CUNY CAT Facilitates Industry Access to University Skills, Labs

Perhaps it's using a solar simulator to test the efficiency of a new photovoltaic design. Or simulating the electro-optical properties of a not-yet-created new material, using a parallel supercomputer and proprietary software. Or a cryo-electron microscope study aimed at developing a new process to speed the production of flu vaccine.

What do these studies have in common? They are all applications of photonics. And, along with many other light-related projects, were performed at the City University of New York, in collaboration with an industry sponsor and with support from the CUNY Center for Advanced Technology (CUNY CAT).

The CUNY CAT, funded by Empire State Development's Division of Science, Technology and Innovation, provides the portal through which New York businesses can find help from the University's science and engineering faculty, students and laboratory facilities. Working together to address a technology challenge presented by industry, CAT management, CUNY faculty and company representatives discuss a potential collaboration, develop a statement of work, project timelines and deliverables, and a budget. For many research projects, the CAT will even provide a portion of the funds needed to carry out the study. The combination of CAT funds, state-of-the-art laboratory equipment, academic researchers and low overhead means that every company dollar invested in the project will go much further toward advancing the economic benefit to the sponsor's bottom line.

To learn what the CUNY CAT can do for your business, contact us at info@cunycat.org or call 212-650-7066.
CUNY CAT Visits With NY Lawmakers

On February 4th, the banner and literature of the CUNY Center for Advanced Technology was on display in the Legislative Office Building in Albany, NY. Together with leaders of several other Centers of Advanced Technology from public and private universities around the state, Deputy Director-Myron Wecker met with NY legislators and senior executives of the Department of the Budget to emphasize the economic benefits of industry/university collaboration and the dramatic ROI produced by NY CATs.

Dr. Wecker described the CAT program as "...providing the point of entry or portal for industry to meet and collaborate with scientific and technical experts throughout the University." This, in turn, gives small and large businesses across the State ready access to world-class laboratories and state-of-the-art facilities that might otherwise be unaffordable or require years of specialized training before being used effectively. Our visit was welcomed by the officials with whom we met, and we left Albany with assurances that the effectiveness of the CAT program was known and appreciated and would continue to be supported by New York State.

Say Hello To Our Newest Team Members!

Wayne Seemungal  
Business Development Director

Mr. Seemungal is an industry veteran in the photonics and materials industries. He has worked in fundamental research, product management and business development for several high technology companies from large multi-nationals to basic start-ups. He holds an M.S. degree in Physics from Polytechnic University and a graduate degree in Business from Bryant University.
Camille Santistevan
Education Outreach Manager

Ms. Santistevan is an experienced project manager with a passion for education and economic development. She has many years of experience providing administrative support in various contexts including academia, nonprofits, and small business. She recently earned her M.S. degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work where she studied best practices for program development, evaluation, and financial management. She also holds a B.A. in Political Science from University of California, Berkeley.

Eugene Onoichenco
Laboratory Manager

Mr. Onoichenco is a highly focused systems engineer with more than 20 years of experience in physics of semiconductors, lasers, electro optics, spectroscopy and fiber optics. He has also provided various consultant services, managed multi-billion dollar investment portfolios in high-tech research companies including patent development of new technology for commercialization. He holds an M.S. degree in Physics from Chisinau State University and has done work toward a Ph.D. in the field of Laser Spectroscopy of Semiconductors.

CUNY CAT Education Outreach

CCNY Students Compete at First-Ever Idea Brewery Hackathon!

On February 7, three of our student researchers joined 24 other engineering students and business majors at the first annual Idea Brewery Hackathon hosted by the The Lawrence N. Field Center for Entrepreneurship at Baruch College and the Zahn Center for Entrepreneurship at the City College of New York (CCNY).
The Idea Brewery Hackathon is a one-day competition where students develop and pitch a life-changing product or service. The students included Tamelia Ali (M.EE), Hugh Carmichael (B.S. EE and NSF Veterans Research Supplement winner,) and Yusef Esa (B.S. EE and NSF Research for Undergraduates winner). Together they developed an innovative shower water recycling system that would help homeowners save hundreds of dollars each year in addition to helping the environment. While the students did not win the $1000 grand prize, they did report that the experience was extremely valuable. Yusef Esa stated, "I learned that while the technical aspects of a product are obviously important, it is equally important to know how to sell your product."

