

**Ted Strickland**  
Governor**Lisa Patt-McDaniel**  
Director**Lee Fisher**  
Lieutenant Governor**For Immediate Release:**  
March 24, 2010

## **OHIO THIRD FRONTIER AWARDS SUPPORT OHIO'S GROWING SENSORS INDUSTRY**

**COLUMBUS** – The Ohio Third Frontier Commission today recommended more than \$4.9 million in funding through the Ohio Third Frontier Sensors Program. The companies receiving awards are expected to leverage about \$6 million in the State of Ohio.

The Ohio Third Frontier Sensors Program supports research and development to help Ohio companies continue to make progress toward being able to commercialize sensor related products for future applications. Sensors are devices used to collect information about an environment, either remotely or by being located in the area being studied. The awards are contingent upon State Controlling Board approval.

“Ohio Third Frontier’s targeted investments in sensor technologies will strengthen companies and commercialize new technologies and products,” Governor Ted Strickland said. “As a result, those companies will create new, good jobs for Ohio workers.”

“With the support of the Ohio Third Frontier, the sensors industry in our state has steadily added jobs and attracted private investment,” said Eric Fingerhut, Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents and Chair of the Ohio Third Frontier Commission. “The program symbolizes how Ohio’s historic strengths can be converted into new, innovative, and successful opportunities for economic growth.”

The Ohio Third Frontier Sensors Program accelerates the development and growth of the sensors industry and its supply chain in Ohio. It is helping those organizations with near-term specific commercial objectives with respect to products, processes, or services; commercialize new products; commercialize manufacturing processes or technologies; adapt or modify existing components or systems that can reduce the cost and improve the functionality of sensors; address technical and commercial barriers; or demonstrate market readiness.

For example, Ohio Third Frontier awarded \$28 million to the University of Dayton to help establish the Institute for Development and Commercialization of Advanced Sensor Technology. The institute has helped create more than 250 direct jobs by facilitating and driving partnerships between government, industry, and higher education to boost sensor technology research, development, and commercialization across the state.

“Recognizing the immense potential of the sensor industry, Ohio Third Frontier has tailored its programming to become an investment partner to give start-up companies a fighting chance for success,” said Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. “We are pleased to add today’s award recipients to the list of thoughtful investments that Ohio Third Frontier has made to ensure the continued growth and success of this high-tech industry.”

## Fiscal Year 2010 Ohio Third Frontier Sensors Program Awards:

**Innova, Inc.**, located in the City of Centerville (Greene County), in collaboration with the University of Dayton, IDCAST, FLIR Systems, and D-Diode, was awarded \$848,000 for its *Scalable, Miniaturized, Low Cost Solid State Laser Systems for Sensor Applications* project. The project will utilize Innova's technology to reduce the size, weight, and cost of a diode-pump laser that will enable the production of smaller-sized and lighter-weight high-powered lasers for use in a wide range of military applications including illuminators, range finders, and unmanned aerial vehicles.

**L-3 Communications Nova Engineering**, located in the City of Cincinnati (Hamilton County), in collaboration with the University of Dayton and Science Applications International Corporation, was awarded \$689,550 for its *Sensor and Fusion Enhancement (SAFE) Program* project. This project will commercialize a sensor technology that fuses the data from multiple individual sensors to identify a target type and its direction and rate of speed, as well as provide highly accurate targets such as enemy troops rather than wildlife or other environmental objects.

**NexTech Materials, Ltd.**, located in the City of Lewis Center (Delaware County), in collaboration with Therm-O-Disc, was awarded \$1 million for its *Hydrogen Sensor Manufacturing Technology* project. This project is focused on a hydrogen sensor developed specifically for battery health monitoring in data centers and telecom sites, such as back-up power systems for the computer data storage industry, wireless base stations, and cell towers.

**Persistent Surveillance Systems**, located in the City of Xenia (Greene County), in collaboration with the University of Dayton and IDCAST, was awarded \$906,315 for its *Colorization and Resolution Enhancement of Airborne Wide-Area Persistent Surveillance Sensors for Law Enforcement Operations* project. The project will develop a wide area airborne surveillance sensor technology to enable continuous, second-by-second video monitoring of city-sized areas for law enforcement and security purposes.

**Pressco Technology, Inc.**, located in the City of Solon (Cuyahoga County), in collaboration with Miami University of Ohio, was awarded \$406,000 for its *High Performance Spectroscopy Sensor Applications in High Speed Product Testing* project. The project will further develop a sensor to enable manufacturers to inspect food packaging such as plastic bottles and their structural integrity to assure and maintain the safety and quality of the contained product.

**YSI, Inc.**, located in the City of Yellow Springs (Greene County), in collaboration with Riehl Engineering and the University of Cincinnati, was awarded \$1,127,873 for its *Advanced Modified Carbon Nanotube Based Nutrient Sensor* project. The project will produce an advanced nutrient sensor to enable critical monitoring of environmental waters for nitrate levels, which is a major pollutant associated with wastewaters and agricultural runoffs.

To view information about Ohio Third Frontier and the Sensors Program, please visit [www.OhioThirdFrontier.com](http://www.OhioThirdFrontier.com).

*Ohio Third Frontier, an unprecedented and bipartisan commitment to create new technology-based products, companies, industries, and jobs, has commercialized or created more than 630 companies and attracted more than \$4.76 billion in private investment to Ohio, and a nearly 9:1 return on investment since its inception.*

###

Media contacts: Katie Sabatino at (614) 466-6212  
or the Communications and Marketing Office at (614) 466-2609

Office of Communications & Marketing • 77 South High Street • P.O. Box 1001 • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • U.S.A. • 614 | 466 2609

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services.