

Arkansas small business gets \$224,000 from EPA to develop 'green' lighting

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(Dallas, Texas – May 8, 2008) An Arkansas nanotechnology company has been awarded \$224,997 from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program to develop a green alternative to fluorescent lighting.

Nanomaterials and Nanofabrication Laboratories, LLC (NN-Labs) of Fayetteville is one of seven small businesses to receive a total of \$1.6 million in funding to commercialize green technologies that promise to deliver BIG results.

"These companies are showing how innovative ideas can translate into both economic and environmental success," said EPA Regional Administrator Richard E. Greene. "Together, EPA and small businesses are advancing research, creating jobs, and protecting the environment at the same time."

NN-Labs was awarded a Phase II SBIR contract, which is given to small businesses that successfully complete Phase I contracts. The company received a Phase I award for \$69,988 in 2007.

Approximately 25 million small businesses in the United States employ more than 50 percent of the American workforce and develop most of the country's new technologies. SBIR was established to ensure that new technologies are developed to solve priority environmental problems, and is just one example of EPA's commitment to achieving real world environmental results through the use of innovative technology.

Since its inception in 1982, EPA's SBIR program has helped fund more than 600 small businesses through its two-phased approach. Phase I awards are used to investigate the scientific merit and technical feasibility of a proposed concept. If the results of this phase are successful, businesses can submit proposals for Phase II contracts, which can reach amounts up to \$225,000.

EPA will be accepting submissions for the next year's Phase I SBIR awards until May 21, 2008. To participate in SBIR, a small business must have fewer than 500 employees, and at least 51 percent of the business must be owned by U.S. citizens.

Additional information on the [SBIR program](#) is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir>.