

## **EPA funds water research by small businesses**

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WASHINGTON — The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated on February 23 an online list of recipients of its Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) awards for fiscal year 2009, on which several water projects are named.

One recipient, Rio Rancho, TX-based Senspex, Inc., has been awarded \$69,994 in funding from the SBIR program to test a new contamination monitoring sensor system. This system will function as a diagnostics tool to rapidly detect and analyze hazardous biological and chemical targets in drinking water, the EPA announced in a separate February 20 press release.

Potential commercial use of Senspex, Inc.'s proposed sensor system includes creating real-time monitoring equipment for hazardous industrial environments, detecting toxic industrial chemical spills in commercial/industrial locations, developing a real-time monitor for drinking water contaminants, identifying contamination in agricultural production, and monitoring for drinking water security, the EPA said.

Several other water security, wastewater, water infrastructure and drinking water projects received SBIR funding. Drinking water projects include "The Rapid Detection of Algal Toxins," Electronic Bio Sciences, LLC, San Diego, CA; "Rapid Concentration of Viruses from Water," Scientific Methods, Inc., Granger, IN; and "Reagentless Field-Usable Fixed-Site and Portable Analyzer for Trihalomethane (THM) Concentrations in Drinking Water," KWJ Engineering, Inc., Newark, CA.