TOUCHSTONE
RESEARCH LABORATORY, LTD.

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WV Research Lab Wins Fourth Straight "Oscar of Invention"

Touchstone takes its place as one of the premier material R&D companies in the world

TRIADELPHIA, WV - West Virginia's Touchstone Research Laboratory has scored its fourth straight "Oscar of Invention", R&D Magazine's coveted R&D 100 Award, in ceremonies held October 18 in Chicago.

Touchstone, a private research laboratory tucked between West Virginia hills alongside Interstate 70, won its latest accolade for its work inventing a new material called CSTONE.

CSTONE, like one of Touchstone's other R&D 100 Award winning technology inventions called CFOAM, is made from coal, one of America's most abundant natural resources. Both innovative products are strong and heat resistant materials having a wide range of applications from high tech aircraft to home construction materials. However, the newer CSTONE product features enhanced material properties that impressed R&D 100 editors and experts to the point that they chose it as "One of the 100 Most Technologically Significant New Products of the Year" for 2006.

The R&D 100 Awards were established in 1963 by *R&D Magazine*, the world's largest distribution research and development publication. Over the years, the R&D 100 Awards have recognized winning products with such household names as Polacolor film (1963), the flashcube (1965), the automated teller machine (1973), the halogen lamp (1974), the fax machine (1975), the liquid crystal display (1980), the printer (1986), the Kodak Photo CD (1991), the Nicoderm antismoking patch (1992), Taxol anticancer drug (1993), lab on a chip (1996), and HDTV (1998).

Touchstone officials noted that the success of CSTONE and its other recognized coal related products would not be possible without the support of U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd who has maintained a keen interest in development of new products made from coal.

CSTONE is black, like slate, and some people who hold it in their hands might actually believe they are holding a piece of graphite – the most stable form of solid carbon ever discovered. Graphite occurs naturally in limited places in the world, and the U.S. has to import significant amounts each year to keep up with the demand for its use in a wide range of everyday products. Graphite is used in nuclear reactors, piston rings, bearings, seals, lubricants, batteries, electrodes, paint, pencils, liners, molds, golf clubs, brake pads, and much more.

Touchstone scientists are being recognized because they have discovered a way to take ordinary coal and turn it into a material similar to graphite. In some applications, CSTONE is actually better than graphite because Touchstone can modify its properties through patent pending blending and processing.

Touchstones engineers and scientists are working with the U.S. Army, Marines, Navy, Missile Defense and the Air Force to use CSTONE in products that defend America. For example, CSTONE advantages are currently being demonstrated with the Air Force on a heat exchanger that has been developed using a thermally conductive version of CSTONE. Defense experts are also considering use of CSTONE in a range of other areas including: vertical take-off and landing pads for next-generation aircraft, lining material for the inside of missile tubes, and rocket nozzles.

Although CSTONE has primarily been evaluated only by the government, it is likely to begin appearing in many industrial applications like furnace floors or in applications where corrosion is a problem in the chemical industry. CSTONE may very well find its way into the average home and become a product at local lumber yards.

Touchstone's fourth straight R&D 100 award is the latest verification that the West Virginia company has become one of the premier material development and research companies in the world.

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