

EERE Gives \$43.6M for Phase II Innovation Projects

July 28, 2019 | Helena Tavares Kennedy

In Washington, D.C., American small businesses received a near-\$44 million boost from the Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Selected small businesses are receiving Phase II Release 2 grants that demonstrate commercial feasibility for innovations during the second phase of their research. Awards range from \$975,000 to \$1,150,000, with a duration of two years.

Nine EERE technology offices will fund 42 awards across 19 states under 15 topics and 26 subtopics. A few highlights of the award selections include:

- Mainstream Engineering Corporation of Rockledge, FL, is developing a hydrothermal liquefaction (HTL) process to convert food wastes to renewable diesel and jet fuels that will improve yield and quality, and reduce aqueous byproducts to advance commercial adoption.
- Accustrata Inc. of Rockville, MD, will use Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) and machine learning to rapidly improve catalysts and make energy production, manufacturing and transportation more efficient and eco-friendly.
- Inventwood LLC of College Park, MD, is working to optimize and scale-up development of Nanowood, a green, structural, lightweight, cost-effective, thermal-insulation material made out of wood.
- Tetramer Technologies LLC of Pendleton, SC, is developing biodegradable hydropower turbine oil sourced from renewable materials, providing cost and performance benefits as well as mitigating environmental effects from potential spills and leaks.