

## Oregon BEST Boosts Support for Startups

There's good news from Oregon BEST for solar industry startups looking for early-stage funding and other support. Oregon BEST, the state-established nonprofit focused on fast-tracking clean technology development in Oregon, has increased the cap on its [Early-Stage Investments](#) made in cleantech startups working with university partners to \$250,000. That's a \$100,000 increase from the organization's previous cap on investments!

This year, Oregon BEST expects to invest a total of \$1.5 million in Oregon clean technology startups, up from the \$1 million it invested in 2014. The increase acknowledges that the venture world has contracted dramatically since the financial crisis hit in 2008.

In addition to Early-Stage Investments, Oregon BEST also offers a variety of [support for startups](#) working in cleantech areas ranging from renewable energy to precision agriculture:

- Research expertise and access to test equipment within its network of shared-user Oregon BEST Labs located at Oregon universities, including the [SuNRise Photovoltaics Lab](#) at the University of Oregon and the [Oregon Process Innovation Center for Solar Energy](#) at Oregon State University.
- [Entrepreneurs-in-Residence](#) that help small businesses and university researchers navigate the challenging path from lab prototype to commercialized product.
- The [SBBR/STTR Support Center](#) to help companies prepare SBIR/STTR grant proposals.
- [Referrals to affiliated professionals](#) and firms that provide a range of business services.
- [Access to investors](#), including angel, strategic, and venture cleantech investors