Executives from The Rise Group, a professional training and coaching company, assisted students throughout the day with idea generation techniques and tips for how to make the perfect pitch. Mentors from CCNY and Baruch faculty, staff members from the Small Business Development Center, also provided support on both the technical and business aspects of their products.

The judges included Ray Garcia, Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the Field Center for Entrepreneurship, Dr. Joseph Barba, former Dean of the Grove School of Engineering at CCNY, and Edward Rogoff, The Lawrence N. Field Professor of Entrepreneurship and the Chair of the Department of Management at Baruch College. The teams were assessed on: 1) The novelty and innovativeness of the idea 2) The impact/potential to address the problem on a large scale 3) The Pitch - the ability to clearly articulate the idea 4) The cohesiveness of the team and 5) The compelling use of research (primary and/or secondary).

Camille Santistevan is our Educational Outreach Manager
For more information email: camille@cunycat.org

---

**CUNY CAT Programs**

**SBIR/STTR Incentive Program**

CUNY CAT realizes the importance of small businesses as it promotes economic growth. The federal SBIR/STTR awards are an important source of funding for start-up ventures and small businesses. Therefore, it is CUNY CAT's mission to nurture this growth by providing supplemental financial support & guidance to full-time faculty who assist companies within New York State with SBIR/STTR applications.

[Read More](#) SBIR-STTR Incentive Program
Entrepreneurship Program

Part of CUNY CAT’s mission is to spur entrepreneurship and by combining our vast resources with the expertise of the CUNY Technology Commercialization Office, participating faculty and research associates reap all of the benefits. CUNY CAT offers an exclusive series of workshops where participants receive expert advice and guidance on how to start their own businesses, access to various funding sources, individualized assistance by lawyers & accountants.

Read More About Entrepreneurship Programs.

Webinars

Light Advances in Biomedicine
Wed, Apr 9, 2014 1:00P EST
Photonics Media will host Dr. Robert R. Alfano, distinguished professor of science and engineering at The City College of the City University of New York, who will present major advances in optical biopsy and imaging spectroscopy.

Dr. Alfano will discuss the key fingerprints to detect aggressive cancer cells; two new NIR spectral windows for imaging with less scattering of light in tissue; the use of upper singlet S2 for dyes to increase imaging depth using two-photon techniques; the use of spatial frequency spectra to detect structure in cancerous tissues and the brain; and, most of all, the use of supercontinuum - the ultimate white light - in biomedicine applications.

REGISTER

Read More About Dr. Robert Alfano's Research Interests

R&D Funding Opportunities
Below are grants, awards and other funding opportunities in your area.

Sensor Innovative Research (BAA-12-02-PKS)
AGENCY: U.S. Airforce | DUE APRIL 05, 2017
FUNDING: $25M for 25 awards | ELIGIBILITY: Unrestricted
The Electromagnetics Technology Division, Sensors Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, is looking to conduct research in the following areas: Antenna Technology, Opto-Electronic Technology, Electromagnetic Scattering, Infrared Sensor Technology. Read more>>
Sensor Innovative Research (BAA-12-02-PKS)
AGENCY: U.S. Air Force | DUE APRIL 05, 2017
FUNDING: $50K to $1M, total | ELIGIBILITY: Unrestricted
The Electromagnetics Technology Division (RYH), Sensors Directorate (RY), Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), is looking to conduct research in the following areas: Antenna Technology, Opto-Electronic Technology, Electromagnetic Scattering, Infrared Sensor Technology. This is a two-step application: 1) white paper; 2) proposal. See full announcement for details. Read more>>

The Energy Foundation Programs
AGENCY: The Energy Foundation | DUE MAY 07, 2014
FUNDING: Unlisted | ELIGIBILITY: China and United States
Support projects that promote the transition to a sustainable energy future by advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy. Read more>>