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June 11, 2025

Mr. Charlie Smithson
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Ms. Meghan Nelson
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Tim McDermott, Director
Legislative Services Agency
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Members of the Iowa General Assembly:

Pursuant to [HF2564 §16](#), attached is the annual report prepared by Iowa State University's Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS). This report updates the legislature on the status of the Technology Assistance Program (TAP), its efforts, and a summary of the Industrial Incentive Program (IIP)'s activities.

If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Braun

FY24 Progress Report on the CIRAS Technology Assistance Program

Per the code of Iowa, Iowa State University's Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) is to provide an annual report to the legislature on the status of the Technology Assistance Program (TAP), which is to include information on the Industrial Incentive Program (IIP). Specifically, ISU must "report annually to the joint appropriations subcommittee on economic development and to the legislative services agency the total amount of private contributions, the proportion of contributions from small businesses and other businesses, and the proportion for directed contract research and non-directed research of benefit to Iowa businesses and industrial sectors." This report highlights the CIRAS/TAP efforts, including a summary of IIP activities.

There are three components to the CIRAS/TAP program: directed applied research with individual Iowa companies (IIP), non-directed applied research for the good of industry clusters in Iowa, and technical assistance to individual Iowa companies. The results of each component are provided below.

Background

Iowa State University's Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) has been helping businesses and their communities prosper and grow since 1963. The CIRAS mission is to improve the quality of life in Iowa by enhancing industry performance through applied research, education, technical assistance, and collaboration. CIRAS does this by working across the state to share its expertise in leadership, growth, productivity, technology, and workforce.

In 2024, more than 1,700 businesses from all 99 Iowa counties received assistance on projects or attended educational workshops from CIRAS staff or partners. Companies responding to surveys reported a total economic impact of over \$291 million.

The CIRAS Technology Assistance Program, funded by the Iowa Legislature through the Economic Development Appropriations Bill, serves as the primary platform for CIRAS to deliver technology services to Iowa businesses. Details of the impact of CIRAS's technology work with Iowa businesses are detailed below.

CIRAS/TAP: Industrial Incentive Program

The goal of the TAP IIP effort is to help companies incorporate technology improvements into their company through applied research projects with ISU faculty and staff. Highlights are detailed below.

- Four new directed research projects were initiated.
 - Three projects (75% of the total) were with a small company (20 or fewer employees).
 - One project (25%) was with a larger company.
- Four research projects were completed.
- Five research projects remain active and have been carried forward into FY25.
- Companies invested \$190,628 in research projects. These funds were matched with \$124,002 of TAP-IIP funding.

CIRAS/TAP: Non-directed Applied Research

The goal of the TAP Non-directed Applied Research effort is to support faculty-led research at ISU centers that meet two criteria:

1. The center must have a mission aligned with the State of Iowa's economic development roadmap.
2. The center must be partially funded by Iowa industry to investigate near-term technology issues of importance to industry.

CIRAS/TAP funding was used to help support the ISU Polymer and Food Protection Consortium, which has 8 distinct Iowa company members.

CIRAS/TAP: Technical Assistance

The goal of the TAP Technical Assistance effort is to connect Iowa companies to a variety of technologies, including materials, Industry 4.0, and nondestructive evaluation.

Our event delivery model was approximately 50% virtual to lower barriers for smaller companies throughout the state to gain insights on technologies and technological developments. We plan to maintain it going forward.

Technical assistance for Iowa companies continues to be a major part of the program. Highlights are detailed below.

- 24 events were held with a total of 554 attendees from various companies.
- 203 projects were completed.
- 24 counseling sessions were conducted.

Summary

The Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) began managing the TAP program in July 2014. Since then, the impact of the program has increased substantially. The CIRAS/TAP program is the primary vehicle for CIRAS to deliver technology services to Iowa businesses.

The aggregated impact from all three CIRAS/TAP program areas are detailed below.

- There were 410 distinct companies served.
- These companies resided in 88 different Iowa counties. See Figure 1.
- Total reported impacts were:
 - \$212 million from new investments, new or retained sales, and savings or avoided costs; and
 - 1,332 jobs created or retained.
- Impacts continue to be tenfold greater since the TAP program administration was moved to CIRAS.

