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The state of Ohio awarded the University of Dayton Research Institute $499,966 this week for UD's Accelerated Testing Demonstration for Market Entry project. UD will validate the real-world reliability and application compatibility of a fuel cell developed by Ultra Cell Corp.

UltraCell Corp. is constructing a manufacturing facility in Vandalia and is expected to create 235 jobs during the next three years. The collaborators on this project are: UltraCell Corp.; Motorola Labs Energy Technologies Group; Mound Technical Solutions; Daybreak; Montgomery County Department of Sanitary Engineering.

Created in 2002, the Ohio Fuel Cell Initiative is a $103 million program that aims to spur job creation in Ohio while positioning the state as a national leader in the growing fuel cell industry. The initiative is part of the Third Frontier Project, a $1.6 billion high-tech research program designed to create jobs and bring new products to market. To date, more than $62 million in funds have been awarded to Fuel Cell projects across the state.

The UD Research Institute is part of a $3.7 million Entrepreneurial Signature Program grant awarded to Development Projects Inc. UDRI is listed as a collaborator along with the Entrepreneurs Center, National Composite Center, BusinessFirst!, Springfield Community Improvement Corporation, Wright State University Foundation, Four Seasons Advisors, Mayfield and Robinson, the Turner Foundation, Sinclair Community College Foundation, Premier Health Partners, CYMI Ltd., Soin International and the Dayton Angel Network.

UDRI is also collaborating on several other projects that received Third Frontier funding, including:

* Another project by UltraCell, which was awarded $999,125 for its Fuel Cell Systems for Extended Run Times project. UltraCell has developed a reformed methanol fuel cell that it plans to commercialize in 2007. Other collaborators on this project are: Select International Corp. and Edison Materials Technology Center.

* Mound Technical Solutions Inc. in Miamisburg, which was awarded $494,040 for its Enhancement of Comprehensive Fuel Cell Test System Products project. Other collaborators are: Inorganic Specialists Inc., Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp., Edison Materials Technology Center, John Hogan and Tom Hoying.

* Contained Energy Inc. in Shaker Heights, which was awarded $1 million for its Development of Direct Carbon Fuel Cell Systems with Breakthrough Energy Density for Mobile Defense and Security Applications project. Contained Energy Inc. has exclusively licensed the Direct Carbon Fuel Cell technology (up to 100 Megawatts) from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Other collaborators are: Case Western Reserve University, University of Akron, Army Research Laboratory, Foster-Miller, the Davey Tree Expert Co., Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Robotics, Powdermet Inc., Cuyahoga Community College, and National City Bank.