



# Iowa Department of **REVENUE**

## Research Activities Tax Credit Annual Report For the Period January 1 – December 31, 2020 February 15, 2021

### **Reporting Requirements**

Iowa Code sections 422.10(b), 422.33(5)(h), and 15.335(9) require the Iowa Department of Revenue to produce an annual report on individuals and corporations that claim the Iowa Research Activities Tax Credit. This report considers Research Activities Tax Credit and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit claims filed during calendar year 2020.

By law, the Department must report:

- The total amount of Research Activities Tax Credit and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit claims.
- The total amount of Research Activities Tax Credit and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit claims paid as refunds.
- The name of each claimant for whom a Research Activities Tax Credit in excess of \$500,000 was issued and the amount of the tax credit received.

### **Tax Credit Eligibility**

To qualify for the Iowa Research Activities Tax Credit, in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 41, businesses must conduct research in Iowa that is:

- Experimental;
- Undertaken to discover information that is technological in nature; and
- Aimed at the development of a new product.

Qualified research expenditures include expenses incurred in Iowa on:

- Wages;
- The cost of supplies;
- The rental or lease cost of personal property; and
- Contract expenses.

The Research Activities Tax Credit is an incremental credit, which means only research expenditures that exceed a base amount are eligible for the credit. In addition to the Research Activities Tax Credit, companies can also be awarded the Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit by the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

During the 2018 and 2019 Legislative sessions, the Iowa Research Activities Tax Credit was limited, retroactively for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017, to businesses

conducting qualified research that are engaged in manufacturing, life sciences, agriscience, software engineering, or the aviation and aerospace industry. Ineligible businesses include but are not limited to those engaged in agricultural production, those that are an agricultural cooperative, finance or investment company, retailer, wholesaler, transportation company, publisher, real estate company, collection agency, accountant, or architect, or those that are a contractor, subcontractor, builder, or contractor-retailer engaging in commercial and residential repair and installation including but not limited to heating or cooling installation and repair, plumbing and pipe fitting, security system installation, and electrical installation and repair. In addition, to be eligible to claim the Iowa credit, Iowa law requires that the researching entity must claim and be eligible for the Federal Credit for Increasing Research Activities under IRC section 41 for the qualified research expenses for the same taxable year.

### **Research Activities Tax Credit**

The regular Research Activities Tax Credit equals 6.5 percent of qualified research expenditures that exceed the larger of a base amount or 50 percent of current year expenditures.

For example, consider a company with a base research amount of \$5 million that conducts \$10 million in qualified research in Iowa during calendar year 2020. The company is eligible to claim a tax credit equal to 6.5 percent of its incremental research expenditures.

2020 Qualified Research Expenditures:		\$10,000,000
Base Research Expenditure Amount:	-	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>
Incremental Qualified Research Expenditures:		\$ 5,000,000

Research Activities Tax Credit                       $\$5,000,000 \times .065 = \$325,000$

The company can claim a Research Activities Tax Credit of \$325,000 against its income tax liability.

For tax years 2010 or later, eligible companies may use the regular method (using IA 128) or the Alternative Simplified Research Credit method (using IA 128S) to calculate their tax credit.

### **Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit**

Iowa Code section 15.335 specifies that for High Quality Jobs awards, the amount of the supplemental tax credit depends upon the annual gross revenue of the business. Under the regular calculation method, businesses with annual gross revenues of less than \$20 million can claim a supplemental credit up to an additional 10 percent of qualifying incremental research expenditures made in the state. For businesses with annual gross revenues of \$20 million or more, the supplemental tax credit is up to an additional 3 percent.

Companies claiming the Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit must compute the supplemental credit using the method they used to compute the Research Activities Tax Credit, either the regular or the alternative simplified method.

## Claiming the Tax Credit

In addition to filing the IA 1040, for individuals, or form IA 1120, for corporations, all claimants must complete the IA 148 Tax Credits Schedule and one of the following supporting forms in order to report earning a Research Activities Tax Credit:

- Form IA 128 – Iowa Research Activities Tax Credit (Regular Calculation Method), or
- Form IA 128S – Iowa Alternative Simplified Research Activities Tax Credit.

Although Research Activities Tax Credits are only applicable for qualifying business research expenditures, individuals with an ownership interest in pass-through entities such as limited liability companies, S corporations, and partnerships may qualify to claim a portion of the tax credits reported as earned by one or more businesses. Both the Research Activities Tax Credit and the Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit are refundable, which means the taxpayer can claim the entire tax credit even if the claim exceeds current year tax liability.

The Department uses the information provided on the forms listed above and the IA 148 Tax Credits Schedule to obtain the data for this report. Some data from tax returns filed between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 may be missing from the report since data from returns filed on paper may not yet have been entered into the tax credits database. Although the Department has reviewed the data for obvious computational errors and made any necessary corrections, not all returns and forms have undergone a formal audit.

## Summary of Research Activities Tax Credit Claims, Refunds, and Expenditures

The following is a summary of Research Activities Tax Credit and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit claims filed between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 by the tax type against which the tax credits were claimed.

**Table 1: Research Activities Tax Credit Claims  
1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020**

	Tax Credit Claims					
	Individual		Corporation		Total	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Research Activities Tax Credits	6,883	\$17,334,685	394	\$50,968,099	7,277	\$68,302,784
Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credits	19	\$91,916	7	\$783,446	26	\$875,362
Total Research Activities Tax Credits	6,883	\$17,426,601	394	\$51,751,545	7,277	\$69,178,146

Source: Iowa Department of Revenue CACTAS Claim Database

Note: Tax credit claim numbers are preliminary

The number of individual claims fell this year due to a decrease in the number of amended returns filed by pass through entities during calendar year 2020. The following table provides the tax year for which the returns were filed during calendar year 2020, the number of returns

filed, and the amount of Research Activities Tax Credit and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credits claimed.

**Table 2. Number of Taxpayers that Claimed Research Activities Tax Credits During Calendar Year 2020 by Tax Return Year**

Tax Return Year	Number of Taxpayers Filing	Research Activities Credit and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credits Claimed
2015	5	\$3,923
2016	313	\$1,507,857
2017	302	\$1,085,704
2018	605	\$22,712,271
2019	5,549	\$43,868,391
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,774</b>	<b>\$69,178,146</b>

Source: Iowa Department of Revenue CACTAS Claim Database

Note: Tax credit claim numbers are preliminary

Tax credit refunds reflect the portion of tax credit claims which exceeded the taxpayers' Iowa tax liability on both original and amended returns filed during calendar year 2020.

**Table 3. Research Activities Tax Credit Refunds**

1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020

	Tax Credit Refunds					
	Individual		Corporation		Total	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Research Activities Tax Credits	2,162	\$6,786,529	223	\$34,146,594	2,385	\$40,933,123
Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credits	5	\$75,282	4	\$156,685	9	\$231,967
<b>Total Research Activities Tax Credits</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>\$6,861,811</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>\$34,303,279</b>	<b>2,385</b>	<b>\$41,165,090</b>

Source: Iowa Department of Revenue CACTAS Claim Database

Note: Tax credit refund numbers are preliminary

Businesses completing qualified research in Iowa must report those expenditures in order to calculate the Iowa Research Activities Tax Credits earned. Iowa research expenditures were reported by 558 Iowa businesses on the IA 128 and IA 128S tax credit forms filed during calendar year 2020, including any amended returns. These are businesses that report conducting research in Iowa. If the business reporting research is organized as a pass-through entity, its tax credits are claimed by individual taxpayers; i.e., by the proprietor, partners, or shareholders of the pass-through entity. The expenditures reported in forms filed in 2020 totaled \$2.8 billion with wages totaling 48.8 percent of the total research expenditures. The

Research Activities Tax Credits and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credits resulting from the research expenditures in Iowa averaged \$0.026 per dollar of qualifying research.

