

“An excellent opportunity for Draper Laboratory...”

Draper brings operations and jobs to Tampa Bay



Governor Charlie Crist and Draper Laboratory’s CEO Jim Shields announced Cambridge, MA-based [Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc.](#), one of the world’s leading independent research and development laboratories engaged in applied research, engineering and development, will be establishing a BioMEMS R&D Center at the [University of South Florida](#) in Tampa and a Multi Chip Module (MCM) Center in [St. Petersburg](#).

Between the BioMEMS R&D Center in Tampa and the MCM pilot facility in St. Petersburg, Draper will create 165 new jobs, with an average wage of \$75,000. (MEMS is short for microelectromechanical systems – microelectronics, microfabrication and micromachining technologies.)

Draper will be a research partner with the University of South Florida, [SRI-St. Petersburg](#) and others to form the nucleus of a micro-technology cluster, resulting in the growth of innovation workers and economic development in the Tampa Bay region and the State of Florida. Draper will also be working with Progress Energy on energy production efficiency improvements. Draper Laboratory’s expansion into Florida is a collaborative effort with the University of South Florida, Hillsborough County, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, Pinellas County, City of St. Petersburg, Progress Energy, Florida High Tech Corridor Council, [Tampa Bay Partnership](#), [Enterprise Florida Inc.](#), and the Governor’s Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

“This partnership provides an excellent opportunity for Draper Laboratory to further its work in developing technology solutions to some of the nation’s most critical problems in healthcare, security, and energy. We look forward to working with USF, industry partners, and the economic development team in Hillsborough, Pinellas, and the State of Florida in executing our mission to serve the national interest,” said Draper President & CEO Jim Shields.

The Multi Chip Module (MCM) pilot facility in St. Petersburg will position Draper to meet an increasing demand by a select group of government customers for custom designed, developed and produced specialty MCMs designed for innovative applications. Multi chip modules combine multiple integrated circuits into a single unit or “system on a chip.” Multi chip modules are specialized electronic packages where multiple integrated circuits, semiconductor dies and other components work together. Through this integration, MCMs dramatically reduce the size and weight of complex electronic systems. Draper has a unique technology position with MCMs and is world class in novel sensor designs integrated with complex electronics and RF communications equipment. This is one application of the new technology capability Draper could bring to the Tampa Bay region.

In addition to the BioMEMS and MCM Centers, Draper and [Progress Energy](#) are collaborating on improving the efficiency of Florida’s coal burning power plants. One of Draper’s goals is to improve the efficiency of coal power plants (currently responsible for generating 40 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions) by at least 10 percent using novel sensors and control technologies. Draper also will be able to leverage extensive experience in systems for the military to develop integrated sensing and feedback solutions.

Draper Laboratory qualified to receive \$15 million for the multi-location, multi-county project from the Innovation Incentive Fund, established in 2006 to attract world class research institutes to Florida. Hillsborough County and the University of South Florida are collaborating to provide a site, construction and equipment for the BioMEMS Center. Funding for the design and construction of the new MCM facility will be provided by [Pinellas County](#), [Progress Energy](#), the [Florida High Tech Corridor Council](#), and Draper Laboratory. The City of St. Petersburg is providing land for the MCM Center.