



opportunityreturns

Creating more jobs for today and tomorrow

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Rod R. Blagojevich – Governor

news

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GOV. BLAGOJEVICH ANNOUNCES \$563,000 TO FOUR HIGH-TECH, CHICAGO AREA COMPANIES TO HELP SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HOMELAND SECURITY PRODUCTS

Innovative Product Grants Will Help Create 65 New Jobs in the Western Suburbs

CHICAGO – Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich today announced \$563,000 in *Opportunity Returns* funding to four high-technology, suburban-based companies to increase commercialization efforts and enhance homeland security applications, helping to create 65 new jobs over the next two years and retain 45 other jobs. This funding is provided in large part through the Innovative Product Grant (IPG) Program administered by Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO) Homeland Security Market Development (HSMD) bureau. IPG is the nation's first state-funded grant program focused on developing products to meet homeland security needs. DCEO Director Jack Lavin made the announcement along with company representatives at the Northern Illinois University-Naperville campus.

“The key to advancing Illinois in the global economy is to encourage innovation through investment and supporting the development of new and existing technologies that will create a safer, cleaner, healthier and more efficient world. The investments in these four exemplary companies demonstrate our continued commitment to help Illinois businesses meet the ongoing challenges in the homeland security industry and create high-paying, high-tech jobs,” Gov. Blagojevich said.

The following companies are receiving grants:

Current Technologies Corporation (CTC), an IP-service provider based in Naperville, will use this **\$100,000** IPG grant to further develop its wireless surveillance system, which combines outdoor wireless transmission with networked video surveillance, for the homeland security market. The system has been successfully piloted in Bellwood in which 22 cameras installed in high crime areas with feeds connecting them to the Bellwood Police Department contributed to a 15 percent crime reduction. CTC is working with several other municipalities as well. The grant will help the company create 12 new jobs over the next two years and retain 16 jobs. For more information on the company visit www.currenttech.net – **Steve Daugherty** – **630/388.0240**.

Lemko Corporation, a cellular communications provider based in Schaumburg, will use this **\$150,000** IPG grant to fully commercialize its Distributed Mobile Architecture system for cellular networks. Lemko
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provides the world's only cellular voice and broadband flat-mesh network for homeland security, first responders, and continuity of operations for business and government. Lemko's On Demand Cellular (ODC) solution, which switches and routes voice and data at the network's edge, has performed a series of trials with customers in Asia, Latin America and the US Army. The grant will help the company create 31 new jobs over the next two years. For more information on the company visit www.lemko.com – **Faye Vorick – 847/240.1990.**

Sunrock Ceramics Company, LLC is an advanced ceramics producer based in Broadview. The company will use this **\$75,000** IPG award to enhance its applications in servicing the aerospace/defense, electronics/semi-conductor, laser, medical imaging and electrical distribution industries. The company will also receive an additional **\$87,750** in tax credits and training grants, as part of a \$1 million investment to increase its production capabilities. End-use products that would utilize Sunrock's ceramic components include night vision goggles, body armor, high-powered laser tubes, radar systems, diesel pollution filters and solid-oxide fuel cells. The state assistance will help the company create at least 10 new jobs over the next two years. For more information on the company visit www.sunrockceramics.com – **Doug Thurman – 708/344.7600.**

Univa Corporation, a software and services company based in Lisle, will use this **\$150,000** IPG award to accelerate the development of enhancements to the open source Globus software that enable IT infrastructure for secure, large-scale, distributed data management in global enterprises. This technology is based on the grid computing work done at Argonne National Laboratory. The grant will help the company create 12 new jobs over the next two years and retain 29 additional jobs. For more information on the company, visit www.univa.com – **Bob Mandel – 630/563.8600.**

“Gov. Blagojevich’s investment is helping to leverage the federal government’s investment in technology developed at Argonne, which is addressing a homeland security need and creating more jobs. These commercialization efforts are essential to translate new and innovative research into companies that are producing advanced products and services to meet homeland security needs,” said Dr. Robert Rosner, Director of Argonne National Laboratory.

“In order to boost the economy, we must help our growing companies identify new markets and opportunities to continue advancing technologies and turning them into successful products in the marketplace. Gov. Blagojevich and I are committed to making investments like these that help make us secure and create more good jobs,” State Senator Kimberly Lightford (D-Westchester) said.

“Illinois continues to extend its leadership position in the homeland security industry, in large part because of Gov. Blagojevich’s commitment to helping companies meet the ongoing challenges and opportunities within this key sector. This investment in these tech-based firms is another example of our efforts to support innovation that will result in more good jobs,” State Representative Karen Yarbrough (D-Broadview) said.

DCEO’s Innovative Product Grant (IPG) Program was created to accelerate the commercialization, improvement, and production of goods and services with an application in homeland security and other sectors. IPG funds are intended to help create jobs and increase economic activity in Illinois, while strengthening the state’s competitive position as a leader in science and technology innovation.

“In just a short period of time, Gov. Blagojevich’s IPG Program has already made an immediate and lasting contribution to the homeland security industry by providing almost \$3 million in working capital to businesses to accelerate the commercialization of new and innovative homeland security products and services. These

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four companies are excellent examples to support the need to develop more effective products and advance technologies that contribute to improving our national security and creating more good jobs,” DCEO Director Jack Lavin said.

DCEO’s Homeland Security Market Development bureau is focused on supporting businesses engaged in the homeland security industry, and the bureau offers a variety of investment tools designed to help existing Illinois companies expand operations and utilize available state and federal programs and services. For more information on HSMD, visit www.hsmd.illinois.gov.

Gov. Blagojevich’s *Opportunity Returns* regional economic development strategy is the most aggressive, comprehensive approach to creating jobs in Illinois’ history. Since a one-size-fits-all approach to economic development just doesn’t work, the Governor has divided the state into 10 regions – each with a regional team that is empowered and expected to rapidly respond to opportunities and challenges. *Opportunity Returns* is about tangible, specific actions to make each region more accessible, more marketable, more entrepreneurial and more attractive to businesses. It is about upgrading the skills of the local workforce, increasing the access to capital, opening new markets, improving infrastructure, and creating and retaining jobs. It’s about successfully partnering with companies and communities, large and small, to help Illinois reach its economic potential.

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