



## **\$950,000 Research Match Awarded to Global Contour**

**Dallas, TX -April 24, 2007 --- The North Texas Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization (NTXRCIC) for the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF), announced today that \$950,000 was awarded to Global Contour, Ltd. of Rockwall, Texas by the ETF.**

"We are pleased and excited that our client company, Global Contour, has received this important ETF 'Research Matching Grant' award. With it, they and their regional higher education team members will make key advances in the emerging, high-potential technology of 'smart materials'", said Mike Lockerd, Executive Director of the NTXRCIC.

Global Contour was awarded a \$950,000 for research leading to commercialization of its proprietary self-sensing technology based on multifunctional material properties. This ETF applied research grant matches funds from a National Science Foundation Grant and a US Army Small Business Innovation Research Grant.

"The Texas ETF Research Matching Grant is an ideal funding source to expedite the commercialization preparation of new technology. It is a wonderful policy for the state to nurture small business innovative research", said Dr. Jaycee Chung, CEO of Global Contour Ltd.

Global Contour' proprietary material, Smart Concrete™, will enable structural materials to monitor themselves without using embedded or attached sensors. When used to construct buildings, bridges, highways, dams, levees and tunnels, this material is capable of sensing its own and infrastructure conditions. For example, instead of embedding a sensory device in roads at weigh stations, future roads built with Smart Concrete™ will become the sensory mechanism. The technology combines smart material properties in a bio-mimetic fashion with advanced information processing techniques to allow cost-effective and performance-efficient application. The company's long-term vision is to develop additional, innovative self-monitoring technologies utilizing intelligent materials that can be used to address many important needs, such as advanced aerospace vehicles, civil and military infrastructure, and energy development.

Global Contour joins OptiSense Networks, Inc., Hanson Robotics, Inc., UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth, UT- Tyler and The Nanotechnology Research Initiative Projects as ETF-funded activities in the North Texas region.

The \$200 million Texas Emerging Technology Fund was signed into law in June 2005 by Texas Governor Rick Perry to assist small, early-stage technology companies in expediting the commercialization of new, high-potential technology developments out of the lab and into the hands of consumers. Another element of the ETF also enables Texas universities to establish research superiority by recruiting established, world-class faculty with experience in moving technologies into commercial applications.

### **About NTXRCIC**

The NTXRCIC collaborates within its 64-county region with Economic Development Organizations, area Institutions of Higher Education, community volunteers and numerous other

resources. The North Texas RCIC and the other seven regional centers are responsible for processing all funding applications and supporting emerging technology companies in their regions.

The North Texas Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization (NTXRCIC) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that assists technology- based entrepreneurs in starting and growing new ventures. In this role it helps to identify, evaluate, and develop new technologies in the region. NTXRCIC support to client entrepreneurs is both internal by its staff and external through its extensive resource network. NTXRCIC aims to increase cooperation between industrial, financial, and academic entities to focus on creating new commercial entities based on technologies that establish new, sustainable, high-growth potential businesses in the region.

The North Texas RCIC is currently helping prepare client companies to apply for the eighth round of ETF Commercialization funding. Applications for round eight are due by June 5th, 2007. For detailed information about the Emerging Technology Fund and the North Texas RCIC, visit our web site at [www.ntxrcic.org](http://www.ntxrcic.org).

**North Texas RCIC**

Media Contact:

Christine Grubbs

972-883-4918