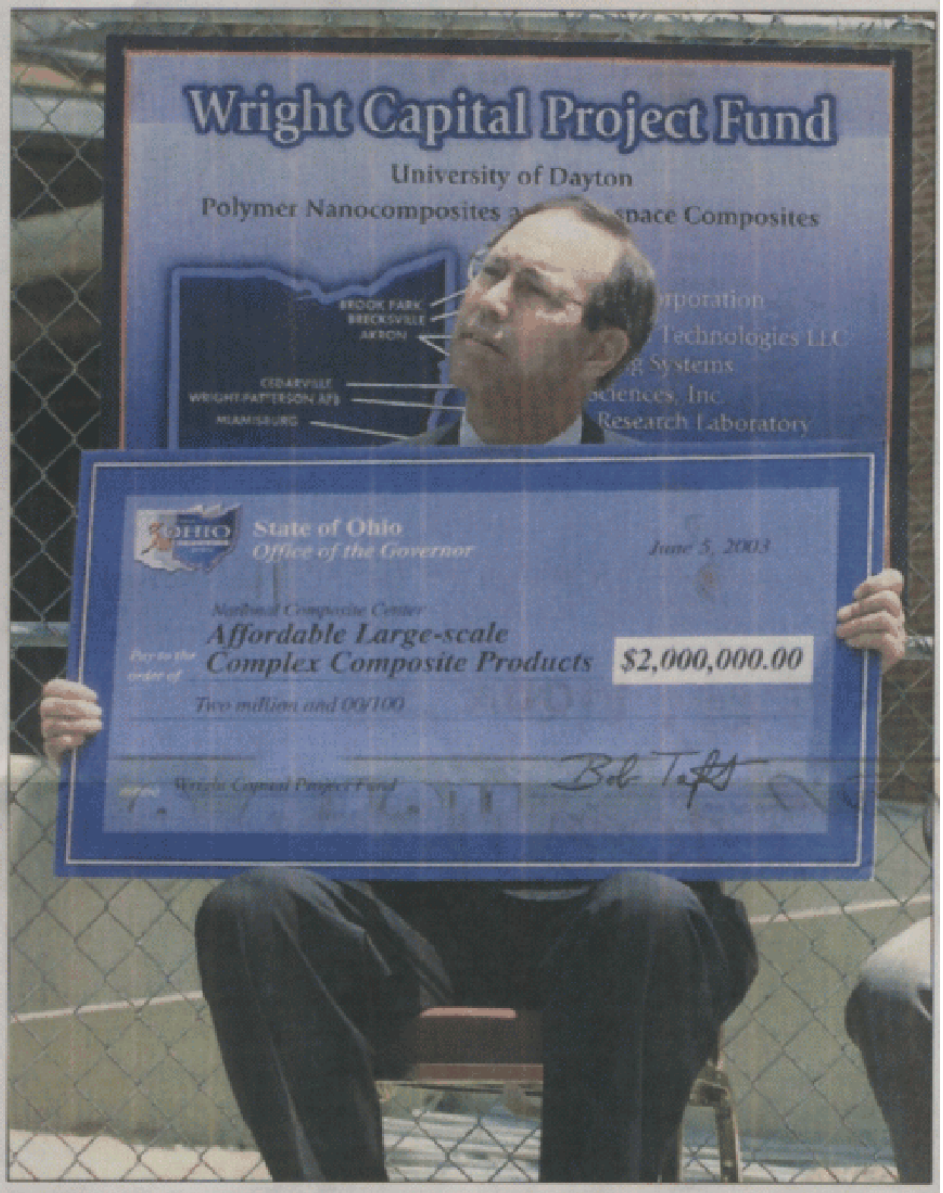
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



JAN UNDERWOOD/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

GOV. BOB TAFT holds an oversized check before announcing $4 million in awards to research and development projects.

UD, National Composite receive nearly $4 million

Money awarded as part of Taft's Third Frontier Project

By Swathi Sridharan
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DAYTON — Gov. Bob Taft on Thursday awarded the University of Dayton and the National Composite Center in Kettering nearly $4 million for advanced technology projects that could create up to 270 jobs in the area.

The money was made available through the Wright Capital Project Funds, a key initiative of Taft's Third Frontier Project, with the goal of making Ohio a leader in high-tech, high-paying jobs over the next decade.

"We're not making boots and bicycles in Ohio anymore," Taft said. "Ohio is competing on a new battleground. Ohio must be the place where new knowledge is used to create new companies and new jobs."

UD received two of the three awards presented by Taft.

A team of scientists led by senior research engineer Chyi-Shan Wang received $1.2 million for research on polymer nanotechnology.

The group has developed a method to disperse nanofibers uniformly into polymers, making the polymers stronger, more durable and better conductors of heat and electricity.

The improved polymers will be used in aircraft, electronics, automotive manufacturing and other industrial sectors.

"Ohio has a strong polymers industry already," said Brian P. Rice, a senior research engineer at UD. "So we have a good infrastructure already in place to benefit from this technology."

"Without this money we wouldn't be able to take this technology from the lab scale to a commercial scale. This money enables us to take it to the next level," he said.

UD also received more than $773,000 to develop and commercialize an infrared, micro-optic imaging system.

This thermal imagery

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TAFT

Money aimed at high-tech development

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technology can be used for medical purposes such as finding out where there is restricted blood flow in patients with diabetes, as well as to enhance the military's night vision equipment.

"We are pushing infrared technology to a new frontier," said Andrew Sarangan, a professor in UD's electro-optics program. "This is an exciting time. We are taking our ideas out of the lab into the marketplace."

The National Composite Center in Kettering received $2 million to purchase the equipment needed to make very large composite products for the aerospace, defense, marine and transportation industries.

The work done at NCC has produced economic activity of nearly $43 million per year in the Miami Valley and this project is expected to create about 100 jobs.

"There are certain purposes for which we must invest," Taft said. "This is the solution to our future budget problems. This project is not a luxury. It's about whether our kids, grandkids and our college graduates can stay here in Ohio, close to home because the good jobs are also here in Ohio, close to home."

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