the technological competitiveness of Nebraska’s small businesses and entrepreneurs.

The FAST program aims to assist in the expansion and growth of research and development in science and technology. Congress has found wide variety among state programs that foster the development of small high-technology firms in the United States. The FAST

program, which is administered by the SBA’s Office of Technology, is designed to improve the participation of small technology firms in the development and commercialization of new technology in order to ensure the United States remains competitive in science and technology.

Only one organization from each state could apply for the FAST award. Applying organizations had to receive endorsement from the state’s governor as the sole recipient of the funding. The application also included addressing current unmet needs, measured demonstration of need, program objectives and a plan for implementation, and performance indicators and goals for the award year. NBDC’s award will run from October 2010 through September 2011.

NBDC plans to use the funds

to expand its outreach, technical and financial assistance to small businesses and start ups who are interested in pursuing the Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) program.

“We plan to provide technical and some financial assistance to companies with new ideas with a focus on disadvantaged businesses that show the most need,” Tedesco said. “Some entrepreneurs and small businesses just need a little extra resource to get their ideas off the ground. Ultimately, the NBDC wants to create tech jobs and businesses in Nebraska that stay in Nebraska. This seed funding will help that cause.”



# Dell receives LEED Silver certification

LEED is a green building certification system, developed by the the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), that provides building owners and operators with a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions. It measures factors like energy use, water efficiency, building design, waste management, indoor environmental quality and others. Buildings earn points in each category. Dell Services has received silver certification for its facility at the University of Nebraska Technology Park, now the largest private sector LEED certified building in Nebraska.

## Invest Nebraska: upcoming New Venture Competitions

### **York Venture Competition**

December 2, 2010

York College

York, Nebraska

### **Southeast Nebraska Venture Competition**

February 2011

Peru State College

Peru, Nebraska

### **Northeast Nebraska Venture Competition**

March 2011

Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Nebraska Community College

Norfolk, Nebraska



# Tech Park grad MetaLogic a finalist in educational software competition

MetaLogic, Inc., a software and data management company based in Lincoln, was a finalist in the Innovator Incubator Competition with seven other companies at the Software & Information Industry Association's Educational Technology Business Forum at the end of November in New York City.

MetaLogic Founder and CEO Sara Moshman said she showcased a new active-learning tool that helps students improve their research skills and will enable anyone, from students to researchers, to quickly create their own online collaborative data collection and reporting projects.

An example is a soybean project that is being piloted at Maxey Elementary School, with plans for state and regional expansion in time, Moshman said.

Using this tool, the project managers, can easily set up online databases that students will use to enter data from various soybean research projects, Moshman said in an e-mail. The project managers include Jon Pedersen, professor of science education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Tiffany Hengmoss, professor of entomology, and teachers at Maxey elementary.

"Students and teachers

can access the data in real time, charting and reporting and working to draw various conclusions from the projects," Mossman said. "Aggregated data will be available as well to the university researchers. The tool also enables students to design their own research questions, gather their own data and draw their own conclusions. In summary, it's a tool that enables anyone to set up collaborative data collection and reporting projects, which build both reasoning and research skills."

Moshman said she believes the new software will change the way educational teams work together. It will be available in late Spring 2011, and provides easy-to-use interfaces that connect to MetaLogic's advanced information system, MetaCat, enabling real-time content and database creation and management by non-technical business and education teams.

MetaLogic offers advanced solutions for collaborative content on demand. It also offers special applications for education that include comprehensive instruction and assessment management systems integrated with online testing and real-time reporting systems.

Its clients include the

Council of Chief State School Officers and a dozen state departments of education. MetaLogic is a graduate of the University of Nebraska Technology Park's business incubator program. Moshman and Lonnie Fulton, senior software engineer, are both graduates of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln department of computer science and engineering.

The company office is located at 122 N. 11th Street.



# University of Nebraska Technology Park 2010 highlights



## New Companies

- AIM Institute
- Digital Connections, Inc.

## Expanding Companies

- Cabela's
- Dell Services
- Eide Consulting Group
- Geneseek, A Neogen Company
- Verizon Wireless

## Awards/Milestones

- Dell Services: LEED Silver Certification for facilities
- GeneSeek, Inc. acquired by Neogen
- Neogen Named to Forbes 100 Best Small Companies
- Nature Technology Qualifying Therapeutic Discovery Project Grant

## Technology Park Overview

- 19 companies/organizations
- 2,477 employees
- \$89 million annual payroll (est.)
- \$82 million accumulative investment (est.)
- 407,450 sq. ft. of completed office, laboratory and engineering space
- Vacancy rate < 1%

## Neogen named to Forbes' Best Small Companies list

Neogen Corporation, owner of Geneseek, has been listed on Forbes' annual list of the Best Small Companies in America, published in October. Neogen was 74th on the list.

According to an Oct. 21 *Lincoln Journal Star* article, to qualify for the list candidates must have been publicly traded for a minimum of a year, have annual revenue between \$5 million and \$1 billion, and have a stock price no lower than \$5 per share. The final rankings were based on earnings and sales growth and return on equity for the past year and over five years.

Neogen develops and markets products geared toward food and animal safety. It acquired GeneSeek, based at the University of Nebraska Technology Park, in April.





**CONTACT  
INFORMATION**

4701 Innovation Dr.  
Lincoln, NE 68521

**Phone:**

402-472-4200

**Fax:**

402-472-4203

**Steve Frayser,**

President

**Phone:**

402-472-4179

sfrayser@

nufoundation.org

**Jackie Swanson,**

Operations manager

**Phone:**

402-472-4213

jswanson@

nufoundation.org

**Ashley Steffensmeier**

Accounting intern

asteffensmeier@

nufoundation.org



# Meet the Interns



**Ashley Steffensmeier**

Accounting Intern

Ashley Steffensmeier, from Norfolk, Neb., is a senior accounting major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She will graduate in May 2011 and hopes to become a CPA. She is a member of Women in Business through the College of Business Administration at UNL. Steffensmeier is responsible for all accounting business, including creating monthly invoices, coding and keeping track of vendor bills, recording payments and creating budgets.