

# Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission



## ABOUT

Idaho Commerce's Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM) program drives economic development by funding research and development.

R&D helps Idaho businesses bring new products, technologies, and services to market! By identifying industry R&D needs and leveraging the expertise and resources at Idaho's public research universities - Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho; IGEM grants can be a strategic funding source for Idaho companies. This public-private partnership between industry and Idaho universities is at the heart of the IGEM program.

At the helm of the IGEM-Commerce program is the IGEM Council, a twelve-member body appointed by the Governor as prescribed in Idaho Code section 67-4726. The IGEM Council's diverse and experiential make-up consists of the brightest business, research, policy, strategy, and financial minds in the state. The IGEM Council thoroughly vets each IGEM grant application, selecting projects that present the best return on investment for these public funds.

Each grant award is based upon researcher personnel costs, project duration, and expenses needed to conduct R&D. While there is no fixed grant amount, IGEM's annual budget of \$950,000, makes this funding source competitive.

IGEM grants are non-dilutive as they are awarded to Boise State University (BSU), Idaho State University (ISU), or the University of Idaho (UI); not the industry partner. IGEM does require the industry partner to contribute some type of investment or match to the research project.

To learn more about the IGEM grant program, past funded projects, and how to apply for funding, please visit [igem.idaho.gov](http://igem.idaho.gov).

## IDAHO COMMERCE FUNDING

Since FY2013, IGEM-Commerce has invested over

# \$10M

in Idaho industry and university research and development partnerships.

YEAR	FUNDED PROJECTS	AWARDED TOTAL
2022	8	\$1,289,693
2021	7	\$1,020,240
2020	4	\$953,711
2019	5	\$1,016,728
2018	3	\$950,000
2017	4	\$979,569
2016	6	\$1,104,830
2015	3	\$950,000
2014	4	\$972,371
2013	7	\$844,093
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>\$10,081,235</b>



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# IGEM PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## HEMPITECTURE - UI



Hempitecture manufactures plant-based building materials utilizing the husk of hemp stalks to produce building products such as HempWool.

Since receiving the initial \$206,624 grant award, the focus of the university’s research has been testing the fire retardancy and thermal insulation of HempWool. UI’s Integrated Design Lab (UI IDL), located in Boise, focused on the thermal resistance analysis whereas the Moscow team focused on the fire-retardant research.

Recently, the team hit a milestone regarding its fire retardancy tests, receiving a Class A ranking, the highest ranking on a litmus test for fire retardant materials.

To support this important research, UI was awarded a supplemental grant for \$106,175. This supplemental grant will support the research of antimicrobial and mold-resistant properties of the insulation and provide a carbon footprint analysis.

**“We are really thankful for Idaho Commerce and its support,” Hempitecture founder Mattie Mead said. “We get to continue our research into the future, allows us to take this research and bring it to the industrial real-world full-scale level.”**



## PRESTO GEOSYSTEMS - BSU

Presto Geosystems manufactures geosynthetic products such as Geocells, a soil stabilization system that is the product at the forefront of this research project.

BSU is partnering with Presto Geosystems and project plans to reuse excavated material back into pavement construction as much as possible. By reusing the native soil, not only will it save money but also lessen environmental impacts from emissions and soil disposal.

After being approved for \$286,316 in IGEM funding, BSU has already begun conducting tests as part of this two-year project.



## WASHIE- ISU

In 2019, Washie partnered with Idaho State University to conduct testing on the functionality and efficacy of Washie’s patented sanitizing toilet seat. Interest in the company has skyrocketed after the project team received the IGEM grant. Washie has already started installing its products in hospitals and other buildings throughout Boise and Southeast Idaho, and the toilet is quickly gaining traction across the nation.

Recently, 14 Washie toilet seats were installed in the Pocatello airport — the place where it all began. Washie has also expanded to Utah, where it will continue to grow and be installed in public facilities.



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