R&D Tax Credit for Engineering

The Credit for Increasing Research Activities (IRC Section 41) or the R&D Tax Credit, as it is more commonly known, has been around since 1981. While the methodologies for calculating and documenting the credit have evolved through the years, the R&D Tax Credit remains a great benefit to the taxpayers that are eligible for this incentive. With the PATH Act of 2015 making the R&D Tax Credit permanent and enabling eligible start-up companies to offset payroll taxes, some taxpayers do not even have to be in a taxable position to benefit from the credit!

Example Qualifying R&D Credit Activities for Engineering Firms

» Developing schematic and structural designs

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- » Developing and implementing water distribution or treatment systems for municipalities and water districts
- » Design and development of new roads, bridges, dams, or other civil structures
- » Design and engineering of permanent or temporary support structures
- » Designing new or alternative electrical insulation, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), or structural systems
- » Improving designs to meet functional requirements
- » Design and development to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or energy efficient requirements
- » Evaluating alternative materials to improve designs or meet specific project requirements
- Geotechnical and environmental analyses to evaluate land suitability and to serve as a design input

New businesses and start-up companies may be eligible to apply the R&D Tax Credit against their payroll taxes for up to five years. Eligible companies can claim a payroll-tax offset of up to \$500,000 annually. Gross Receipts for 5 years or fewer

> Less than \$5M in GRs annually

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Elected on originally filed return If you'd like more information or if you have any questions, please contact a member of the R&D team: Ross Alessandro, Erin Haase or Charlotte Garraway.



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