Cornell Startup, e2e, Commercializes Green Technology

Amid concerns about growing landfills, global warming and the political costs of oil-dependence, e2e, a new business founded on a licensed Cornell technology, offers manufacturers hope of a more sustainable future. CCTEC and e2e signed a license in July, granting e2e exclusive rights to produce fully biodegradable “green” reinforced composites from soy proteins and plant fibers using the patent-protected technology. The company’s products will not depend on fossil fuel and they will be biodegradable, lessening the strain on landfill capacity.

The Cornell technology was developed by Professor Anil Netravali. Patrick Govang, an experienced entrepreneur, will lead the company which has already won over $260,000 in state grants and competitions. e2e’s first product is a formaldehyde-free particleboard. The elimination of formaldehyde, a carcinogen, from this $6.3B a year market could transform the entire industry into a more environmentally friendly business.

For more information on e2e, contact cctecconnect@cornell.edu

Patrick Govang, e2e CEO, (left) and Scott MacFarlane, CCTEC technology commercialization officer, shake hands on the e2e licensing deal.
Weill Cornell Medical Technology Awakens Long-Time Coma Survivor

A team of neurosurgeons, neurologists, rehabilitation doctors, and an ethicist--led by Dr. Nicholas Schiff of Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) of Cornell University--implanted electrodes deep in the brain of a man who had suffered severe brain damage. The electrodes were fired in controlled patterns (like a pacemaker), and the investigating team and family watched as the man, previously unable to communicate, eat, or move at will, began to regain those abilities.

The patient had survived a mugging attack six years prior to the patient’s enrollment in the study, leaving the patient unconscious for about two months. Through two years of rehabilitation efforts, he regained a minimal level of consciousness, but remained for four years afterwards in a nursing home without change, the treatments for his basic condition exhausted, his family with little hope of seeing any further improvement.

This patient is the first of 12 who will be treated in a rigorously overseen clinical trial. Dr. Ali Rezai of the Cleveland Clinic performed the actual implantation procedure. Dr. Rezai has been a pioneer in the actual surgical procedures and tools used in DBS, primarily to treat Parkinson’s Disease. The post-surgical study protocol was conducted at the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute by a neurorehabilitation team led by Dr. Joseph T. Giacino.

The published study validates Dr. Schiff’s career research to date - which has been dedicated to defining levels of consciousness and brain function in brain-damaged patients, understanding which brain regions would be the most likely to respond to therapeutic stimuli, and determining the proper electrical pulses to administer.

Cornell and Cleveland Clinic have patented technologies developed by their respective faculty members, and in 2005 the two institutions formed a company, Intelect Medical, Inc., (http://www.intelectmedical.com ) to develop DBS and other neuromodulation strategies to treat brain-damaged patients.

Intelect has received $10 million in funding, closing its last round in June 2007. A video interview with the study’s authors can be viewed at the Charlie Rose website: http://www.charlierose.com/shows/2007/08/02/1/a-discussion-about-brain-stimulation

For more information on this technology, contact bjk2003@med.cornell.edu
Upcoming Events

Did you know? The Moog Synthesizer was invented by Robert Moog, Cornell University Ph.D ’64. Moog created the synthesizer while studying at Cornell. The term “synthesizer” was coined after Moog’s devices, which were the first to combine an electronic (piano-style) keyboard with extremely flexible sound creation capabilities.

For more information on the following events please email, Laura Cima, at lc12@cornell.edu.

Entrepreneurship@Cornell Fall Resource Expo
September 5, 2007  9:00am-2:00pm
Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall
Cornell campus, Ithaca, New York

US Patent and Trademark Office Outreach Workshop
September 27-28, 2007
Cornell campus, Ithaca, New York

Cornell Technology Venture Forum (a CCTEC event)
October 26, 2007  9:00am-3:00pm
Industrial and Labor Relations Conference Center
Cornell campus, Ithaca, New York

Life Science Technology Partnering Event
Taiwan National Science & Technology Program for Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals
September 13, 2007
Taipei, Taiwan

2007 Taipei International Invention Show and Technomart
September 27-30, 2007
Taipei, Taiwan

About CCTEC
The Cornell Center for Technology Enterprise and Commercialization (CCTEC) connects industry partners to technological innovations created by Cornell researchers. CCTEC supports faculty at Cornell’s main campus in Ithaca, New York and at the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. CCTEC facilitates the commercialization of Cornell technologies by securing the proper intellectual property rights protection, and by marketing and licensing the technologies to businesses.

Do you know someone who would be interested in receiving future CCTEC newsletters? Please send mail to cctecconnect@cornell.edu with their complete contact information or sign up at our online form.