



PRESS RELEASE

QuesTek Innovations Awarded DoD 2002 Project of the Year



Evanston, IL, December 16, 2002 – QuesTek Innovations LLC was awarded the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program's (SERDP) 2002 Pollution Prevention Project of the Year award. SERDP is a Department of Defense R&D program whose primary mission is to minimize or remove major negative environmental impacts on DoD's ability to maintain military readiness for national defense. The program is responsible for over \$50 million in annual research activity among over 100 participants and is planned and executed in full partnership with the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Charles J. Kuehmann, President and CEO of QuesTek, accepted the award, which was presented by Dr. C.H. Ward, Chair of SERDP's Scientific Advisory Board, at the 2002 "Partners in Environmental Technology" symposium. The award recognizes QuesTek's development of a nanostructured stainless steel alloy for landing gear and other structural aircraft components as a replacement for current steels that require hazardous cadmium plating for corrosion protection. QuesTek's new alloy, *Ferrium*[®] S53, was designed and developed in a fraction of the time and cost typical of such alloys using its advanced computational *Materials by Design*[®] technology. Dr. Kuehmann stated that "the development of an ultrahigh-strength stainless alloy that possesses corrosion resistance and strength to meet the requirements for landing gear has been the focus of traditional empirical materials development efforts for many years without success." The greatest benefit of *Ferrium*[®] S53 will be the reduction of life-cycle cost and toxic waste in DoD squadrons and maintenance depots. Dr. Kuehmann further noted that "derivatives of this unique alloy will also be valuable for sustainment of aging aircraft systems and is being targeted for several ultrahigh-strength commercial applications requiring corrosion resistance."

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 and include leading Fortune 50 companies. For more information, visit our website at www.questek.com or contact Dr. Frode Stavehaug, Director of Applications Engineering, at 847.425.8214.