

## **Tech Transfer Transcends Borders, Builds Bridges Between U.S and Mexico**

**(EL PASO, TX. July 2, 2008)** Tech transfer may not be listed among the imports and exports between the United States and Mexico, but just the same; it is fueling rapid economic growth on both sides of the border.

While tin, sugar and oil continue to be regularly imported to the US from Mexico, and electrical parts and plastics exported back to Mexico from the US, it is technology transfer that is being traded between both nations with increasing frequency.

The Trans Pecos/El Paso Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization (TPEP RCIC) has facilitated and fostered just such international tech transfer and, as a result, the El Paso region has enjoyed a surge in economic development. Growing numbers of alternative energy, biosciences, and life sciences companies are setting up shop in the region, while telecommunications and data center operations are moving headquarters or opening satellite offices in the growing technopolis.

Nor has the surge in emerging technologies and entrepreneurs escaped the notice of the Texas Emerging Technology Fund, as well as Camino Real Angels, venture capitalists and other private funding sources that are investing in several new business ventures in the area.

The purpose of tech transfer is twofold. The newest scientific or technological concepts discovered in the hallowed halls of universities or created in the labs of research institutions require a practical use and process in order to obtain real value in the commercial or consumer marketplace.

Conversely; commercial, manufacturing and industrial interests often encounter needs in the marketplace they could leverage to their advantage, but lack the dedicated technological or research resources to develop the intellectual property to exploit the opportunity.

“Tech transfer provides the answer,” states Ebetuel Pallares, Executive Director TPEP RCIC. “Commercial entities manufacture and deliver new technologies to market, while universities and research institutions provide their knowledge and skills in developing technology for new products, services and materials for specific commercial uses. The mission of TPEP RCIC is to promote, support and improve tech transfer in the region, to demonstrate its benefits globally through education, advocacy, networking and communication, and to help bridge the gaps that inhibit entrepreneurial growth.”

To that end, TPEP RCIC has developed tech transfer partnerships with El Paso Community College, University of Texas at El Paso, Texas Tech University, Paul Foster School of Medicine, Texas State University (via the Nanotechnology Colloquium), Texas A & M Agricultural Extension Facility in Pecos, Texas (via an ETF award received in Pecos, TX), and CIMAV (Centro de Investigación de Materiales Avanzados) in Mexico. In addition, one of TPEP RCIC’s board members also serves on the advisory committee to University of Texas at Austin’s IC2 Institute.

### **About The Trans Pecos/El Paso Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization**

Established in 2007, the Trans Pecos/El Paso Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization (TPEP RCIC), a Texas non-profit, serves as a catalyst for economic development. TPEP RCIC acts as a “cashless venture capital organization” and assists business in meeting the requirements to seek funding by the Texas Emerging Technologies Fund and / or private capital sources.

TPEP RCIC's in-depth investigative, research and evaluation processes culminate in the presentation of highly qualified candidates to venture capitalists and private funding entities resulting in a verifiable, consistent track record of reduced risks for investors and good rate of returns on investment, which has earned them the respect from the funding community in a relatively short period of time. In addition, the agency excels in facilitating the transfer of technology from universities and national labs into the commercial sector.

The TPEP RCIC is comprised of qualified specialists and network of partners from the Trans Pecos/El Paso region who possess a unique blend of experience in high technology, start-up operations, economic development, venture funding, and globalization. They also have connections with financial institutions and the financial community at-large, which offers a deeper understanding of the requirements posed by funding entities and provides connections with capital resources. For more information, please visit: [www.tpeprcic.org](http://www.tpeprcic.org)

**Media Contact:**

Cindy Tincher

512-217-5190

[ctincher@cameronweeks.com](mailto:ctincher@cameronweeks.com)