



## **Incubator: Help for business good for everyone**

El Paso Times Editorial Board

Posted: 08/12/2011

Often, businesses need a little help to make a successful start. And help is available through a business incubator at the University of Texas at El Paso -- the Hub of Human Innovation.

The El Paso City Council recently approved giving the hub \$1.255 million over four years.

It's a good way to spend the money, which comes from a new increase in the El Paso Electric Co. franchise fee. That fee is paid by EPEC customers in the city.

A lot of the money will go to help the Medical Center of the Americas, something that prompted city Rep. Eddie Holguin to wonder whether the funds would be "double dipping." The MCA is supposed to support biomedical innovation, something the Hub also does.

But with El Paso's emphasis on becoming a medical care and medical research center of international note, it seems logical to sink that money into biomedical research.

The MCA's strategic location on the border makes it a natural focus of both national and international attention for treatment, research and associated businesses.

The Hub also concentrates on clean energy, biotechnology, defense, automotive and advanced manufacturing -- all areas that hold great promise in 21st century business.

It provides office and lab space, business expertise -- and how important is that! -- and various other resources that can help businesses get going.

The point is to help and encourage business. Businesses employ people, pay taxes and generally play a huge role in local, state, national and international economies.

So the Hub -- the incubator -- can play a vital role