



NASA Collaboration with DBED Brings High-Tech Companies to Maryland



A collaborative agreement between NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) has been established to attract high-tech companies to the state as well as to foster growth of new technology start-up companies with skills specific to NASA's technology needs.

Benefits of Technology Transfer

- The agreement will help support numerous NASA missions by encouraging the establishment and growth of companies with complementary skills.
- The agreement will aid DBED in stimulating local economic growth by collaborating with Goddard to demonstrate educational, financial, and business resources that technology companies require.
- The agreement will enable Goddard to leverage local technical labor and education resources, helping to strengthen its strategic technical advantage.

On the Record

“DBED can help us find scientists in industry that may help us further our missions. And at the same time, by demonstrating the need for those researchers in Maryland, we can help DBED meet some of its economic milestones.” - *Nona Cheeks, Chief, GSFC Innovative Partnerships Program (IPP)*

“The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center is a critical component of Maryland’s internationally recognized technology and space-based industry. The increased partnership between the state and NASA provides Governor Ehrlich with another tool to sell Maryland in the global marketplace. This agreement will help to ensure that NASA and the Goddard Space Flight Center will continue to be one of the state’s most important scientific, technological and economic partners.” - *Chris Foster, DBED Deputy Secretary*

About Maryland’s Department of Business and Economic Development

DBED was established to attract new businesses, stimulate private investment, create jobs, encourage expansion and retention of existing companies, and provide workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland businesses. DBED promotes Maryland as an economic leader by publicizing its positive business climate and outstanding quality of life. For more information about DBED, visit www.choosemaryland.org.

The Partnership Process

NASA Goddard and DBED have a long history of collaboratively fostering the growth of technology companies in Maryland. In Fall 2005, Goddard researchers approached DBED representatives about participating in a nanotechnology conference to help foster collaboration with other local technology laboratories. In discussing a potential agreement, the two organizations decided that a broader agreement could help bring more technology companies to the state while helping to serve NASA’s missions. These discussions led to a formal Memorandum of Understanding, signed in January 2006.

Looking Ahead

As part of the agreement, Goddard and DBED will collaboratively develop outreach programs, workshops, and other meetings related to Goddard’s technology needs, with the goal of attracting to Maryland companies that have the expertise Goddard needs for future NASA missions. The agreement also focuses on guiding local universities in creating curricula that will foster technological growth. GSFC will also provide DBED with information related to its facilities and technological expertise that will be of interest to technology companies. In turn, DBED will facilitate collaboration between Goddard researchers and regional labs, as well as academic and business organizations, to develop joint technology ventures.

For More Information

If you would like additional information about Goddard’s technology transfer opportunities, please contact:

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