



Brad Little, Governor  
Tom Kealey, Director

**IGEM Investment Subcommittee (ISC) Meeting**

October 30, 2023  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
Clearwater Conference Room

<b>IGEM ISC Members:</b>	<b>Idaho Commerce Staff:</b>
Paul Judge - Lead	Jeremy Chase, Marketing and Innovation Administrator
Tom Kealey	Carmen Achabal, IGEM Program Manager
Janine Rush-Byers	Cathy Perry, Grants Analyst
Juan Carlos Duque	
Dr. Howard Grimes	
Damond Watkins	<b>Members of the public</b>
	None

**Call to Order**

Paul Judge called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. The teleconference information was published in the public domain. Idaho Commerce Director Tom Kealey and Marketing and Innovation Administrator Jeremy Chase, both were physically present in the Clearwater Conference room.

Six members of ISC present. Quorum met.

**Action Item: Approval of Minutes**

**Motion: To approve the minutes from the IGEM Investment Subcommittee meeting on 05-03-2023.**

**Moved:** Juan Carlos Duque

**Seconded:** Tom Kealey

All in favor, no discussion.

**Motion approved.**

**Grant Award Review and Discussion**

Carmen informed the Investment Subcommittee (ISC) that there was no proprietary information submitted with APP 6195. Due to this, the agenda was amended for expediency. In numerical order, the ISC reviewed each individual application and then rendered its recommendation.

**Application Discussion and Recommendations**

**BSU APP #6194 – Machine Learning Based GIS Tool for Real-Time Grid Resilience Monitoring and Threat Mitigation**

**Motion: Do not advance application to the IGEM Council for funding consideration**

**Moved:** Tom Kealey

**Seconded:** Damond Watkins

All in favor, no discussion.

**Motion approved.**

**BSU APP #6195 – Digital Twin Modeling for AI Control of Aquifer Pumped Hydro Units**

**Motion: Do not advance application to the IGEM Council for funding consideration**

**Moved:** Tom Kealey

**Seconded:** Damond Watkins

All in favor, no discussion.

**Motion approved.**

**UI APP #6199 – Pioneering Solution for Improving Cementitious Materials Performance**

**Motion: Do not advance application to the IGEM Council for funding**

**Moved:** Juan Carlos Duque

**Seconded:** Damond Watkins

All in favor, no discussion.

**Motion approved.**

**UI APP #6200 – High-Flow Collimated Beam, Megasonic Acoustic Reactor Filter Technology (MARF) for Integrated Struvite Fertilizer Sonochemical Synthesis and Acoustophoretic Filtration in Idaho Dairy Wastewaters**

**Motion: Do not advance application to the IGEM Council for funding**

**Moved:** Janine Rush-Byers

**Seconded:** Tom Kealey

All in favor, no discussion.

**Motion approved.**

**UI APP #6203 – Sure Squat Textile Exoskeleton Designed to Improve Proper Lifting Mechanics**

**Motion: Do not advance application to the IGEM Council for funding**

**Moved:** Juan Carlos Duque

**Seconded:** Tom Kealey

All in favor, no discussion.

**Motion approved.**

**Public Comments:**

Carmen thanked Paul Judge for leading this ISC meeting. Rick Stott who served as the ISC Chair has been appointed to serve as the IGEM Council Chair. Shawn Keough has been appointed to the IGEM Council as the State Board of Education representative. Shawn served as a state senator (from the Sandpoint area), where she co-chaired the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. We are still awaiting appointment of a new Council member to serve in the “industry at large” position. We are also awaiting a new appointment to the ISC. The next IGEM Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 2:30 pm.

Carmen provided an update on IGEM industry partners and ties to the IGEM program.

- Doug Sayer, along with his wife Shelly Sayer will be honored and inducted into the Idaho Technology Council’s Hall of Fame for their work in helping other industries to grow and thrive. Doug served as the inaugural Chairman of the IGEM Council.
- Hempitecture and Pitch Aeronautics, both IGEM grant industry partners, were named finalists in the Idaho Technology Council’s Idavation Awards. HempWool Thermal Insulation manufactured by Hempitecture, is a plant-based insulation product for walls, floors and ceilings. HempWool is nominated for the Peregrine Innovative Technology award, which showcases an innovative technology that has been launched successfully. Pitch Aeronautics produces a unique drone “Astria” for installations, maintenance and up-close inspections. They are nominated for the Hells Canyon Award, which is granted to a company that has experienced a daunting journey to achieve success.

- Aigen, a Seattle-based startup, has secured \$12 million in funding to further develop and launch its solar-powered robot for weed control. Aigen, who partnered with the University of Idaho on their IGEM grant, unveiled the Aigen Element, that is equipped with two robotic arms that are capable of removing unwanted plants from farms. Unlike other agricultural robots, the Aigen Element can operate continuously for up to 14 hours without needing to be plugged in.
- Inergy, provider of the world's most adaptable and easy-to-use renewable energy storage solutions, launched an Equity Crowdfunding Campaign. To date, it has raised \$487K.
- Inergy also announced it has been selected by xTechSBIR CleanTech for a SBIR Phase II award valued over \$1.7 million focused on the Flex P3,ä Solar Generator to investigate its potential to fill capability gaps in the U.S. Army. The xTechSBIR Clean Tech competition is sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology).
- Free to Feed was awarded a quarter of a million-dollar National Science Foundation grant to bring the first at-home breast milk allergen test kits to market in the US. This grant will allow Free to Feed to advance their work in real-time allergen detection technology for dietary proteins transferred to human milk. The allergen test kit will empower parents to experience a faster and more efficient journey to identify their infants' food allergy triggers and resolve their infants' symptoms at the root cause.
- EDA Announced 31 Tech Hubs Across Country – Idaho is a Part of Two Tech Hub Designations  
The Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced the designation of 31 Tech Hubs in regions across the country. This is the first phase of the new Tech Hubs program, which is an economic development initiative designed to drive regional innovation and job creation by strengthening a region's capacity to manufacture, commercialize, and deploy technology that will advance American competitiveness.

The Intermountain West Nuclear Energy Corridor (INEC), has been awarded a \$500,000 grant as one of 31 designated Tech Hubs out of over 400 applicants in the U.S. to help the organization prepare an application package for a larger award designed to further the nation's deployment of advanced nuclear technologies. The EDA Tech Hub Strategy Development Grant will enable the Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium (IAEC) to facilitate necessary studies, preliminary work, and collaboration across the Intermountain West to prepare for the Phase 2 EDA Tech Hub Application process. If successful, the INEC could be one of 10 Tech Hubs chosen out of the designated 31 Tech Hubs who received the initial Development Grant, to be awarded up to \$75 million to carry out the mission of the INEC Tech Hub and jump start the nation's global competitiveness in advanced reactor deployment in the next decade. The INEC is the only nuclear focused Tech Hub to receive the Development Grant and is the only Tech Hub in the Intermountain West in the Nuclear Energy Industry.

Likewise, the American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center (AAMMC) project in the Spokane - Coeur d'Alene region has been designated as a Regional Technology Hub by the EDA. Receiving phase one designation means this project is eligible for phase 2 awards of \$50-\$75 million. The Phase one of the competition designated tech hubs in regions across the country based on consortium proposals that bring together industry, higher education institutions, state and local governments, economic development organizations, and labor

and workforce partners to supercharge ecosystems of innovation for technologies that are essential to our economic and national security.

**Action Items:** None

**Action item: Adjournment**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting**

**Moved:** Tom Kealey

**Seconded:** Dr. Howard Grimes

All in favor, no discussion.

**Motion approved.**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.**

DRAFT