



Colorado School of Mines  
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Web site: <http://www.mines.edu/Research/>

## ***Colorado Advanced Materials Institute (CAMI)***

With a mission to coordinate and foster research in materials science and engineering leading to economic development, CAMI was established in 1983 by the State of Colorado at CSM. Located at CSM, the Institute functions as a consortium of state government, research universities (CSM, CU, CSU, and DU), and private industries.

CAMI is funded by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and has several programs aimed at promoting effective partnerships between Colorado industry and universities. CAMI's Seed Grant program provides grants to faculty for exploratory work on materials technology problems of interest to industry in the state. These seed grants enable investigators to develop subsequent proposals for additional funding from federal and industry sources, thus leveraging the state investment.

The Institute also sponsored an Entrepreneur's Technology Assistance Program that enabled start-up technology-based companies to use the unique expertise and equipment available at the research universities. These grants to university/small business teams were designed to help the entrepreneur develop his new technology into a commercial product or service. Currently CAMI has a similar program, the Colorado Tire Recycle Technology Assistance (Tire-Tap), which promotes development of new technologies focused on recycling the huge amount of scrap tires rapidly accumulating in the state.

CAMI grants are solicited annually with a Request For Proposals (RFP) and subsequently awarded on a competitive basis with reviews from a board of experts from Colorado Corporations, small business, academia, venture capitalists, business incubators and government leaders. These programs all provide an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to work on real problems of immediate concern to industry.

### ***Background:***

- Founded in 1983
- One of four Colorado Advanced Technology Institute (CATI) program areas

### ***Areas of Expertise:***

- Industry/University partnerships

### ***Sponsoring Organizations:***

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|---|--|
| • State of Colorado (CCHE)/Technology Advancement Group (TAG) | • Colorado State University                      |
| • Storage Tek   | • University of Colorado                         |
| • Lockheed-Martin   | • Denver University                              |
| • National Renewable Energy Laboratory                        | • National Institute of Standards and Technology |
| • Johns Manville  | • Nano Materials Research Corp.                  |
| • Colorado School of Mines                                    | • ITN Energy Systems, Inc.                       |
| • Lexmark International                                       |  |

### ***Method of Technology Transfer:***

- Provides seed grants to university researchers in the state to work on materials problems defined by Colorado industries
- Publishes a *Directory of Materials Researchers in Colorado* and newsletter
- Tire Recycling Technical Assistance Program (TIRE-TAP) provides grants to university/small business teams to develop new, commercial technologies to recycle surplus tires.

### ***Spin-offs / Contributions:***

- New products and processes
- Problem solving for materials industry
- Economic development
- Students work on real-time industry problem

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