

ENTECH, Inc.
1077 Chisolm Trail
Keller, TX 76248
Tel: 817-379-0100
Fax: 817-379-0300
Web Site: www.entechsolar.com

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ENTECH Awarded NASA Contract to Develop an Advanced Solar Array to Power Electric Propulsion Systems

Unique Solar Array Technology Provides Unprecedented Performance

Keller, Texas, May 24, 2007 – ENTECH, Inc., has recently been awarded a contract from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. This contract was awarded under NASA's Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, and will support the development of an advanced solar array to power advanced electric propulsion systems for future space missions. The total value of the contract is \$600,000.

The new contract will support the continued development of ENTECH's unique, ultra-light, ultra-high-performance solar array technology called the **Stretched Lens Array**. This patented new solar array technology offers substantial advances over current technology in many critical performance parameters, including power-to-mass ratio, power-to-area ratio, high-power capacity, high-voltage capability, radiation-hardness, and economy. These unique attributes of the **Stretched Lens Array** make it an ideal power source for advanced electric thrusters, which are many times more fuel-efficient than conventional chemical rockets. The combination of a high-performance solar array with fuel-efficient electric thrusters is called **Solar Electric Propulsion**, which could be used to propel space tugs carrying cargo from the Earth to the Moon or Mars. Indeed, independent studies have predicted that such **Stretched Lens Array-powered Solar Electric Propulsion** space tugs could save **many billions of dollars** in transporting cargo to the Moon for NASA's **Exploration Program**.

The new contract will be performed over the next two years, and represents the second phase of a multi-phase program to develop and ground-test the **Stretched Lens Array for Solar Electric Propulsion**. ENTECH's **research partner** for this program is **Auburn University's Space Research Institute** in Alabama. This contract resulted from a highly competitive two-stage procurement (for Phases I and II) among many small businesses and their research partners across the U.S.

ENTECH, Inc., is a privately held small business, incorporated in 1983. ENTECH has developed a number of unique, patented, high-performance products, all related to the efficient conversion and utilization of solar energy. ENTECH products include solar power arrays for spacecraft, solar electric generation equipment for ground-based power plants, and collimating tubular skylights for buildings. More information on ENTECH is available at the company's web site, www.entechsolar.com.

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