



News Release

Louisiana Small Business Development Center
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Shreveport Technology Company Awarded Prestigious National Science Foundation Grant

(Shreveport, LA) Network Foundation Technologies, with the help of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC), Louisiana Economic Development and other economic development agencies, received a half million dollar Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II grant from the National Science Foundation. This highly competitive and prestigious grant will allow Network Foundation Technologies to continue the development of its patented revolutionary technology for the broadcast of live video online. The grant was announced at a joint news conference on May 5th with Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover, Bossier Mayor Lorenz “Lo” Walker, and Ruston Mayor Dan Hollingsworth.

The national SBIR program funds the research & development and the commercialization of new technology from the entrepreneurial sector. Only 5-7 percent of proposals from private companies nationwide ever reach the phase II level of the SBIR program, which allows for the development of a prototype. Network Foundation Technologies (NFT) is one of only four companies in Louisiana that received a SBIR Phase II grant since 1999. NFT is the first Louisiana company to receive a SBIR Phase II grant since 2005.

“We are proud to have facilitated NFT’s proposals to the National Science Foundation at both the Phase I and Phase II stages,” said Tony Martinez, Center Director of the LSBDC Technology Center at LSU in Baton Rouge. The Technology Center nurtures and grows technology companies with free individual consulting and technical assistance.

“The Louisiana Small Business Development Center has been extremely helpful as Network Foundation Technologies has worked to develop our revolutionary online broadcast technology. From helping us find applicable tax credits, to assistance in promoting the company on both the regional and national level, LSBDC has been there,” said Dr. Mike O’Neal, founder and chief scientist of NFT.

NFT’s patented technology, which was examined by a panel of experts from the National Science Foundation, promises to revolutionize the broadcast of live video online, making it more affordable, accessible, and better in broadcast quality. Other technology currently available has inherent problems with the lack of capacity to host a very large audience and high costs. NFT’s platform is a viable solution for content providers who want to deliver high quality, live television-style program that is free to viewers.

“We are honored to be recognized by the National Science Foundation for our technology,” said Dr. O’Neal. “We will use the grant to further enhance the quality of video distributed by NFT networks, while continuing to lower the broadcast bandwidth costs thus improving the viewing experience and cost savings. Our goal is to bring television to the internet.”

Dr. O’Neal, a Louisiana Tech University computer science professor, and partner, Marcus Morton, are no strangers to starting technology companies. This pair of serial entrepreneurs created an internet company, called OneNetNow.com, which was sold to Earthlink. With headquarters in Shreveport and Ruston, NFT is focused on being a leader in the “Silicon Bayou” of Louisiana and moving the state towards a sustainable economy rooted in technology.

“Louisiana is one of the best new places to do business in the country. We were courted by investors around the country to move out of Louisiana, but we stayed here because we saw how Louisiana is committed to helping its businesses. When we were just starting up, programs like the Louisiana Small Business Development Center, business incubators, and angel tax incentives nurtured us and kept us alive when we were small. Today we have over 30 employees and expect sales in the millions in next five years,” said Morton.



Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development, and participating universities

