

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Enertechnix, UW Partnership Wins Funding for Image-Processing Technology

Project among eight awarded state funding for innovative commercial technology applications developed in partnership with Washington researchers.

SEATTLE – January 14, 2009 – Washington Technology Center has awarded \$100,000 in research and technology development funding based on a proposal from University of Washington in collaboration with Enertechnix.

Enertechnix, a Maple Valley-based manufacturer of high-temperature imaging systems, is collaborating with the University of Washington's Department of Electrical Engineering to develop algorithms to control the cleaning of heat-transfer surfaces in industrial processes.

UW will receive \$100,000 in Phase I research and technology development funding from Washington Technology Center and \$20,000 from Enertechnix for the project titled "Improved Efficiency of Energy-Intensive Processes through Control of Build-up on Critical Heat-Transfer Surfaces."

"We are very excited at the potential of this project to positively impact operation of power and chemical recovery boilers. We look forward to working with the UW team to develop this technology and ensure that it is available to these energy-intensive facilities throughout the world," said George Kychakoff, President of Enertechnix.

Cleaning slag build-up in Kraft boilers used in the paper and pulp industries is currently an energy-intensive and inefficient process. Steam cleaners are typically operated on a timed sequence, based on historical experience with fouling in the convective systems.

With this project, the collaborative team of Enertechnix and UW Associate Professor Alexander V. Mamishev plan to develop image-processing and estimation algorithms to automatically control the cleaning of heat transfer surface build-up to maximize energy efficiency. The implementation of the proposed technology would lead to significant energy and cost savings, and reduce the emission of associated pollutants and greenhouse gases.

"The intent of this effort is to move as soon as possible from laboratory experiments to real industrial environments. The University of Washington's Industrial Assessment Center (UW IAC) will work with the manufacturing companies in the Pacific Northwest to conduct field trials of the thermal imaging system that we will design," said Professor Alexander Mamishev, who serves as Principal Investigator in this project and Director of UW IAC (<http://www.ee.washington.edu/energy/iac/>).

"Enertechnix has an imaging process that allows high-heat industries, like pulp and paper companies, to 'see' inside their furnaces and clean them at optimum intervals," said state Sen. Cheryl Pflug (R-Maple Valley). "This allows companies to achieve maximum energy efficiency and minimum pollution levels, and both of those outcomes command a premium price today."

Washington Technology Center competitively awards around \$1 million in state funding annually as part of the Research & Technology Development Grant Program. State funding through this program enables collaboration between companies and non-profit research institutions on technology projects that show strong potential for commercializing products

and creating jobs. Since 1996, the state has funded 331 research and technology development projects.

In January 2009, Washington Technology Center awarded a total of \$561,797 for eight projects involving nine companies. Winning proposals described breakthrough research in computer systems and microelectronics, advanced materials and manufacturing, food safety and quality, and biotechnology and biomedical devices.

Applications for the next round of funding are due April 23, 2009. More information about the grants program is available online at <http://www.watechcenter.org/rtd>.

About Enertechnix

Enertechnix develops and commercializes innovative technologies for environmental monitoring and improving the efficiency, cleanliness and safety of large-scale energy conversion processes. Since its inception in 1995, Enertechnix has developed and commercialized acoustic systems for measuring gas temperatures in large-scale boilers, and mid-IR imaging systems for visual monitoring of conditions within high temperature, particle-laden environments. Enertechnix is involved in a broad program of research and development, aimed at airborne aerosol capture and classification, measuring temperatures in gasifiers, detection of IEDs, and monitoring of personal exposure to toxins and allergens.

About Washington Technology Center

Washington Technology Center is a statewide economic development organization focused on technology and innovation. We spark ideas, form connections between people and resources, and foster job growth to position Washington state as a national technology leader. As an organization, Washington Technology Center channels state, federal, and private resources to help companies develop and commercialize new products and technologies. Our 15,000-square-foot Microfabrication Laboratory provides companies and university researchers access to facilities and specialized equipment for micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS) research and product/process development. The impact of Washington Technology Center's work has generated more than \$600 million in additional investment for Washington companies and researchers. For more information how Washington Technology Center can help research and development projects succeed, visit www.watechcenter.org or call 206-685-1920.

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