

## Mid Columbia Economic Development District High Tech Cluster Submission

- **Key Cluster Participants:** 35+ participants, including members of the Columbia River Gorge Technology Alliance (GTA)—Insitu, Digitron, Envision, eService, Coyote Mfg, ICE, Lava Gear, Green Machine, MXB Innovative Solutions, Lightwave Comm., NoaNet, Salmon Jack Systems, Xintek, Summit Projects, Streamzap, Solution Engineering, and other high tech businesses, private citizens, and economic development groups in the region.
- **Contact:** Steve Sliwa, President, [steve.sliwa@insitugroup.net](mailto:steve.sliwa@insitugroup.net)
- **Geographic Location:** Mid-Columbia Region—Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington and Sherman, Wasco, and Hood River counties in Oregon
- **Structure:** The GTA is a non-profit with monthly meetings.
- **Vision:** Promote the technology business sector of the Columbia River Gorge
- **Background:** The GTA, the primary group in the high tech cluster, began in February 2004 and created priorities as a cluster in spring 2005. This group created a workplan in cooperation with others in the industry that outlines the cluster's goals. The Gorge Technology Alliance promotes and incorporates the cluster workplan goals. The GTA is currently consolidating and tracking group initiatives and improving their website, and planning a technology fair. In the future, they seek to create a listserv to connect members and the community on high tech projects and initiatives, find a new a technology center, and research the potential for shared medical benefits.

### Oregon's Overall Business Climate

*Areas to Address:* Recreation, Quality Communities, Innovation Capacity, Entrepreneurial Vitality, Infrastructure, and Higher Education

### Top Core OBP Initiative Priorities

Expand Oregon's Capacity for Economic Innovation (in collaboration with Washington),  
Improve Healthcare and Control its Costs, Enhance Oregon's Transportation Infrastructure,  
Improve Public Finances and Services, Targeted Workforce Development

*Potential New Initiatives:* Telecommunications

### Specific Cluster Priorities

1. Brand the Gorge for technology and attract other businesses
  - a. Place brochures and post cards about Gorge high tech in visitor centers, hotels, coffee shops, Portland airport, and other high-visibility tourist spots
  - b. Publish articles about the lifestyle entrepreneur and high tech in the Gorge newspapers, trade journals, etc.
  - c. Compile and publish annual directory of high-tech businesses in the Gorge
2. Develop Human Resources and education
  - a. Create a forum for job networking and candidate information exchange
3. Create signature high tech project(s)