

# NREL Technology Transfer Facilitating Capital Investment in Clean Energy Technology

Tom A. Williams
Director, Technology Transfer Office

Operated for the U.S. Department of Energy by Midwest Research Institute • Battelle



# National Renewable Energy Laboratory We Are Unique

- Only national laboratory dedicated to renewable energy and energy efficiency R&D
- Research spans fundamental science to technology solutions
- Collaboration with industry, university and international partners is a hallmark
- Research is market relevant because of a systems focus and global perspective and scope



#### NREL Mission

Develop renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and practices, advance related science and engineering, and transfer knowledge and innovations to address the nation's energy

and environmental goals.



Technology Creation



Quads,
Security,
Jobs
Sustainable
Development

Clean Energy &
Environmental
Quality

Market Successes

For NREL, Creating the Technology is only the Beginning

#### NREL Technology Transfer Mechanisms

### NREL

- Scientific Publications
- Web Sites

### Public Technology

- Conferences
- Staff Exchanges
- Technical Assistance
- Investor & Business Networks

- Patents
- Copyright
- Trademarks

### Protected Technology

- Cooperative Research & Development Agreements (CRADAs)
- Work for Others
- Cost-shared Subcontracts
- Technology Licenses

**NREL** in Partnership

#### **Future Strategic Drivers**



- Carbon neutral
- Highly integrated/convergence to electrons
- Globalization of markets/distributed systems
- Strong Demand for Technology Solutions

Attributes of a **Future Energy System** 

Opportunities for Disruptive Technologies and Entrepreneurial companies

**Our Partner Needs** 

- **Speed**
- Rapid capital growth
- **Flexibility**
- **Innovation**

**Global Context** 

Sustainable competitive advantages

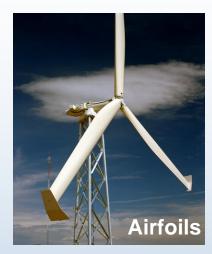
**NREL** Challenges



#### Technology Transfer Strategy

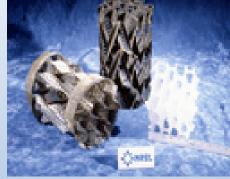
- Fast Transaction Speed
- Transparency
- Venture Capital Friendly
- Enhance Value of Laboratory Intellectual Property
- Broad Value Proposition

#### Technology Transfer











**Fermentation Enzymes** 

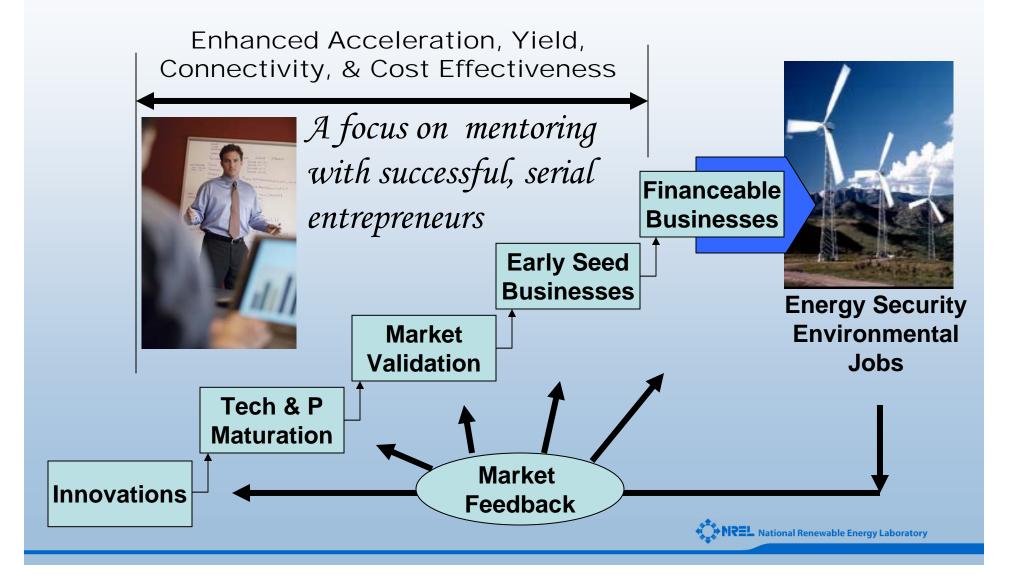


Vehicle System Model

- Strategy focuses on fast transaction speed, transparency, being venturecapital friendly, enhancing the value of intellectual property (IP), and broad value proposition
- Intellectual property attracts partners that move technology toward commercialization
- Industry Growth Forum joins investors and entrepreneurs
- NREL has a portfolio of 278
   patents, copyrights, and
   trademarks; and 47 active licenses



## Traversing the Gap & Getting Technologies into Market Focused Products and Businesses



#### **Innovation for Our Energy Future**

# NREL Enterprise Development **Building Networks for Market Success**



NREL founded *National Alliance of Clean Energy Business Incubators* – Leading business development resources for entrepreneurs



Web based contact and profile information for investors

Clean Energy Innovation Center -- A virtual incubator to catalyze a Colorado clean energy business cluster











#### **Expanding Talent**

- Entrepreneur in Residence
- **Commercialization Mentors** 
  - Focused on lab mission
  - Lasting impact
- **Objectives** 
  - Evaluating early stage IP











Stuart Macmillan



**Tod Perry** 

- Identifying and packaging commercialization opportunities
- Setting up deals (startups, maturation, licensing)
- Process improvement and staff training
- Healthy carriers of the "entrepreneurial virus"



#### **Our Vision**

Maximize Commercial Impacts of EERE Technology



Best in Class Technology Transfer Industry's Partner of Choice

