

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 Architects**

- » Developing schematic designs
- » Designing building facades and floor plans for new or renovated buildings
- » Developing building renovation designs that meet historic building preservation requirements
- » Evaluating alternative materials to improve designs or meet specific project requirements
- » Computer-aided design (CAD) modeling and testing to evaluate and improve designs
- » Design and development to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or energy efficient requirements
- » Developing site plans to overcome space restrictions
- » Improving designs to meet functional requirements

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

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.



Ross S. Alessandro, III Shareholder—Tax Advisory Services ralessandro@schneiderdowns.com (412) 697-5637



Erin A. Haase Senior Manager—Tax Advisory Services ehaase@schneiderdowns.com (412) 697-5188



Charlotte L. Garraway Manager—Tax Advisory Services cgarraway@schneiderdowns.com (412) 697-5381