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Agency gains \$120,000

A Melbourne-based business incubator agency has landed \$120,000 in NASA-related funding to conduct a grant program for small high-tech businesses in Florida and throughout the Southeast United States, the agency said last week.

The Technological Research & Development Authority received the one-year contract through a program at Georgia Tech, which is funded by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, officials said.

The Melbourne agency will work with a half-dozen small-business incubators in the Southeast U.S. — including the University of Central Florida's center — to help mentor emerging high-tech companies and identify candidates for cash grants.

The incubation centers are part of an existing regional chapter of NASA's National Alliance for Small Business Opportunity, which provides education and assistance to entrepreneurs that are developing space-related commercial products.

