

# IOWA Department of REVENUE

## Research Activities Tax Credit Annual Report For the Period January 1 – December 31, 2012

### Reporting Requirements

Iowa Code sections 422.10(b) and 422.33(5)(h) require the Iowa Department of Revenue to produce an annual report on individuals and corporations that claim the Iowa Research Activities Tax Credit. This report considers claims filed during calendar year 2012.

By law the Department must report:

- The total amount of Research Activities Tax Credit claims.
- The total amount of Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit claims.
- The total amount of Research Activities Tax Credit claims paid as refunds.
- The amounts of Research Activities Tax Credits claimed against corporate income tax and against individual income tax.
- The names and the amounts claimed by taxpayers that claimed in excess of \$500,000 of Research Activities Tax Credits.

### Tax Credit Eligibility

To qualify for the Iowa Research Activities Tax Credit, businesses must conduct research in Iowa that is:

- Experimental;
- Undertaken to discover information that is technological in nature; and
- Aimed at the development of a new product.

Qualified research expenditures include expenses incurred in Iowa on:

- Wages;
- The cost of supplies;
- The rental or lease cost of personal property; and
- Contract expenses.

The research credit is an incremental credit, which means only research expenditures that exceed a base amount are eligible for the credit. In addition to the Research Activities Tax Credit, companies can also be awarded the Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit by the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

### Research Activities Tax Credit

The regular Research Activities Tax Credit equals 6.5 percent of qualified research expenditures that exceed the larger of a base amount or 50 percent of current year expenditures.

For example, consider a company with a base research amount of \$5 million which conducts \$10 million in qualified research in Iowa during calendar year 2012. The company is eligible to claim a credit equal to 6.5 percent of its incremental research expenditures.

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 2012 Qualified Research Expenditures:        | \$10,000,000          |
| Base Research Expenditure Amount:            | - <u>\$ 5,000,000</u> |
| Incremental Qualified Research Expenditures: | \$ 5,000,000          |

Research Activities Tax Credit  $\$5,000,000 \times .065 = \$325,000$

The company can claim a Research Activities Tax Credit of \$325,000 against its income tax liability.

For tax years 2010 or later, eligible companies may use the regular method or the Alternative Simplified Research Credit method to calculate their credit.

### **Supplemental Research Activities Credit**

The Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit is only available to companies that receive awards from the Iowa Economic Development Authority under either the Enterprise Zone Program or the High Quality Jobs Program.<sup>1</sup> Iowa Code Section 15.335 specifies that for awards made prior to July 1, 2010, the supplemental credit equals an additional 6.5 percent of qualifying incremental research expenditures made in the State, but may be subject to a per project cap set by the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

For awards made after July 1, 2010, the amount of the supplemental credit depends upon the business's annual gross revenue. Under the regular calculation method, businesses with annual gross revenues less than \$20 million can claim a supplemental credit up to an additional 10 percent of qualifying incremental research expenditures made in the State. For businesses with annual gross revenues of \$20 million or more, the supplemental credit is up to an additional 3 percent.

Companies claiming the Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit must compute that credit amount using either the regular method or the alternative simplified method, whichever they used to compute the Research Activities Tax Credit.

### **Claiming the Credit**

Although Research Activities Tax Credits are only applicable to qualifying business research expenditures, individuals with ownership interests in pass-through entities such as limited liability companies, S corporations, and partnerships may qualify to claim a portion of the credits earned by one or more businesses. Both the Research Activities Tax Credit and the Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit are refundable, which means the taxpayer can claim the entire credit even if the claim exceeds current year tax liability.

In addition to filing the IA 1040 for individuals, or form IA 1120 for corporations, all claimants must complete the IA 148 Tax Credits Schedule and one of the following supporting forms in order to claim a Research Activities Tax Credit:

- Form IA 128 – Iowa Research Activities Tax Credit (Regular Calculation Method), or
- Form IA 128S – Iowa Alternative Simplified Research Activities Tax Credit.

The Department uses the information provided on the two forms listed above and the IA 148 Tax Credits Schedule to obtain the data for this report. Some data from tax returns filed between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 may be missing from the report because data from returns filed on paper may not yet have been entered into the tax credits database. In addition, although the Department has reviewed the data for obvious computational errors and made those corrections, not all returns and forms have undergone a formal audit.

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<sup>1</sup> Companies with active contracts under the New Jobs and Income Program or the New Capital Investment Program signed prior to the 2005 expiration of those programs may also be eligible for the Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit.

## Summary of Research Activities Tax Credit Claims

The following is a summary of Research Activities Tax Credit and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit claims filed between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. The tax credit refunds reflect the portion of the tax credit claims that exceed the taxpayers' Iowa tax liability.

**Table 1. Research Activities Tax Credit Claims and Refunds**

1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

|  | Tax Credit Claims |                    |           |                     |        |                     |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|
|  | Individual        |                    | Corporate |                     | Total  |                     |
|  | Number            | Amount             | Number    | Amount              | Number | Amount              |
| Research Activities Tax Credits              | 1,144             | \$3,804,322        | 178       | \$35,640,422        | 1,322  | \$39,444,744        |
| Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credits | 110               | \$670,918          | 12        | \$10,414,774        | 122    | \$11,085,692        |
| <b>Total Research Activities Tax Credits</b> |                   | <b>\$4,475,240</b> |           | <b>\$46,055,196</b> |        | <b>\$50,530,436</b> |

  

|  | Tax Credit Refunds |                    |           |                     |        |                     |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|
|  | Individual         |                    | Corporate |                     | Total  |                     |
|  | Number             | Amount             | Number    | Amount              | Number | Amount              |
| Research Activities Tax Credits              | 307                | \$1,265,036        | 130       | \$27,541,506        | 437    | \$28,806,542        |
| Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credits | 33                 | \$447,075          | 11        | \$4,973,634         | 44     | \$5,420,709         |
| <b>Total Research Activities Tax Credits</b> |                    | <b>\$1,712,111</b> |           | <b>\$32,515,140</b> |        | <b>\$34,227,251</b> |

Note: Credit claim numbers are preliminary.

## Summary for Selected Tax Credit Claimants

Nine companies filed claims for Research Activities Tax Credits in excess of \$500,000 between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Information for these companies is provided below. Some companies included may be pass-through entities. The credits from a pass-through entity may be claimed by individuals and those amounts would be included under individual claims in Table 1. There was one claimant that met the requirements for the first time since the report was first published for calendar year 2009.

**Table 2. Research Activities Tax Credit Large Claimant Details**

1/1/2012-12/31/2012

| Claimant                                       | Claim Amount        |
|--|---------------------|
| Rockwell Collins Inc & Subsidiaries            | \$13,848,248        |
| Deere & Company                                | \$11,901,351        |
| El Dupont De Nemours And Company Inc           | \$8,539,712         |
| John Deere Construction & Forestry Company     | \$3,360,694         |
| Monsanto Company                               | \$1,743,342         |
| Vermeer Manufacturing Company And Subsidiaries | \$775,020           |
| CNH America LLC                                | \$703,842           |
| Kemin Industries, Inc                          | \$615,147           |
| Skyworks Solutions Inc                         | \$571,457           |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>\$42,058,813</b> |

Note: The claim amount includes both the Research Activities Tax Credit and any Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit.