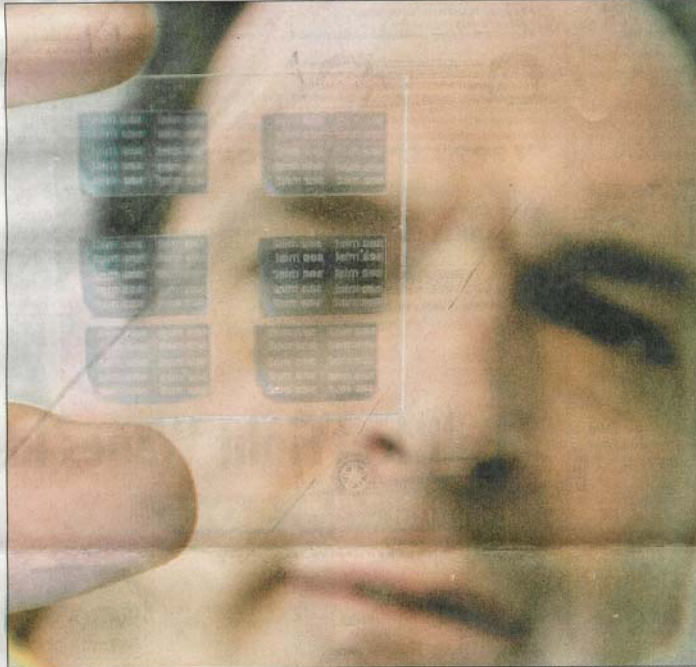


Intelligent Micro Patterning, LLC in the News The Tampa Tribune



Tribune photos by MARK GUSS

Jay Sasserath is chief executive of Intelligent Micro Patterning LLC, part of the Tampa Bay area's nascent biotechnology industry. His company works in the developing field of nanotechnology.

Thinking Small

Business leaders look for ways to nurture biotech development.

By FRANK WITSIL
fwitsil@tampatrib.com

ST. PETERSBURG — Under the yellow lights of a University of South Florida laboratory, Jay Sasserath demonstrates his company's machine, the SF-100. It takes images from a PC and beams them on to glass microscope slides.

Sasserath's small company, Intelligent Micro Patterning LLC, recently sold one of the devices to the university. The asking price: \$150,000. But since the machine was invented at USF, Sasserath said, he offered the research institution a "discount."

It's the fifth machine his company has sold. The deal, and his company's relationship with the university, is an example of how community leaders envision public and private organizations working together to create a biotechnology industry in the Tampa Bay area. Public research dollars will create innovation; private enterprise will sell it.

In this case, university research led to the creation of the SF-100. The rights to manufacture and



The inside of this table tennis ball holds a computer chip made using a device developed by Intelligent Micro Patterning.

sell the machine were licensed to Intelligent Micro Patterning. And every time a device is sold, the university earns royalties.

"There are wonderful, wonderful things going on inside universities," said Carol Steele, the business development manager at USF's Center for

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Fledgling industry faces obstacles.