

Two Area Projects Tapped for State Tech Grants

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At the City University of New York, researchers are looking for ways to detect the dangers of airplane-wing icing and corrosion.

At the State University of New York at Stony Brook, researchers are pursuing methods of finding lethal defects in heart arteries.

What do these high-technology projects have in common? Both were winners yesterday as the Pataki administration awarded the state's first "technology transfer" grants.

Of some \$1.5 million in funds from the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research, known as NYSTAR, most of it went to the two institutions.

Stony Brook received a \$250,000 grant to partner with Viatronix Inc., a company that has successfully commercialized "virtual colonoscopy" using advanced computing and CT imaging software.

CUNY won two grants. One is for \$230,000 to City College and its Center for Advanced Ultrafast Photonics Technology to collaborate with Lock-

heed Martin Corp. on a project to detect aviation corrosion and icing, helping to prevent air disasters. Lockheed Martin's navigation and gravity systems subsidiary at Mitchel Field in Uniondale is collaborating with CUNY physicist Robert Alfano on the project.

The second award of up to

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\$366,000 went to the Institute of Software Design under Prof. Ted Brown at CUNY's Graduate Center in midtown Manhattan to partner with several companies on improved software design. They are Syllogy Corp., Mobile Applications Inc., Proximo Consulting Services, the I/P Store Inc. and Production Designer LLC.

NYSTAR's technology transfer incentive program is aimed at speeding commercialization "by helping New York's colleges and universities transfer cutting-edge technology from an academic setting to the business world, fostering new product development and job creation," Gov. George Pataki said in a statement.

The focus of the Stony Brook grant will be on human vascular imaging

applications, primarily involving the aorta, to look for abdominal aortic aneurysms that cause a dangerous ballooning of artery walls, said Prof. Arie Kaufman, chairman of Stony Brook's computer sciences department and a co-inventor of the Viatronix technology.

With recent Food and Drug Administration approval, Viatronix is marketing its non-invasive colonoscopy system to detect colon polyps and cancer.

Kaufman said the company is now going after arterial defects that can arise without symptoms that result in nearly 90 percent mortality and are the 12th leading cause of death among adults.

Viatronix is developing the imaging technology and the expertise to assist doctors in placing tiny wire mesh devices known as stents to prop open defective blood vessels.