**Table 4. Iowa Research Activities Tax Expenditures from IA 128 and IA 128S Forms Filed During Calendar Year 2020**

Number of Forms IA128 and IA128S Filed	Total Iowa Qualifying Research Expenditures	Iowa Research Expenditures on Wages	Wage Share of Total Iowa Research Expenditures	Total Research Activities and Supplemental Tax Credits Reported	Tax Credits Reported per Dollar of Research Expenditures in Iowa
558	\$2,766,378,656	\$1,349,781,689	48.8%	\$72,556,389	\$0.026

Source: Iowa Department of Revenue CACTAS IA 128 and IA 128S Databases

The Research Activities Tax Credits and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credits reported during 2020 as being earned by businesses filing IA 128 and IA 128S forms are greater than the amount claimed. There are some smaller claims that have yet to be entered and it is also possible that some of the claims made in 2020 were passed through from entities which reported their expenditures in a prior year. In other cases, the claims will either be verified or billed after the Department receives the information needed to determine if they qualify for the credit. For these reasons, claims reported in Table 1 do not exactly match credits reported as earned as shown in Table 4.

**Summary of Selected Companies Reporting Earning Research Activities Tax Credits**

Between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, twenty-eight companies reported earning at least one Research Activities Tax Credit in excess of \$500,000, including any reported Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit. The information for these companies is provided below. The amount shown is the amount of Research Activities Tax Credits that have been reported as earned by the company according to the IA 128 or IA 128S filed by the company. In the case of pass through entities, actual claims may be less than this amount if not all shareholders claimed their share of the tax credit reported as earned. It is possible that some of the listed companies reported earning additional credits for different tax years that did not meet the threshold for reporting. Some companies included may be pass-through entities. The credits from a pass-through entity may be claimed by individuals and those amounts would be included under individual claims in Table 1. There are nine businesses that met the requirements for the first time since the report was first published for calendar year 2009, although some cases appear to reflect the reorganization of companies previously appearing in the report.

**Table 5. Companies Earning Research Activities Tax Credits Over \$500,000**  
**1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020**

Claimant	Amount Earned
Raytheon Technologies Corp.	\$10,249,235
Deere & Company	\$8,599,016
John Deere Construction & Forestry	\$4,222,147
Poet Biorefining, LLC	\$2,880,103
Elite Octane, LLC	\$2,343,752
Cargill, Inc. and Subsidiaries	\$1,686,954
Absolute Energy, LLC	\$1,672,561
Vermeer Manufacturing Co.	\$1,493,481
Bayer Corporation	\$1,388,506
Homeland Energy Solutions, LLC	\$1,321,466
ISF Production, LLLP*	\$1,316,800
AMVC Production, LLC	\$1,173,452
HNI Corporation	\$1,107,992
Carleton Life Support Systems	\$1,056,290
Trioak Foods, Inc.	\$902,113
Corn LP	\$895,818
Little Sioux Corn Processors LLC	\$892,858
Skyworks Solutions, Inc.	\$889,803
Workiva, Inc.	\$744,338
Syngenta Corporation	\$717,355
Monsanto Company	\$654,516
International Paper Company	\$644,974
Lincolnway Energy, LLC	\$627,357
Desert Newco, LLC	\$626,727
Ajinomoto Heartland, Inc.	\$567,112
Quad County Corn Processors	\$545,821
Golden Grain Energy, LLC	\$529,296
The Andersons Denison Ethanol, LLC	\$527,338
<b>Total Earned</b>	<b>\$50,277,181</b>

Source: Iowa Department of Revenue CACTAS IA 128 and IA 128S Databases

Note: The tax credit earned amount includes both the Research Activities Tax Credit and Supplemental Research Activities Tax Credit that were reported during calendar year 2020 on the IA 128 or IA 128S.