



For Immediate Release

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eBizITPA Assists Erie Company Secure \$100,000 Phase One SBIR Grant from Department of Energy

ERIE, PA (7/11/2005) --- The Center for eBusiness and Advanced IT (eBizITPA) recently provided research and consulting assistance to Spin-works, an Erie manufacturer, that enabled the company to obtain a \$100,000 grant from the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program of the United States Department of Energy.

Spin-works is an advanced manufacturer and developer of energy efficient commercial and industrial products. The Phase I grant will fund feasibility studies into the development of a new high efficiency exhaust system for solid oxide fuel cells using advanced materials and manufacturing processes. If successful, Spin-works will qualify for a Phase Two grant of up to \$750,000 to fund prototype development and pre-distribution planning. A third phase for commercialization and distribution of the product is funded by private investment.

Gerry Schneggenburger, director of advanced IT services at eBizITPA, notes that should Spin-works meet its Phase One and Two objectives, the company, which currently employs twelve, could grow to employ over 300.

The project is part of the Department of Energy's goal to create commercial grade fuel cells by 2010. These cells could produce enough clean power to operate small commercial buildings, residential neighborhoods, mobile military camps, etc. Fuel cell development also will help reduce the numbers of towers, transformers and distribution lines that occupy urban and rural land.

SBIR is a federal program created to help small businesses develop new technology. It is funded by a set-aside of 2.5% from the research and development budgets of all federal agencies with R & D budgets in support of small business technology development. Every year SBIR awards over \$1 billion in grants to approximately 10% of all applicants.

eBizITPA is a technology-based economic development group funded through the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority of Pennsylvania. Its mission is to help promote and develop the use of eCommerce, Information Technologies, and Advanced IT Technology throughout the Commonwealth. (SBIR grant writing, research and consulting assistance is one of the services eBizITPA offers.)

Any business in Pennsylvania is eligible for eBizITPA grant writing, research and consulting assistance. Additional information about SBIR grants is available from Pennsylvania's Small Business Development Centers.