

## Castle Announces Four Small Business Innovation Research Grants Aimed at Energy Efficiency -- April 24, 2006

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today announced four grants awarded under Phase I of the Small Business Innovation Research through the Department of Energy. Compact Membrane Systems, Inc., based in Wilmington received three grants totaling \$299,997 and Ion Power, Inc. based in New Castle received one grant totaling \$99,984. More details about each grant supplied below.

According to the Department of Energy, the objective of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is to increase the commercialization of federally funded research and development by small innovative businesses. This funding award is part of Phase I of the grant period, which is designed for every company to determine the feasibility of its innovative concept. In Phase II, grantees will compete for funding for principal research and development of their programs.

Information on each grant supplied by the Department of Energy:

1. Compact Membrane Systems, Inc. received \$100,000 for their research and development of the drying of pipeline fuel grade ethanol will help to lower the cost of fuel grade ethanol and allow the United States to develop more energy independence.
2. Compact Membrane Systems, Inc. received \$100,000 for the development of a novel platform for broadly enhancing chemical synthesis. This project will help to decrease energy consumption while at the same time increasing capacity with no significant increase in capital outlay.
3. Compact Membrane Systems, Inc. received \$99,997 to make the distillation process more efficient by developing a high temperature water venting system. Distillation is the largest consumer of energy in the chemical industry.
4. Ion Power, Inc. received \$99,984 to demonstrate a new way to reduce waste-water treatment costs while at the same time producing hydrogen which could be used as a clean transportation fuel. With this technology, the United States would have a new, domestically produced, clean, renewable, and widely available energy source.