Silicon Solar Solutions gets prominent award

In October, Douglas Hutchings, CEO of Silicon Solar Solutions (SSS), held a press conference announcing the receipt of a prestigious award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE). According to a press release from the UofA Newswire, Silicon Solar Solutions is the first company in Arkansas chosen for a $500,000 SunShot Incubator Award, a national effort to drive innovation to make solar energy fully cost-competitive with traditional energy sources. The DoE award will allow further research and development on a self-aligned hydrogenated selective emitter for N-type solar cells. If successful, the emitter will represent the single largest technology leap in solar power in 40 years because it would improve the efficiency of solar cells by 15 percent.

Hutchings said the company's next move is to raise $2 million from private investors or strategic partners to allow SSS to partner with an equipment manufacturer to prove if the technology can be scaled for production in the marketplace. SSS is a Genesis Technology Incubator client at the Arkansas Research and Technology Park.

Phase II for SFC

Earlier this month, SFC Fluidics announced it was awarded $1.5 million to continue the development of its portable diagnostic instrument to detect traumatic brain injury (TBI). The Phase II grant, from the National Institutes of Health, funds advanced development of the device. The MD Analyzer™ is to be utilized at a patient's bedside to continuously measure the biochemicals released by an injured brain.

Current monitoring tests are performed by large equipment in a centralized laboratory with results often taking hours. The SFC product will make it possible to produce on-site measurements with a diagnostic read-out every 10 minutes.

SFC Fluidics is a VIC Technology Venture Development portfolio company and is located in the ARTP.
From Park Affiliates

Ozark IC part of team for NASA

Ozark Integrated Circuits (Ozark IC) recently announced that it has been selected as a member of a University of Arkansas-led NASA research team. According to a NASA press release, the award is one of 10 university-led proposals for study of innovative, early stage space technologies that address high priority technical needs America's space program must master to enable future missions.

The project is lead by Dr. Jia Di, a professor in Computer Science and Computer Engineering at the UofA. According to Matt Francis, President and CEO for Ozark IC, the company is looking forward to being part of this project.

“This award will allow the U of A and Ozark IC to begin an exciting new stage in development of game changing wide-temperature, radiation hardened circuit IP modules for space applications,” Francis said.

Ozark IC is a small business dedicated to producing novel circuits in unique processes for "rugged" applications. It is an affiliate of the ARTP.

Pryor recognizes APEI for research contracts

This past November, Park affiliate Arkansas Power Electronics International Inc. (APEI) held a press conference announcing $4.2 million in new federal research contracts. Arkansas Senator Mark Pryor attended the event and spoke on APEI’s success in gaining government research contracts. These latest awards were from the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center.

APEI specializes in advanced, high performance electronics for a variety of customers and applications. The company focuses on technology to reduce the size of power modules used in vehicles, geological exploration and the aerospace industry.

Welcome to the Park Family

APEI
Austin Curbow
Rocky Hedrick, intern
Casey O’Grady, intern
Sergei Storkov
Jason Worley
BlueInGreen
Vance Clement
ENRC
Jewel Blow
SFC Fluidics
Amy Lea
Joint Energy Committee, others tour research park

ARTP affiliates gave several tours during the fall to share the work being done by researchers and small businesses located in the Park.

On December 16th, the Arkansas Legislative Joint Energy Committee spent the afternoon at the research park. Along with touring several businesses and centers in the Park, the Committee heard a presentation from Dr. Alan Mantooth, Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering at the UofA, entitled 3E. Mantooth discussed how energy, economy and environment are interconnected.

Dr. Fernando Alemán Ramírez, with the New Granada Military University in Colombia toured the Park on November 19th. The visit was to explore opportunities for collaboration of technology transfer and commercialization.

On November 12th, Dr. Scott Newman, visiting American Council on Education Fellow, toured the Park. Newman is the chair of the Division of Information Technologies at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

Improvements complete to Cato Springs Road

On a cold Monday in late November, the City of Fayetteville held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of improvements to Cato Springs Road, the south boarder of the Arkansas Research & Technology Park.

The long-awaited work began with an appropriation request to the US Department of Transportation in 2005. The project, called the Technology Corridor Enhancement Project, was a joint effort between the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department, the City of Fayetteville, the UofA and the ARTP.

The project received $3.25 million of federal funding along with support from the City of Fayetteville in acquiring right-of-ways and easements. The total cost of the project was approximately $3.75 million.

Representatives from the City of Fayetteville, the UofA, the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and the ARTP met to celebrate the completion of the improvement project. Cato Springs Road is considered the principal thoroughfare linking the research park and the University of Arkansas main campus.
Clockwise from top: Lauren Kegley with APEI poses with the socks collected for the 7Hills Homeless Center for the Socktober event; Sarah O’Brien with the Division of Agriculture’s Technology Commercialization Office picks a plant during a lunch plant exchange; LtoR: Lynne Girdner, with VIC Technology Venture Development, Robert Kostner and Traci Phelan, both with the UA Foundation, enjoy an impromptu gathering for snacks during the winter holidays; and Anna Daily with Ascendant Diagnostics gathers tears from a volunteer during a tear collection event at the Park.