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Office of the Governor

September 14, 2007

DURHAM, N.H. — Governor John Lynch today announced that the National Science Foundation has awarded the state of New Hampshire \$6.67 million in a Research Infrastructure Improvement grant. The grant was awarded by the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) at NSF.

“This grant is another step in our efforts to make New Hampshire a place of innovation, where we are creating the jobs of tomorrow today,” Gov. Lynch said. “It will allow our institutions, our companies and our state to foster innovation which will further strengthen our economic future here in New Hampshire.”

The grant, entitled “Enabling Technologies for Scientific Innovation through Sensor Development,” will be used to buy instruments and create testing facilities at the University of New Hampshire and Dartmouth College to support research in the development of:

- Sensors for a new generation of small space satellite systems
- Turbulence-flow environments for sensor testing (atmospheric, aquatic)
- New applications of nanotechnology relevant to the space science and turbulence efforts.

In addition, a portion of the grant will augment state support for the New Hampshire Innovation Research Center, which underwrites research collaborations with universities and colleges to benefit companies. Outreach activities will be offered to students and faculty throughout the state, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Community College at Berlin.

“This EPSCoR grant represents a significant investment in the research enterprise in New Hampshire and its academic institutions,” said Mark Huddleston, president of the University of New Hampshire. “Scientific innovation often requires access to sophisticated and expensive equipment. These new testing facilities and laboratory instruments will allow us to expand our research endeavors and compete on a global level in these critical areas of space science, environmental science, and nanotechnology.”

"I am delighted Dartmouth students and faculty will be part of the statewide EPSCoR program," said Martin Wybourne, vice provost for research, Dartmouth College. "The advanced scientific facilities supported by the award will provide new opportunities for collaboration among scholars and for outreach to industry in the state."

Robert Gyurik, chair of the oversight committee of the New Hampshire Innovation Research Center and vice president of scientific innovation at Bentley Pharmaceuticals, said, "This is a fantastic opportunity to partner with our universities and colleges on a technical or scientific question for which a company may need answers. This EPSCoR grant doubles the amount of money we can make available for these NHIRC Technology Innovation projects."

EPSCoR's goal is to maximize science and technology resources through partnerships among universities, industries, state government, and federal funding agencies to advance economic growth. EPSCoR status is awarded to states that traditionally have received lower levels of federal research funding.

Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH) stated, "New Hampshire's colleges and universities have long been leaders in the research and development of cutting-edge technologies. This EPSCoR grant will allow the University of New Hampshire and Dartmouth to further their research and production in sensor development and nanotechnology, illustrating the competitive and entrepreneurial spirit of the Granite State."

"Space, environmental sciences and nanotechnology are vital frontiers in scientific research," said Sen. John Sununu (R-NH). "With this competitive grant, the University of New Hampshire and Dartmouth College will be able to purchase laboratory equipment and create advanced new testing facilities, which will allow New Hampshire scholars to compete globally in these cutting-edge areas."

New Hampshire became an EPSCoR state in 2004. Since 2005, more than \$12.46 million in EPSCoR grants have been awarded to UNH, Dartmouth College, Plymouth State University, the NH Community College-Berlin, Colby-Sawyer College, the NH Innovation Research Center and three small companies. These grants have been awarded by the National Science Foundation (\$8.1 million), the federal Department of Energy (\$1.76 million), the Department of Defense (\$1.45 million) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (\$1.15 million).

The New Hampshire EPSCoR program is administered by the Office for Research Partnerships and Commercialization at UNH and a 14-member statewide committee composed of representatives from business, government and academia.

Editors, news directors:

After 2 p.m. Friday, downloads available at <http://www.epscor.unh.edu/media.htm>

Pie chart as jpeg

Photos from the event (late Friday afternoon)

Backgrounders

EPSCoR logo for web and print



