

PRESS RELEASE

NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER AWARDS PHASE I SBIR



Evanston, IL, April 24, 2005 – QuesTek Innovations LLC announced that it has received a Phase I Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) contract from the U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center to utilize its *Materials By Design*[®] technology to create an alternative material for beryllium copper alloys (BeCu) in aerospace applications.

Beryllium is extremely lightweight, strong and a good conductor of electricity, and when used as an alloying element, it can dramatically affect the properties of several base metals. However, beryllium is a highly toxic metal. To address this serious health and environmental hazard, the Naval Air Warfare Center has awarded QuesTek a Phase I SBIR to computationally design and deliver a prototype alloy alternative to BeCu. An environmentally benign material solution would immediately benefit all BeCu alloy producers, secondary processors, component manufacturers and end users by mitigating the hazards associated with the handling and disposal of beryllium.

QuesTek Innovations is accelerating the creation, development and insertion of new and enabling materials using its advanced *Materials By Design*[®] technology in aerospace, automotive, medical and industrial applications. For more information on QuesTek Innovations and its *Materials by Design* technology, visit the Company's website at www.questek.com.