



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2009

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CCAT To License Acoustic Break-Through Monitoring Technology For Laser Drilling

EAST HARTFORD, CT -- The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT) will begin selling licensing rights for its newly developed, acoustic monitoring technology that can be used to detect the break-through of laser-drilled holes in turbine engine components.

This technology, developed by CCAT's Laser Applications Laboratory, represents an innovative advancement for engine manufacturers and suppliers, which rely on laser-drilled cooling holes to maximize performance and fuel efficiency of turbine engines.

In today's turbine engine components, differences in casting and coatings result in variation in the depth of cooling holes, requiring the use of a maximum number of laser pulses to ensure full break-through. However, any extra laser pulses after break-through may damage other areas on a component or degrade the dimensions of the hole, meaning most holes are either individually checked or flow tested -- a time-consuming process.

Engineers at CCAT have developed a novel solution to this problem: an acoustic monitoring technology that can "listen" to the actual drilling operation to determine when break-through occurs. Unlike other detection systems, the acoustic-based system developed by CCAT is not sensitive to hole size, location, material or orientation, making it easier to install and to operate.

"This technology offers the potential for dramatic improvements in efficiency for aerospace manufacturers," said Elliot Ginsberg, President and Chief Executive Officer of CCAT. "Finding companies to commercialize products based on this technology will help CCAT in its mission to bolster the competitiveness of the domestic aerospace supply chain."

In order to begin moving this technology to a commercial product, CCAT is offering licensing agreements for its acoustic monitoring system. A draft agreement for a non-exclusive license has been created so that partner companies can further develop the technology into a product for engine manufacturers and their suppliers. The goal is to offer a commercial product that would allow for more consistent laser-drilling and require less inspection.

A presentation outlining the principles of the technology and the success of the system was presented last week during CCAT's Symposium for Aerospace Laser Applications (SALA 2009), one of the industry's premier events examining the range of laser processes used by manufacturers for aerospace applications.

Companies interested in licensing the technology should contact Paul Denney, Acting Director of CCAT's Laser Applications Laboratory, at (860) 282-4290 or pdenney@ccat.us

ABOUT CCAT

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. is a non-stock, tax exempt corporation that provides services and resources to entrepreneurs and businesses, and through collaboration with industry, academia, and government, helps companies innovate and compete, thereby strengthening our nation in the global market.