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Colorado company builds rocket fuel sensor for Army

LAFAYETTE, Colo., 17 May 2005. Sporian Microsystems Inc. has been awarded a contract from the U.S. Army's Redstone Arsenal to develop a compact, low-power, non-igniting gas sensor for NO2 and other decomposition products of rocket fuel.

The sensor utilizes Sporian Microsystems' proprietary sensor technology and is a candidate for incorporation into the Department of Defense's RRAPDS program (Remote Readiness Asset Prognostics and Diagnostic System) for monitoring munitions via radio frequency sensor tags.

"The Sporian Optical Multi sensor has the potential for fulfilling a wide range of Army sensing requirements, including inertial, medical, chemical and environmental sensing," said Jones Hamilton of the Army Aviation and Missile Command.

This project expands Sporian's sensor technology into non-electrochemical gas sensing markets, including environmental, automotive, and industrial emissions monitoring applications.

"The greater scope of our development work is environmental monitoring. Our sensor technology is very small, low cost, and is potentially scalable to include the detection of other hazardous gases, such as carbon monoxide, that result from automotive emissions and industrial processes," said Sporian Senior Scientist Kevin Harsh.

Sporian's sensor technology holds promise as an addition to battery-powered fire or smoke detection sensors, for adding early detection capability of potentially hazardous combustible and combustion by-product gases. For more information, see www.sporian.com.