

KUDOS TO YOU

Local company awarded Department of Energy grant

HENDERSONVILLE- Locally based Materials Innovation Technologies LLC has been awarded a research grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to support its work to produce low-cost carbon fiber composites for the production of lightweight automobile parts.

The company, formed in late 2004, was one of only 258 national recipients (out of 1,550 proposals) of a 2005 Small Business Innovation Research Phase I grant. The company, founded and headed by Jim Stike, will use the award to help fund its development of carbon fiber components for use in automobile construction.

In an industry reeling from the effects of record gas prices and grappling with integrating expensive fuel cell technologies into their vehicles, Materials Innovation Technologies' research holds the promise of helping produce low-cost, low-weight car parts that would greatly improve fuel efficiency while duplicating the strength and durability of standard steel components.

Stike, founder and former president of Porvair Fuel Cell Technology, was one of the early players in the now-maturing fuel cell technologies field. With vast experience in licensing, developing and bringing new technologies to the marketplace, Stike formed Materials Innovation Technologies in December of 2004 to continue incubating new technologies to meet the emerging technology needs of multiple industries, including alternative energy; aerospace and defense; environmental, thermal management; medical and engineered components.

For more information on Materials Innovation Technologies, contact Stike at 698-1330. To learn more about the U.S. Department of Energy's Small Business Innovation Research grants, visit http://~bir.er.do_e.goy/sbir.