

PRESS RELEASE

QuesTek To Develop New Stainless Marine Steel

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QuesTek Innovations LLC announced the award of a contract by the U.S. Marine Corp Systems Command to employ its *Materials by Design*[®] technology to design and rapidly develop a low-cost, nanostructured high-strength, high-toughness stainless steel for components of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV). Formerly known as the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAAV), the EFV operates in severe corrosive and abrasive environments, including seawater and sand. To perform successfully, the material from which structural EFV components are fabricated must have a balance of properties, including high-strength, high-toughness, good wear resistance, and good corrosion resistance.

The result of this program will be a new class of cost effective, robust stainless alloys for demanding applications, such as the EFV. Currently, the EFV uses a significant amount of titanium, which has acceptable mechanical properties and good corrosion resistance, but adds significant cost. James Wright, Principal Investigator for the program said, “Titanium is expensive as a raw material, and both costly and difficult to manufacture. The development of a high-strength, high-toughness steel alloy with enhanced resistance to corrosion in marine environments would substantially decrease the overall vehicle costs of the EFV”. An additional benefit associated with an optimally designed stainless steel alloy, would be improved load carrying capacity. Dr. Wright further stated “The successful development of a stainless steel specifically created for marine applications, which would be designed to comply with environmental regulations and requirements, would also have dual-use potential for a number commercial market segments including marine boating and offshore drilling”.

QuesTek Innovations is a leader in the emerging field of computational materials design. Using its proprietary *Materials by Design*[®] technology, QuesTek develops and licenses unique materials designed to enable new products, reduce or eliminate long-term environmental impact, enhance the performance of existing products or reduce the cost of materials processing. QuesTek’s clients come from both the public and private sectors, including leading Fortune 50 companies. For more information, visit our website at www.questek.com.