Research Funding for Technology Product Development

The Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) program provides funding for research projects connecting Maryland companies with university faculty to develop technology-based products.

Through MIPS, companies have created revolutionary technologies, including MedImmune’s Synagis® drug, which prevents a prevalent respiratory disease in premature infants, Black & Decker’s ultra-efficient masonry drill bits, and Martek Bioscience’s top-selling nutritional additive for a variety of foods. MIPS projects have also helped companies solve pivotal technical challenges.

Since 1987, MIPS has connected more than 400 companies in Maryland with faculty in the University System of Maryland to develop products in the fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology, engineering, computer science, information technology, homeland security, defense, and energy.

Who is Eligible

- Any company with operations in Maryland developing a technology-based product
- Faculty from any of the University System of Maryland’s 13 institutions

MIPS staff can match university faculty with companies.
“MIPS helped develop not just a new product, but a new industry... Over time, we’ve probably generated within the state of Maryland, a large share of our revenue. Several billion of that can be directly credited to work done through MIPS. We employ 1,500 people here in the state. Many of them are working on businesses related to this technology.”

— JOHN KENYON, SENIOR VP FOR ENGINEERING, HUGHES COMMUNICATIONS

Benefits to Maryland Companies

• Cost-effective, world-class research
• Access to subject-matter experts (faculty and students), as well as state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and equipment
• Efficient transfer of technology from university to companies
• Opportunity to work with students—potential future hires

Benefits to Maryland Faculty

• Research leads directly to new product development
• Potential for published papers and improved university facilities
• Students gain valuable experience working on commercial technologies
• Rapid proposal evaluations—MIPS notifies award winners within 60 days of the proposal deadline

Benefits to the Maryland Economy

• Successful commercial products developed through MIPS make Maryland companies stronger, creating jobs and increasing the State’s tax base.
• A vibrant economy raises the State’s reputation as a technology hotbed and enhances its attractiveness to outside companies.

How to Apply

• MIPS applications are due in May and October. Project awards are made twice yearly.
• MIPS recommends applicants meet with MIPS staff before writing a proposal, even if both the company and faculty member are familiar with the MIPS program. Staff members can play important roles in helping participants submit winning applications.
• Contact the MIPS office at (301) 405-3891 for access to MIPS’ online application system.
  • Visit www.mips.umd.edu for more information.

HOW MIPS WORKS

• MIPS contributes up to $100,000 to each project per year.
• Projects can be funded for one or two years.
• Participating companies are required to match a percentage of MIPS funding based upon company size.
• Both MIPS and company contributions fund the university research.

SELECTION CRITERIA

• Potential economic benefits to the company and the State
• Feasibility and quality of the technical proposal
• Soundness of the company’s business plan (start-ups only)

MIPS IMPACT:

• $14.4 billion: sales and revenue for the four top-selling commercial products potentiated by MIPS research

MIPS WAS FOUNDED IN 1987.