Though the timing of the visit is coincidental, the Riverfront site may contact the federal agency for help in a competitive process focused on investments that drive innovation, competition and entrepreneurship, he said.

Baruah toured the research park, home to 50-employee Electrical Geodesics Inc., which designs and manufactures devices that track brain wave activity, and numerous other small companies - some spinoffs of UO research. Then, about 40 university, government and business officials joined Baruah for lunch.

Several research park tenants told Baruah how instrumental the park was in launching their companies.

Doug Campoli, chief financial officer of Sequential Biofuels, said his company opened its first office four years ago in the research park's innovation center, a 4,000-square foot business incubator.

"The month-to-month lease takes away the risk of having to sign a long-term lease," Campoli said. And it was equipped with utilities and Internet access, he said.

Sequential Biofuels several months ago moved out of the research park to a larger space. It produces nearly 1 million gallons of biofuel a year, and last month it opened its first retail operation off Interstate 5 near the Lane Community College exit. That station is looking to break even in its first month of operation, Campoli said.
Electrical Geodesics was founded in 1992. As it grew, it moved to different locations in the research park. The innovation center to larger quarters at 1850 Millrace Drive, and then to its present space at the research largest building at 1600 Millrace Drive.

“We’re very appreciative of the Riverfront Research Park and the role it played in the growth of our company President Ann Bunnenberg.

Affordable incubator space is in high demand, said Diane Wiley, the research park’s director.

Two tenants occupy the research park’s innovation center. In an effort to add more incubator space, the 2007 Legislature to approve a $19.25 million revenue bond for a new building.

The bond would be paid off with tenant rents, Wiley said.

The 60,000-square-foot building, with 15,000 square feet of incubator space, would rise at 1700 Millrace I

The Lane Economic Committee of the Lane Council of Governments recently named the Riverfront Research Park technology incubator the county’s top priority for economic and community development. It beat out about 50 other applications, said Steve Dignam, an LCOG program manager.

“The Riverfront Research Park has proven results,” he said. “They have a successful track record, with Electrical Geodesics.”

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**Abstract** (Document Summary)

The timing was coincidental. Sandy Baruah, U.S. assistant secretary of commerce for economic development, had a commitment in Portland, so he took the opportunity to schedule a visit to Eugene. Later, he’ll make California.

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