



NEWS RELEASE

QuesTek to present progress on design of new *Cuprium*TM alloy to replace toxic copper-beryllium in bushing applications

Evanston, IL, February 28, 2008 – As part of a U.S. Navy Phase II SBIR program with NAVAIR, QuesTek Innovations LLC is using its computational materials design technology to develop the *Cuprium*TM class of beryllium-free copper alloys for replacement of AMS 4533 Cu-Be alloy. Existing copper-beryllium alloys achieve high strengths (>140 ksi yield strength) that are not possible in other copper-based alloys and have widespread Department of Defense application; especially in aerospace bushings. However, beryllium is highly toxic in certain forms and requires great care during machining and other production processes. OSHA is calling for further reductions in beryllium exposure limits, causing product designers to avoid Cu-Be alloys in key applications. As a result, a number of aerospace companies are actively seeking beryllium-free bushing technologies.

QuesTek's new *Cuprium* alloy will be the only suitable "drop-in" replacement for existing Cu-Be alloys, meeting all key performance criteria. The new alloy will eliminate the health hazards associated with toxic beryllium and, as a drop-in replacement, minimize product re-design costs. QuesTek plans to present the latest developments of the *Cuprium* alloy at the Navy Opportunity Forum to be held at Crystal City, VA from June 2nd-4th, 2008.

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