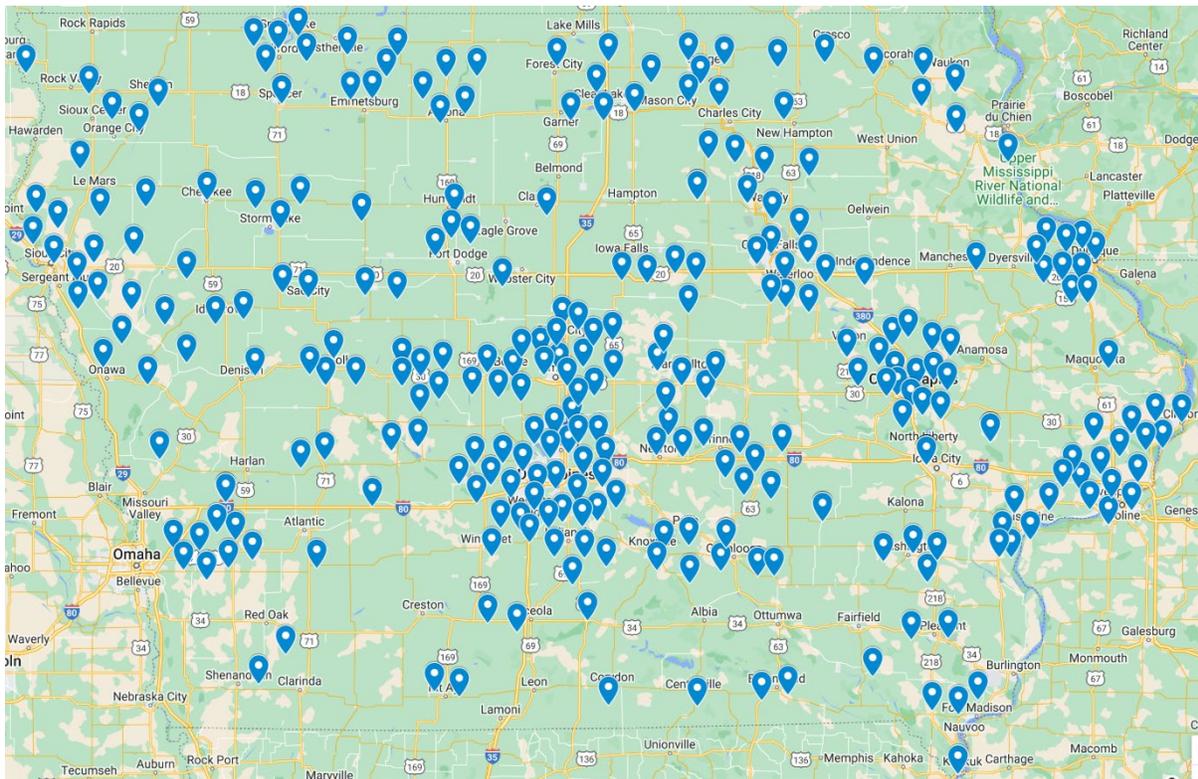


Figure 1: Approximate locations of companies receiving CIRAS/TAP assistance in FY24.

The CIRAS/TAP financials are included in Appendix A. A log of active, directed contract research projects is included in Appendix B.

FY24 program results were enhanced by integrating additional cost-effective and easy-to-adopt technologies within our Digital Manufacturing Lab. Companies significantly benefited from the opportunity to pilot these technologies in their operations, reducing the risk associated with adoption. The Lab was established in 2019 with funding from federal (Manufacturing Extension Partnership - MEP), state (IEDA and TAP), and company support (Alliant Energy). This Lab continues to be sustained through ongoing contributions from TAP, Alliant Energy, and various company project fees.

FY25 focus will remain on workforce issues and improving company process efficiencies and we expect to grow the Digital Lab footprint to expand our support options with technology. Many of these technologies will come from industry-leading companies as they join our growing list of Lab Technology Partners. In addition, we will continue to leverage the expanding CIRAS resources to provide a greater range of services to Iowa companies.

The CIRAS Technology Assistance Program will continue to improve processes, leverage state funds with aligned federal programs, and expand outreach across the state. For each \$10,000 of investment in the CIRAS TAP program by the Iowa Legislature, companies reported:

- More than 9 Iowa jobs; and
- Over \$1,500,000 in Iowa company investments, revenue, and savings.



Chris Hill
Director, CIRAS Technology Assistance Program

Appendix A: CIRAS/TAP FY24 Revenue and Expenses

		FY24
Carryforward*		
	Previous FY Carryforward (directed contract research - PG101364)	\$6,682
	Previous FY Carryforward (company grants)	\$196,594
	Obligations Committed from prior year	\$91,532
	TOTAL CFW	\$294,808
Revenue		
	State appropriation	\$1,365,602
	Company Fees (Directed Contract Research)	\$271,569
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,637,171
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$1,931,979
Expenses		
	Nondirected research - Centers	\$25,000
	Nondirected research - Faculty grants	\$0
	Sub-total	\$25,000
	Directed Contract Research (IIP)	\$114,881
	Directed Contract Research (Company)	\$231,231
	Sub-total	\$346,112
	Technical Assistance - CNDE	\$130,230
	Technical Assistance - Materials	\$170,232
	Technical Assistance - CIRAS Engineering	\$706,780
	Technical Assistance - ISU Faculty/staff	\$191,502
	Technical Assistance - Digital Lab	\$44,361
	Sub-total	\$1,243,106
	Equipment	\$812
	Administration	\$159,678
	Sub-total	\$160,490
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,774,708
Carryforward*		
	TOTAL CFW	\$157,271
* Predominantly carryforward funding for ongoing Directed Contract Research projects		

Appendix B: CIRAS/TAP FY24 Active Project Log - Directed Contract Research

FY23 CIRAS Technology Assistance Program			
<i>Company</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Industry Funding</i>	<i>CIRAS/TAP-IIP Funding</i>
VRSim INC.*	Closed FY24	\$20,365	\$20,365
SUKUP MANUFACTURING COMPANY	Closed FY24	\$75,000	\$50,000
INSTA-PRO INTERNATIONAL	Closed FY24	\$41,964	\$41,965
TRITON INCORPORATED*	Closed FY24	\$39,338	\$39,338
RENOVO MEDIA GROUP*	Active	\$80,939	\$25,000
<i>CIRAS/TAP Directed Research New Funding Total</i>		\$257,606	\$176,668

FY24 CIRAS Technology Assistance Program			
<i>Company</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Industry Funding</i>	<i>CIRAS/TAP-IIP Funding</i>
VRSim INC.*	Active	\$27,342	\$27,342
PANTHERA VAX*	Active	\$21,968	\$21,968
RENOVO MEDIA GROUP*	Active	\$91,626	\$25,000
KENT CORPORATION	Active	\$49,692	\$49,692
<i>CIRAS/TAP Directed Research New Funding Total</i>		\$190,628	\$124,002
* Small company (20 or fewer employees)			