

# Grants

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## **Energy Department Awards \$260,000 Grant to the Pinellas Plant Community Reuse Organization**

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The Department of Energy (DOE) announced today that it will award \$260,000 to the Pinellas Plant Community Reuse Organization (CRO) located at the department's former Pinellas Plant near Tampa, Fla. The grant will be used for the transition's latest project, titled Suncoast Technology Enterprise Accelerator Project, a program to provide startup enterprises with the necessary specialized business mentoring, technology development and manufacturing planning assistance, and access to all required professional services vital to a successful enterprise. The Suncoast Technology Enterprise Accelerator Project will be located at the Young - Rainey STAR Center.

"The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "We will continue to work with the Pinellas Plant Community Reuse Organization and other community reuse organizations around the country to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

A CRO is an organization recognized by the Energy Department that can apply for funding for programs that can modify the impacts of workforce restructuring at its facilities and reduce community dependence on the department's activities.

The Energy Department and the Pinellas Plant Community Reuse Organization have created or retained 3,038 new jobs, and estimate that 3,510 jobs will be created or retained by 2005.

The Pinellas Plant CRO was recognized by the DOE in January 1995. Its mission was to develop non-defense uses for the technology and the work force to help mitigate the effects of phasing out the weapons mission at Pinellas.

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