

# News Release

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*For immediate release*

## **PENNSYLVANIA NANOMATERIALS COMMERCIALIZATION CENTER FUNDS TWO NEW PROJECTS**

PITTSBURGH, December 22, 2008... The Pennsylvania NanoMaterials Commercialization Center recently announced a new round of funding for companies that are developing new products and processes using nanotechnology. The Center's technical advisory committee and governing board reviewed submitted proposals and have approved funding for the following companies:

Strategic Polymer Sciences, Inc. (SPS) received \$199,904 in Air Force Research Laboratory funding. The company also is providing \$149,724 in matching funds.

The company is a spin-off from The Pennsylvania State University with an exclusive license of the electroactive polymer technologies invented by Dr. Qiming Zhang, distinguished professor of electrical engineering and materials science. The proprietary electropolymers developed by SPS will increase the energy density of conventional capacitors at least 500 percent, which in turn will enable significant miniaturization of many electrical devices with enhanced reliability and reduced cost. The capacitor film made from SPS electropolymers can be commercially produced with thicknesses less than three micrometers and can be used in a variety of applications, such as medical devices, microelectronics, power electronics, hybrid electrical vehicles and military weapon systems.

(more)

Partnering with a global medical device company and the Pennsylvania NanoMaterials Commercialization Center, SPS is developing an advanced nanostructured polymer hybrid capacitor film and prototype capacitors for implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs). The novel capacitor will have high energy density, high reliability, and it can significantly reduce the size and cost of ICDs, enabling the wide accessibility and acceptance of defibrillators to millions of Americans threatened by sudden cardiac arrest disease.

For more information visit [www.strategicpolymers.com](http://www.strategicpolymers.com).

ICx –Agentase, a business unit of ICx Technologies, was awarded \$271,278 with funds granted by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The company also is providing \$307,000 in matching funds.

ICx Technologies is a leader in the development and integration of advanced sensor technologies for homeland security, force protection and commercial applications. Sensors developed by ICx detect and identify chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive threats, and deliver superior awareness and actionable intelligence for wide-area surveillance, intrusion detection and facility security.

In collaboration with The Pennsylvania NanoMaterials Commercialization Center, the company will develop smart “strippable” catalytic coatings composed of enzymes and pH-responsive nanoparticles. The coating will respond to select toxic chemical threats by both decontaminating the surface and changing the color to reveal the location of the toxic chemical.

For more information visit [www.icxt.com](http://www.icxt.com).

These two new projects are in addition to nine others that previously have been funded by the Center. All 11 projects represent a combined investment of state and federal funding of \$2,458,559, which has been matched by \$1,663,696 in other funds provided by the recipient companies. These projects support the commercialization of advanced nanomaterials technologies to achieve enhanced performance in a wide range of products in both the defense and commercial industries. Some examples of these products include: more efficient and lower-cost fuel cells, enhanced-performance batteries, lower-cost solar cells, more efficient heat dissipation devices for computer chips and stronger, lighter-weight wiring for more fuel efficient aircraft.

Dr. Alan Brown, the Center's executive director said, "With the addition of these new companies to the Center's project portfolio, we are clearly demonstrating that Pennsylvania has a growing critical mass of nanomaterials expertise with applications in a wide range of products and industries, including energy, electronics, polymers and metals."

The mission of the Pennsylvania NanoMaterials Commercialization Center is to promote and support the commercialization of nanomaterials research for new and enhanced products critical to the U.S. economy and manufacturing base. The Center builds upon Pennsylvania's excellence in advanced materials research, development and manufacturing, and it acts as a new model for a public-private partnership among government, universities, entrepreneurs, small and large companies to accelerate the transition from nanomaterials invention and innovation to new products and new companies. The Center's university partners include Carnegie Mellon University, Lehigh University, The Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pittsburgh.

For more information visit: [www.pananocenter.org](http://www.pananocenter.org)