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**NASA exercises option to fund second year of prestigious Research Announcement Contract with NEI Corporation for development of lithium-ion battery materials**

Somerset, NJ – NASA has exercised its option to fund a second year of research through a Research Announcement Contract with NEI Corporation. The decision comes after the completion of the first phase of the program, during which NEI developed promising processing techniques for lithium-ion battery cathode materials for NASA space applications.

The overall objective of the research program is to develop reliable lithium-ion battery materials with ultra-high energy and power densities and high cycle life. Since the start of the first phase of the contract, NEI developed processing methods for a layered composite cathode material, whose composition was specified by NASA. The room temperature energy density of the cathode material exceeds 1,000 Wh/kg. NEI's efforts during the second year of the research program will focus on improving the energy density of the layered material through optimization of particle morphology and processing techniques. Concurrent with material refinement, NEI will begin low temperature testing to assess performance at conditions that mimic space environments.

Lithium ion battery technology is very attractive for Mars exploration because of savings in mass and volume, and low temperature performance that can be achieved compared to other battery technologies. The high cycle life required for Mars orbiter applications and the low temperature battery performance needs of a Mars rover or lander can be addressed by lithium ion batteries. Through NASA's Research Announcement Contract, NEI Corporation is addressing each of these critical needs - low temperature performance, energy density, and cycle life.

"We are very excited that NASA has exercised its option to fund a second year of research. We successfully delivered on our technical performance objectives during the first phase of the program, and are eager to develop and deliver a reliable and high-performance battery material during the second phase." says Dr. Skandan, CEO of NEI Corporation. He added, "We have experience designing materials at the nanoscale and introducing them to markets for real-world application. That core capability, combined with in-house material production, allows us to efficiently develop and implement technical solutions for our partners."

**About NEI Corporation**

NEI Corporation develops, manufactures, and distributes nanoscale materials for a broad range of industrial and government customers around the world. The company's products incorporate proprietary nanotechnology and advanced materials science to create significant performance improvements in high-volume manufactured goods. NEI's products include advanced protective coatings, high performance battery electrode materials, and nanomaterials for emerging markets, including heat transfer fluids. NEI has created a strong foundation in the emerging field of Nanotechnology that has enabled the company to become a leader in selected markets. Established in 1997, the company is based in Somerset, NJ. For more information, contact NEI Corporation at (732) 868-3141 or visit [www.neicorporation.com](http://www.neicorporation.com).