

TECHHELP

From offices in Boise, Post Falls and Pocatello, TechHelp Manufacturing Specialists help Idaho manufacturers, food processors and inventors/entrepreneurs improve their competitiveness through continuous product and process innovation. Our services fall into three primary areas of practice that include:

- New Product and Market Development
- Operational Excellence
- Food & Dairy Processing

The words EXTENSION and PARTNERSHIP capture the spirit of what we do:

- We extend our people, services, resources, knowledge and expertise to help Idaho manufacturers, processors and inventors improve competitiveness and profitability
- We can be an extension of your company and of your staff. Call us when you need us
- TechHelp gives you access to a deep pool of local and national resources through our university, private sector and national MEP partners
- TechHelp Manufacturing Specialists are available statewide thanks to our university partners

The Center serves approximately 1,794 small and medium-sized manufacturers in the state.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2024



\$50.8 Million

Total Increased/Retained Sales



474

Total Increased/Retained Jobs



\$20.1 Million

New Client Investments



\$5.3 Million

Cost Savings

CONTACT US



Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725-1656



(208) 426-3767



www.techhelp.org



admin@techhelp.org

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RAPID PROTOTYPING HELPS ATHLETES RADICALLY IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

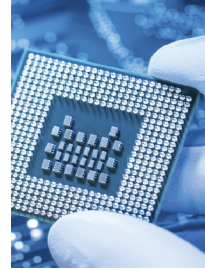
ABOUT AVA COOLING TECHNOLOGY. Located in Sun Valley, Idaho, AVA Cooling Technology is built by an American Army veteran using only American suppliers. Dr. Kyle Sela (PT, DPT, OCS, SCS) is a highly-accomplished sports medicine expert and innovator. Channeling his expertise and passion for innovation, Dr. Sela conceptualized and created AVA Cooling Technology to help athletes perform and recover like never before. AVA Cooling Technology manufactures an anti-fatigue charge bar, a palm-cooling device designed to reduce fatigue brought on by rising body temperatures during athletic performances like workouts and sports. This effective, practical, and affordable product improves performance and enhances recovery by tapping into an individual's natural cooling systems to battle fatigue and maintain motivation, allowing athletes to train harder for longer.

THE CHALLENGE. While AVA Cooling's anti-fatigue bar is a great way to improve athletic performance, its technology hinges upon the device's temperature being within a specific temperature range. However, the original release of the device lacked a temperature monitor. As a small business owner with only himself wearing the many hats that keep a business running, Dr. Sela did not have the bandwidth to redesign this part of the device. So, Dr. Sela approached the New Product Development Lab (NPD) at TechHelp, part of the MEP National Network™, to design a new cap that would introduce this feature without personally employing and managing a team of engineers.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. With the help of mechanical engineering students and their rapid prototyping equipment at the New Product Development Lab, Dr. Sela was able to create a simple solution to introduce temperature monitoring. The NPD Lab team was able to print several prototypes to test the design with the existing temperature probe that Dr. Sela sourced. This verification saved AVA Cooling Technology costly injection molding changes. Additionally, the NPD Lab team worked with local injection molding facilities to ensure the product was manufactured properly and timely for the product launch.

"The New Product Development Lab has been instrumental in getting my start-up company up and running. Their experience and expertise allowed me to smoothly transition from a gen 1 to gen 2 component of my device. They saved me months of research and thousands of dollars in research and development. I highly recommend partnering with the NPD."

-Kyle Sela, Owner and Founder



RESULTS



\$12,000 in cost savings



\$10,300 in new investment

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